



# Moultonborough Academy

2007-2008

## Course Syllabus

8th GRADE LATIN

Mr. Webb

### Course Description

#### *Introduction:*

“Latin is a dead language, dead as it can be. First it killed the Romans, now it’s killing me!” This song used to describe many students’ beliefs and fears about the Latin language. However, today we are seeing a great revival in the teaching of Latin (and, by necessity, the teaching of Classics, the study of all aspects of the world in which the ancient Romans lived).

More and more parents, teachers, and students recognize the benefits of learning about the ancient world. Aside from the often-heard argument that knowledge of the Latin language raises SAT scores, studies have illuminated the positive effects that Latin has on reading, vocabulary, and math skills, as well as critical thinking and grade point averages. Latin has also been shown to advance students in such wide and varying fields as world knowledge, spelling, science, and social studies.

Part of the Classics’ far reaching impact is its position as a truly interdisciplinary field. Not only do students learn the language, but they also learn about ancient culture, history, philosophy, and mythology. All are areas that have shaped the development of the Western world. Latin and the Classics can be viewed as the bedrock of a true education – students develop a better understanding and appreciation of their modern world through investigations into the world of the past.

8th Grade Latin is the second course in a two year sequence. Once students have completed the sequence of 7th Grade Latin and 8th Grade Latin, they will have completed the equivalent of one year of high-school Latin. Further Latin study, through Advanced Placement level, is also offered.

#### *Goals of the Course:*

To introduce students to...

- \* ...the Latin language, with particular focus on:
  - \* reading the language for understanding,
  - \* manipulating the language through writing and (limited) speaking, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the ability to read the language,
  - \* improving English vocabulary through the study of Latin words,
  - \* and gaining a general understanding of the workings of grammar in languages.
- \* ...ancient Roman culture, with particular focus on connections to the modern world.
- \* ...authentic Latin texts (written by real Romans).

In addition, a special feature of 8th Grade Latin will be units on...

- \* ...ancient Greek language and culture, including the alphabet, basic grammar and vocabulary (with connections to and reinforcement of Latin language skills) and
- \* ...Roman and Greek mythology, studied using authentic Latin texts.
  - \* During this unit, students will begin to critically analyze Latin texts for deeper understanding.

*\*Ability to practice "Ability to Work With Others" competency*

### **Assessment/Grading**

Grades are very important, but they should not be your sole goal in this class. Rather, you should strive to learn as much as possible while enjoying yourself and your studies.

Homework	= 10%
Participation & Classwork	= 15%
Quizzes	= 25%
Projects	= 25%
Tests	= 25%

### **Expectations**

*Homework:* The great majority of all work will be completed in class with the aide of the teacher and fellow students. Homework assignments will be reserved for those activities which the student can effectively complete independently, and for which class time is often inadequate, such as vocabulary practice or extra reading practice in the Latin language. Students earn 5 points for each complete homework assignment or 0 points for incomplete homework assignments.

Honesty is valued highly in this class. A student who is asked if he has completed his homework and does not respond honestly will earn two grades of 0 instead of one.

*Quizzes:* Frequent (every 2-3 days) short quizzes will be administered. The contents of this quiz may or may not be announced beforehand. Therefore, students should continually review their notes to ensure success on these quizzes. Quizzes may not be re-taken.

*Projects:* Each quarter, students will complete projects designed to help them review material and/or extend knowledge by delving further than is possible in class into the language, and particularly the culture, history, and mythology, of the ancient Romans. Projects are an important form of assessment, on equal footing with quizzes and tests, so students should strive for high quality work.

*Tests:* Tests will generally be administered at the conclusion of each stage (chapter) in the textbook or other unit of study. Therefore, students can expect approximately ten to twelve tests in the year. Tests may be re-taken once (but must be re-taken within the same quarter in which they were originally administered). The higher of the two grades will be accepted. There will be a final exam.

*Extra credit:* Occasionally, special extra credit opportunities will arise. These opportunities generally take the form of Latin competitions, lectures, concerts, operas, plays, re-enactments, or museum exhibitions somehow related to ancient Rome and Greece. More details about extra credit opportunities will be distributed to students as appropriate. A complete, quality extra credit assignment will count as a 100% grade in whatever grading category (other than tests or projects) helps the student the most.

## **Conduct Expectations**

*Behavior:* The instructor and classmates deserve respect at all times. Students who are disrespectful and prevent students from learning or the teacher from teaching will earn one warning per class. After that, they will lose points from the Participation category and/or be referred to the administration.

*The classroom:* Be kind to and careful with the objects and materials in the classroom. They may not be replaced if you destroy them. Clean up your messes.

*Tardiness:* Late students without a pass will lose points from the Participation category.

*Restroom:* Please make wise choices when choosing to use the restroom during class. For example, avoid leaving during note-taking, test review, etc. If too many students abuse the privilege of using the restroom during class, it will be restricted or eliminated.

*On eating and drinking:* Water only, and clean up your trash!

*On cheating:* Students found to be cheating will earn an immediate grade of 0 on the assignment. All work on which the student places his name must be the student's own work! Talking during quizzes and tests is considered cheating, unless it is a group assessment.

*What to bring to class:* Every day, please come to class prepared with the following:

- \*textbook: *Cambridge Latin Course Unit 2* by Pope, et al.

- \*writing instrument and paper

- \*a sock (besides the ones on your feet) and a thin dry erase marker

- \*your notebook, with a folder or section for Latin

Unprepared students may lose points in the Participation category.

**Contact Information:**

Students and parents/guardians may contact Mr. Webb in the following ways:

telephone: (603) 476-5517 ext. 129  
Best times: 7:30 - 8:15 and 11:59 - 12:44  
electronic mail: mwebb@moultonborough.k12.nh.us  
website: www.magisterwebb.com (*Visit! Lots of good information!*)

**The Class Website**

The website will include: handouts such as the syllabus and project sheets; calendar of homework assignments; online practice activities; links to online Latin dictionaries; links to cultural sites.

**I have read this handout in full and understand its contents:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Copies of Parent Guides can be viewed by logging on to [www.moultonborough.k12.nh.us](http://www.moultonborough.k12.nh.us) or by calling Moultonborough Academy at 476-5517.*