



Scholé Muses with Kathy Weitz

Why Latin?

Outline:

- Why teach Latin?
 - Until 1920, Latin followed phonics in a child's education.
 - For hundreds of years Latin was the language of scholarship, so to learn Latin gives one access to original pieces of scholarship.
 - Improved SAT, CLT scores vocabulary.
 - Reinforces math.
 - Phonics is only ½ of the English language.
- How do you teach Latin?
 - Ideally in an immersive experience, but this is difficult for most.
 - 1st immerse students in a spoken Romance language, then begin Latin in 4th or 5th grade.
 - Start Latin in 4th or 5th grade without the previous Romance language experience.
 - Start Latin very young with a program like Song School Latin.
 - Teach Latin and Spanish together, then split to immersive spoken Spanish and Latin grammar.
- More Reasons to teach Latin
 - It is a contained language. You can learn it all. It isn't changing
 - It is the foundation of learning other languages
 - Builds grit in students.
 - How do you continue to motivate students to keep going when it is hard?
 - Laurel wreath to fill in derivatives found in other subjects
 - Roman coins to be earned after completing certain milestones
 - Teaches virtues of discipline and long-suffering.
 - Latin allows you to easily learn any Romance language, and a platform for sciences, theology, law, medicine, music, logic and even computer programming (logic + language)
 - Latin helps students to a deeper understanding of words and meanings in the English language.
 - The mechanics of Latin and English grammar reinforce each other



- The challenge of translating a language:
 - Takes a maturity and wisdom that is beautiful and grows virtue.
 - Gives an appreciation for how Scripture and other works were translated.
 - Develops a slowed down thinking process that develops attentiveness, and helps to develop students own writing.
- The goal is mastery
 - Temptation is to “dabble” learn the grammar and stop there.
 - The fruit of the labor is to be able to pick up a book and read it.
- The precision of Latin is singular.
 - Greek is similar but Latin tends to be more accessible.
 - Forces the brain to be precise.
 - Everyone assumes Math is good brain training. So is Latin.
- How much time should you spend teaching/learning Latin?
 - Like learning to play an instrument you have to practice every day.
 - Once or twice a week is not enough.
 - At Providence Prep, students who have completed Latin 3, teach Latin A, B, C to the younger children. This reinforces what they have already learned and they learn it better because they have to be able to teach it.
- Carla Shodde’s ”Five Reasons Latin Should be Taught in High School”