You are to be congratulated for your excellent decision to study Latin. As approximately 70% of all English words can be traced back to Latin roots, studying this language opens up an array of possibilities. Latin, having been used around the world for over 2500 years, is important for studies in scientific research, medicine, literature, philosophy, religious studies, architecture, theater, music, linguistics, and philology. Since English, especially more advanced English, is so highly derived from Latin, studying Latin also often increases knowledge and appreciation for English, which tends to lead to better results on related sections on standardized tests, like the SAT or ACT.

**Keys to Success When Learning Any Language**

* Sincere effort
* Regular attendance
* Cheerful participation
* Readiness for mistakes and willingness to correct them
* Constant review
* Desire to learn

**Required Materials for Every Class**

* **Textbook and activity book (workbook)**
* **3-ring Binder with handouts**
* **Pencil and highlighter**
* **Homework for the day**

**For your Ipad:**

* **a stylus (not needed but exceedingly helpful)**
* **Classflow student**
* **Adobe Acrobat (for iPads)**

**Classroom behavior**

Since we will be civilized people, please make each class enjoyable by being positive and cordial. Remember to always treat classmates and teachers with dignity and respect.

Also, please

* Participate and listen accordingly and attentively
* Talk quietly, if at all, during the dull lulls while papers are being handed out, or while the Promethean is being set up. But once we begin working as a class, please return to participating and listening accordingly and attentively.
* Ask questions (although don’t expect to understand everything instantaneously – unless you are a certified genius.)
* Keep papers organized in your binders
* Check your assignment sheets and grades constantly and diligently for changes
* Correct any mistakes I make. Correcting a **Latin-based** mistake that I make may result in a nominal reward.

Please Don’t

* Litter around your desk
* Use cell phones ever. If I see one, it’s taken the first time. Repeated offences may result in parent contact or referral to the office.
* Whine or complain endlessly. Latin is an elective, after all.
* Consume food or drink in normal classes.
* Ostentatiously watch the clock
* Talk during a lecture or while a student is reciting. This demonstrates extraordinarily bad manners.
* Chew anything or audibly fidget during dictations.
* As per school policy, and per appropriate human conduct, any name calling or malicious heckling is absolutely forbidden.
* If caught cheating – which almost NEVER happens with Latin students on account of your outstanding character and work ethic – **all** quizzes from that unit (from the last test) are considered invalid and must be retaken in the library. In addition, the quiz that was cheated on is forfeit; your parents and the office are contacted. A second offence, as per Mandan High School policy, results in automatic failure of the quarter.

**Homework**

Foreign language study requires a certain amount of effort and study. As such you can expect to have daily homework assignments, as the daily effort helps learn new information in addition to solidifying concepts already introduced. I would recommend spending a minimum of 30 minutes a day working either on homework or reviewing concepts.

If you know you will be absent for any day, you will still be responsible for the assignments on that day, as weekly homework assignments are given out every Monday and can also be found on the class website, under assignment calendar. If or any reason you are **unable** to compete to assignment for the day, you must tell me **BEFORE** class starts so you don’t lose the points for the homework that day. If missing homework becomes a chronic problem for you, the consequences could include loss of points, individual conferences, and/or parent contact. Should you be absent or tell me about incomplete work, you will have **4 days to present it to me** or forfeit all points.

**Grades**

The grading scale is the same for all classes at Mandan Public Schools. For Latin classes, the grade is based on the total points of all tests, quizzes, graded homework, recitations, daily homework, and extra credit. Grades are determined on the following point system:

1. Printed vocabulary quiz 7-14 points
2. Detailed quizzes (including vocabulary, grammar, dictations, etc.) Based on answers required
3. Dictations (based on number of words) 20-40 points
4. Daily homework checks 10 points
5. Online forum responses 15-20 points
6. Oral recitations 10 points
7. Form sheets to be handed in 30-75 points
   1. E.g. verb sheets on tenses, declension sheets
8. Tests 100 points
9. Semester tests 20% of your total grade

If you would like to re-take any quiz or test you **must have done associated extra-credit, which will not be counted.** This shows me that you are putting forth a concerted effort to improve your score. Any quiz or test can be retaken and the best score is what will be recorded.

**Extra Credit**

Extra credit is always available and will be added to your next graded work. A maximum of 6 points can be gained each day, unless stated otherwise. The list of extra credit points as listed below, although more may arise:

1. Vocabulary quiz lists: writing **each** word on a quiz **with translation** **6 times** 2 points
2. Dictation quizzes: writing dictations 4 times 4 points
3. Unit vocabulary cards: writing all a chapter’s vocabulary on index cards 10 points for tests
4. Declining 3 nouns fully with a translation for each noun 2 points
5. Conjugating 3 verbs in 1 tense, translating at least 1 form per verb 2 points
6. Declining 3 noun-adjective pairs with translations 4 points
7. Latin club event 20 points
8. Verbal synopsis sheet 4 points
9. Participle or infinitive sheet with translations 2 points
10. Self-initiated project (from a designing a poster to bringing an article to class) Based on effort
11. Correct English to Latin sentences in workbook 1 point each

N.B. Extra credit questions on quizzes and tests do not count toward the 6 per day limit.

**Help**

If you ever want assistance with your Latin; to go over homework, answer questions you have, or to receive assistance practicing language learning and study practices, I am available in the portable at Mandan High School before 1st period starts and during 8th period (2:49-3:39.) If you would like to meet after school, either at Mandan High School or Mandan Middle School, **please** let me know and we will arrange something.