



# HIGHLANDS LATIN *Cottage School*

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Houston

## Upper School Course Offerings

### **Latin**

Latin instruction (along with math and music) is a key subject of study in our program and is prioritized in our curriculum and in our schedule. Beginning in 3rd grade, students pursue a more formal study of Latin that continues through the rhetoric years with the translation of portions of the Vulgate, Caesar and some Virgil. Students also sit for the National Latin Exam in the upper grades.

### **Mathematics**

All math instruction is first period in the day. This allows students in all grade levels to attend the math they need and not simply the math being taught in their grade. Beyond 6th grade, classes are available in pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2 with Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus and publishers vary by class.

### **Music**

Just as math is compulsory in our program, so is choir. Our students are proud to be known as the students who sing! Our music teachers lead Highlanders to use the instrument God gave them, their voice, with confidence and skill. Students sing in Latin, and they also sing sacred, patriotic, and American folk music in English as well.

### **Literature**

At every grade level, students read classic works of literature. We use well-loved, time-tested literature such as: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, *The Divine Comedy*, *Beowulf*, and many more. Beginning in 8th grade, students explore collections of poetry, short stories, and dramas that are related by time period.

### **Writing**

It is not enough for students to be wise, they should also be eloquent, so that they can share what they know for the glory of the Lord. Therefore, students begin a careful study of the English language early on and writing is a key area of emphasis across all subject areas. Students not only learn excellent academic (format) writing skills, they also study the Progymnasmata from 4th – 12th grades. The Progym is an ancient method of learning to think through writing that really leads to the development of superior skills in rhetoric. [This informative article](#) from Memoria Press helps explain the scope and the purpose of the progymnasmata.

## **Science**

In the logic years, students begin a broader study of science disciplines while still focusing on key areas so that depth and not breadth remains the practice.

- Astronomy and Earth Science (7th)
- Anatomy and Physiology – Three Key Systems (8th)
- Physical Science: Key Physics and Chemistry Principles (9th)

In the rhetoric years students study the more advanced sciences. Instructors are experts in their field:

- Biology (9+)
- Chemistry (10+)
- Physics (11+)
- Marine Biology (10+, elective, offered as needed)
- Anatomy and Physiology (11+, elective, offered as needed)

## **Classical Studies and Modern & American History**

The study of the history of the ancient world (especially Greece and Rome) and of American history and the modern geography of our world are some of our most exciting classes. Students engage in a close examination of the cultures that were influential in the formation of our Western society. They also read literary works and primary sources from these time periods and cultures. Texts are carefully chosen and pacing is slow and deliberate so that students are sure to be learning to mastery.