

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL LETTERS

Modern Western Civilization is the grandchild of the Classical world. The poets, dramatists and philosophers of ancient Greece, the statesmen, historians and men of letters of ancient Rome enunciated principles of law and ethics, of art and literature, and of human psychology the legacies of which are still with us today. The very name "Classics," or *Literae Humaniores* ("more humane letters") as it is known at some universities, hints at this legacy.

The English language, though Germanic in structure, looks to Latin and Greek for the bulk of its vocabulary. An understanding of Latin grammar, with its demand for precision, and of Roman and Greek rhetoric, with their emphasis on structure, will strengthen a student's grasp of English grammar, improve a student's written and oral expression in English, and will sharpen the student's analytical and critical skills.

For Catholic students, the study of Latin elucidates the history of prayer and liturgy and of theological discourse in Western Christianity.

The Department of Classical Letters offers to St. Joseph By-the-Sea students in the Scholars Program the opportunity to expand their knowledge in all of these areas through the study of Classical history, literature in translation and, most notably, the Latin language itself.

Students in the Scholars program complete a three-year sequence in Latin, beginning in freshman year and culminating in the New York State Regents Examination in Latin at the end of junior year. We are not only proud to offer the only Regents-level Latin course on Staten Island, but we are pleased that our students have a 100 percent pass rate thus far, with 86 percent scoring 85 or higher and an average score of 91.

Third-year students who successfully complete the course are also eligible for six college credits through our affiliation with St. John's University.

The department is now beginning to include preparation for the SAT-II Subject Test in Latin as well. We hope to provide students with a chance to fulfill the subject test requirement in language demanded by many competitive colleges and universities.

Various members of the department belong to professional and scholarly organizations, including the American Philological Association, the American Classical League, the Classical Association of the Atlantic States, the Classical Association of the Midwest and South, the Classical Association of the Empire State and the New York Classical Club.

Students are offered the opportunity to join our own chapter of the National Junior Classical League, the premier organization for high school Latinists, and to take the National Latin Examination in third year. Students who meet the academic standards are eligible for membership in the National Latin Honor Society.

Faculty

Chairman and Latin III: Christopher Franz, A.B., S.T.B., M.Div. (Academic Dean)
Latin II: Glenn Cronick, B.A., M.A.
Latin I: Lois Lerner, B.A., M.A., M.S. in Ed.