

THE LATIN WAY



A CLASSICAL EDUCATION FOR THE MODERN WORLD: A PURPOSEFUL TENSION

We believe in the uplifting and liberating power of our classical education for all learners. The academic and social experiences we strive to create at Washington Latin are in service of this freedom – freedom that allows our students to be at once disciplined and flexible in thought and action; freedom that allows them to fully embrace the humanity of others as well as their own; and the freedom that gives them the tools to identify and experience all that is good, true and beautiful in the world around them.

Inherent in our school’s design is a purposeful tension between the ideals of the classical approach to education and the mindset of the modern times in which we live. We embrace this tension deliberately, recognizing the application of the classical approach to a modern audience will necessarily mean an intellectual give-and-take. We aim neither to impose outdated views on a modern audience nor to honor modern views solely for their familiarity and comfort.

- *From the classical tradition*, we honor the emphasis on transcendent ideas, the concept of shared humanity, a commitment to courageous inquiry, and a dedication to the moral development of the young.
- *From the modern era*, we embrace the belief that all people, regardless of age, race, gender, or background, can walk a path towards enlightenment. We honor the modern era’s emphasis on a diversity of perspectives.

What follows are four cultural principles that underlie all our work as an educational community – The Latin Way.



THE LATIN WAY



FALL IN LOVE WITH ENDURING IDEAS

Our education is an invitation to fall in love with deep, enduring ideas - Truth, Beauty and Goodness - and so to be changed. We believe that education should be transformational, involving both mind and heart; at their union character develops. Our curriculum introduces students to truths beyond their context yet within their grasp; our pedagogy of questioning opens ideas to critique and encourages students to wrestle with timeless ideas to make them their own.



SEEK THE CONVERSATION

Words matter and we teach students to use them with care. Our school is built for conversation, and we aim for students to embrace the idea that many perspectives and voices are the means to a richer learning experience for all. We believe that a true education sparks discussion and provokes thought; conversations – with each other and with the thinkers of the past and present – are the crucible for all learning. The exchange of ideas is a moral act: it catalyzes the character development of the speaker and the listener, calling on both to be reasonable, informed, and flexible in their opinions.



TRUST COURAGEOUSLY

Our school is built on relationships rather than hierarchy - trust is at the heart of everything. We courageously trust each other to do good in the world. We trust in our teachers to do right by our students and by each other. We trust our students and give them the freedom to be courageous themselves - to try, to make mistakes, and to realize over time how to direct their own paths.



SERVE THE COMMON GOOD

Non nobis solum nati sumus. We are not born for ourselves alone.

We believe education is the path to a fuller humanity, only possible when we weave ourselves into a tapestry broader than our own individual interests. Our school aims for students to understand and celebrate our shared humanity, so that they can see themselves as both individuals and as part of a whole. Ultimately education's greatest purpose is to guide our students in their development as citizens committed to contributing to the common good.