

A Family Guide to Learning Latin

What comprehensible input means for your student — and how to support it at home, even if you've never studied Latin.

What This Classroom Is Built On

Your student's Latin classroom is built on comprehensible input: language acquired through understanding real messages, not through memorizing rules before ever using them. Grammar is something students notice inside language they already understand — never a wall to climb before the reading begins. Stress is the enemy of acquisition, so frequent, low-stakes checks replace high-pressure tests.

How This Differs From a Traditional Class

A traditional class often: front-loads grammar rules, translates sentence by sentence into English, tests memorized forms under time pressure.

This classroom instead: builds understanding through stories first, reads Latin in its own order, and checks in often and low-stakes.

How You Can Help at Home

- Ask what happened in yesterday's story, not what the Latin words meant — the plot is the point, not a translation quiz.
- Have them act out or retell a scene as if it just happened to them — gestures and drama count as real engagement with the language.
- Encourage re-reading a favorite story rather than only pushing toward harder ones; comfortable reading builds fluency.
- If your student is anxious about a quiz or check-in, remind them the goal is understanding, not perfection.
- You don't need to know Latin yourself — genuine curiosity about what they're learning is enough.

What to Expect Over the Year

Weekly: classroom newsletters with highlights and progress notes focused on growth and engagement.

Ongoing: cultural event notifications and competition opportunities (National Latin Exam, PAJCL contests, Latin Club).

As needed: a note home if something needs attention — and always a welcome one back.

Questions or Concerns

Reach out any time — conference requests are always welcome, and response time is typically within 24 hours during school days.

See also: [How to Study Latin \(student guide\)](#) · [7th/8th-Grade Transition Checklist](#)