

2020 - 2021

# New Family Guidebook

*Welcome to High School*



*Pride* *diverse*  
*Change*  
*Values* *prepare* *creative*  
*Birthright!* *preparatory* *character* *brotherhood* *ENVY*

# Boys' Latin

## *New Family Guidebook*

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# Our Mission

*We prepare boys for success in college and beyond.*

## **What We Believe**

*Faber est quisque fortunae suae.*

Every man is the architect of his own fortune.

This is our maxim, and we want to instill it in the mindset of students. As “architects” they must have a clear vision of their goals. They must have the foresight to recognize what they want to create and who they want to be. Similarly, as an “architect,” they must have a strong understanding of the building blocks required to achieve that vision. It requires hard work. Our students are up for the challenge.

But they are not alone. We believe it is our ethical, moral, and educational responsibility to provide students with a pathway toward college. We work in partnership with students and families with the clear goal stated in our mission. We prepare boys for success in college and beyond. We will challenge them, and we will support them as they work to achieve this mission.

The hallmarks of our school that shape the experience are threefold:

**Single-Gender Education:** We are the only public all-boys school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This aspect of our work is especially important to us at Boys’ Latin. It allows us to cater our instructional practices and programs toward the needs of young men. It permits frank and candid discussions and clear teachings that equip students with the social and emotional tools they need to navigate adolescence and post-secondary environments.

**Classical Latin Studies:** All Boys’ Latin students engage in the study of Latin. Research reveals that the study of Latin amplifies a student’s ability to perform better on the SATs, in the study of science, and in the study of other languages. Perhaps more importantly for us, the study of Latin is a means of shaping students into students. Quite simply, Latin is hard. Students are challenged to learn the study skills necessary to be successful as learners. Students recognize a truth that will be important for them throughout their lives – it is essential to work through struggles and hardships in order to achieve.

**College Preparatory Education:** Inherent in all we do is the goal of college success. We will ask much of our students, and it is all towards the end goal of college success. The extended learning hours, the homework, the required extracurricular participation, the study of classics, the enforcement of uniforms and self-discipline; and the emphasis on social/emotional skills – this is all designed to ready our students for the world of higher education. We are grateful you are joining us on this path.

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## Welcome to High School

We prepare boys for success in college and beyond. Our courses, expectations, strategies, and programs are developed with that mission in mind. We thank you for joining our community, and we thank you for partnering with us in guiding your son on the path toward college. Our expectation is that you share with us a vision of college for your son. An alignment between the school and the home is essential to your son's success. And ninth grade is an extremely important year! You can help your son get high school off to a great start by being informed and involved, partnering with the school, and providing lots of support.

## Be Informed and Involved

- Attend school programs and activities. You will learn valuable information about what your child is learning and what his school day is like.
- Regularly check the school's website and social media. Keep up-to-date on what's happening at Boys' Latin.
- Preview the school calendar and school handbook. Find important dates, attendance policies and procedures, and the code-of-conduct.
- Know what courses your freshman is taking. Ask him about what he is learning.
- Know who your son's teachers are. Gather their contact information. Ensure your son knows how to arrange a meeting with his teacher, the school social worker, and the college counselors.

## Everything Counts

Every course your student takes and grade they receive counts. Freshman grades are the foundation of students' Grade Point Average (GPA). Make sure your child understands the importance of working hard this year – right from day one. These are the courses and grades that will ultimately be sent to college admissions offices in just a few short years.

## Encourage Extracurricular Involvement

Studies show that students who are involved in extracurricular activities enjoy school more and do better academically. Activities are also a great way for students to meet new friends, have fun, and feel they are part of the Boys' Latin community. Boys' Latin requires students to participate in these activities. Not only do they allow students to discover new interests, but college admissions offices will be looking for this type of school involvement when your son applies to college.

## Partner with the School

Our goal is the same. We all want your student to have a successful, positive high school experience. If your son is having a problem with a particular class, please contact the teacher. If your child is struggling in several classes, having a problem with a teacher or classmate, or dealing with something else that is affecting his school success, please arrange a meeting with the school social worker.

## Ideas for a Strong Start

Use these tips to help ensure that your son has a successful start to high school:

**Provide school supplies and a good place to study.** In addition to paper, pens and pencils, students will need notebooks, folders, and a calculator. Ideally, he should have a place at home to study that is quiet, well-lit, comfortable, and free of distractions (i.e., video games, phones, etc.)

**Familiarize yourself with ~~PowerSchool, our online student information system,~~** This site allows you to monitor your son's attendance, performance, and grades in every class.

**Homework consistency is crucial to the development of strong work habits.** Your son will have homework every day. As a college preparatory school, there will always be assignments, studying, and reading that he will need to complete. Typically, students have about 1.5 to 2.0 hours of homework per day.

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**Daily attendance is a key indicator of success.** There is a direct correlation between student attendance and student academic success. Students who are frequently tardy to school suffer academically. Your son must develop the important habit of waking on time and taking the initiative to arrive promptly at school.

**Setting goals provides benchmarks for success.** You and your son should set goals for grades, study habit commitments, and extracurricular participation. The goals will help your son understand your expectations.

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## Successful Student Profile

Below, please find student profiles, by grade level, that were developed by tracking the actions and experiences of the many Boys' Latin students who have successfully graduated from Boys' Latin and gone on to graduate from college, thus fulfilling the mission of our school. The data below represents the actions, choices, and achievements – cumulatively – of the successful Boys' Latin student. Use these profiles to set guidelines and goals in the areas of attendance, behaviors, academic performance, SAT preparation, course selection, and extracurricular involvement.

### Grade 9

Average Daily Attendance	97%
Tardies	3
Discipline Consequences	10
Suspensions	0
Estimated "Core" GPA	3.32
Algebra I	B
Composition I	B+
Latin I	B+
Literature I	B+
Biology	B
Civics	A
Extracurricular Involvement	5

### Grade 10

Average Daily Attendance	97%
Tardies	9
Discipline Consequences	7
Suspensions	0
Estimated "Core" GPA	3.17
Geometry	B
Composition II	B
Latin II	B
Literature II	B
Chemistry	B+
World History	A-
Extracurricular Involvement	5

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## Grade 11

Average Daily Attendance	97%
Tardies	8
Discipline Consequences	5
Suspensions	0
Estimated "Core" GPA	3.15
Algebra II	B
Chemistry	B
English 11	B+
Latin III	B+
Math Analysis	B
U.S. History	B+
SAT Prep	1
Advanced Placement	1
Extracurricular Involvement	1
Keystone Algebra	Basic
Keystone Biology	Basic
Keystone Literature	Proficient

## Grade 12

Average Daily Attendance	96%
Tardies	9
Discipline Consequences	4
Suspensions	0
Estimated "Core" GPA	3.18
Precalculus	B-
Physics	B+
English 12	B
Latin IV	A-
SAT Prep	0
Advanced Placement	1
Extracurricular Involvement	1
SAT Total Score	850
SAT Math Score	430
SAT Reading Score	420

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# Student Pledge

The Boys' Latin Pledge is an integral part of the Boys' Latin experience. Each day, students must enact and live the espoused values of the pledge. Students are expected to recite the pledge from memory in English by the beginning of their freshman year and in Latin by the end of their senior year.

## *English*

Education is my birthright. Education is the birthright of all children. Education is the pathway to freedom, the freedom to achieve my personal dreams.

Education is the path to justice, justice for every man, woman, and child. Education is the path to power, the power to change the world.

Education is the path to joy. The joy of learning is a privilege. Education is my full-time job. It requires hard work.

I commit myself this day to focus on my studies, to be an active participant in my learning process, and to always seek guidance from my teachers whenever I need help.

I commit myself this day to respect myself and my fellow students, to honor my teachers and the entire school community.

I commit myself this day to scholarship and to train my mind and push myself to work hard.

I commit myself this day to my family and my community. I make these commitments freely and publicly.

## *Latin*

Educatio ius genere ortum meum est.

Educatio ius e genere ortum liberorum omnium est.

Educatio ad libertatem via est, quae libertas ut possim conficere proposita privata datur.

Educatio ad iustitiam via est, quae iustitia viro cuique et feminae et puero debetur.

Educatio ad potestatem via est, qua potestate mutare mundum possum.

Educatio ad gaudium via est. Gaudium discendi privilegium est.

Educatio officium perpetuum meum est. Dedicacionem et opera gravia requirit.

Hoc die spondeo intendere animum meum ad studia mea atque me promittere in ratione discendi atque semper quaerere consilium a magistris meis quandocumque egeo auxilii.

Hoc die spondeo observare me et condiscipulos meos atque honorare magistros meos et totam civitatem scholae.

Hoc die spondeo me eruditioni atque exercere animum meum atque me impellere ut laborem graviter.

Hoc die spondeo me familiae meae et communitati meae. Haec obligo libere et aperte.

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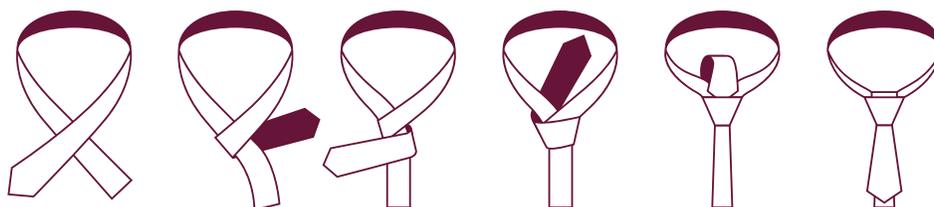
## Student Uniforms and Tying a Tie

Uniforms are mandatory for all Boys' Latin students. This requirement is essential to our mission. It is a primary step toward the development of the student body's esprit de corps – the feeling of pride, fellowship, brotherhood, and common purpose shared by the student members of our community. Proper maintenance and wearing of the uniform are important. It represents that a student is ready and prepared to learn. Therefore, no student may attend class out of uniform. If a student is out of uniform, he will be required to return home to get into full uniform before returning to school. Uniforms are to be worn to all school functions, including field trips. Uniforms must fit properly and may not be worn baggy/oversized or too small. Uniform clothing may not be tattered, discolored, or ripped at the seams.

All official uniforms may be purchased at Flynn & O'Hara. Only purchases made at the official school uniform provider, Flynn & O'Hara, guarantees that the uniform is acceptable. Families having trouble procuring proper elements of the school uniform due to financial constraints should contact the school social worker.

Tying a tie is an important rite of passage for the young men of Boys' Latin. It is the school's expectation that they develop this skillset. It is an important school skill and life skill.

### *Tying a Necktie*



- 1.** Begin with the wide end on your right and extending about a foot below the narrow end of your tie. (Pictures are mirror images, in other words images are what you would see if you were looking in a mirror.)
- 2.** Bring the wide end of the tie over the narrow (right side to left side).
- 3.** Bring the wide end underneath the narrow end (left side to right side).
- 4.** Bring the wide end of the tie over the narrow again (right side to left side).
- 5.** Bring the wide end of the tie through the back of the loop (left side to center).
- 6.** Hold the front of the knot loose with your index finger; pass the wide end down through the loop (created in step 4) in front.
- 7.** Remove your finger and tighten the knot.
- 8.** Hold the narrow end of the tie and slide the knot up to the collar.

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## Core Values: **Scholarship, Integrity, and Brotherhood**

As members of the Boys' Latin community, all students must commit to upholding the school's core values of scholarship, integrity, and brotherhood.

**Scholarship:** Students will approach their work and studies with grit, curiosity and a growth mindset.

**Integrity:** Students will act with purpose, self-control, honor, and dedication to mission.

**Brotherhood:** Students will demonstrate gratitude, extend support, and interact with social and emotional intelligence.

Each day, students must dedicate themselves to honoring the community and encouraging their brothers to do the same, striving to act with compassion, respect, and responsibility at all times.

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