

BOYS' LATIN OF PHILADELPHIA CHARTER SCHOOL

Faber Est Quisque Fortunae Suae
Every man is the architect of his own fortune

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Graduation Requirements, Course Sequences, and Academic Expectations

Grades 9 through 12 · School Year 2026–2027

Who We Are

Our Mission- We prepare boys for success in college and beyond, using as our foundation a classical Latin education, the positive influence of brotherhood, and rich relationships. We are a community that values and cultivates critical thinking, personal responsibility, emotional intelligence, and character development.

Our Vision- Boys' Latin of Philadelphia is a collaborative community of motivated students, supportive families, and dedicated educators. The school serves as a national college-preparatory model for educating boys by nurturing personal responsibility, emotional intelligence, and character development. We empower students to understand their voice and increase their fortitude, shaping scholars who are successful in college and beyond.

Our Commitment- Boys' Latin of Philadelphia stands as a vital part of the village that nurtures our young men's individual and collective success. We believe that scientia potentia est — knowledge is power — and that education is the pathway to freedom, justice, and joy. Through rigorous college-preparatory coursework and experiences rooted in a classical liberal arts education, scholars develop the academic and leadership skills needed to excel. At graduation, our Warriors emerge as architects of their futures, grounded in the core values of Scholarship, Integrity, and Brotherhood, upheld by the pillars that support these values.

The Portrait of a Graduate- Three core values, upheld by six pillars. Every course in this book is mapped to at least two pillars, and every scholar is assessed against all six across four years.

SCHOLARSHIP · Scholaritas

Pillar	What a Boys' Latin graduate does
Erudition	Utilize knowledge, critical thinking, and a growth mindset to succeed and thrive in college, career, and beyond.
Tenacity	Persist through challenges with curiosity and creativity, strategically using available information, resources, and supports to develop effective solutions.

INTEGRITY · Integritas

Pillar	What a Boys' Latin graduate does
Purpose	Exhibit confidence in their identities, clarity of their values, and appreciation for the experiences that have shaped them.
Accountability	Lead by example through hard work, honesty, and doing what is right, while taking ownership of mistakes and using them as opportunities for growth.

BROTHERHOOD · Fraternitas

Pillar	What a Boys' Latin graduate does
Compassion	Demonstrate kindness and empathy by respecting diverse perspectives, recognizing that there is room for both collaboration and competition, but there is no place for harm.
Service	Embrace the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on their communities, personifying the pledge, “I am my brother's keeper.”

How We Teach: The Classical Maxims

These six maxims govern the design of instruction at Boys' Latin. They are printed here because families and scholars are entitled to know the reasoning behind the classroom they walk into every day. Each is given in Latin or Greek and in English, as is our practice throughout the school.

Maxim	In English	What it means for your son's classroom
Festina Lente	Make haste slowly	We move deliberately through essential content so that understanding is deep and durable, not rushed and shallow.
Multum non Multa	Much, not many	We teach fewer things more completely. Depth of mastery outranks coverage of topics.
Repetitio Mater Memoriae	Repetition is the mother of memory	Key ideas return again and again across the four years so that knowledge is retained, not rented.
Scholē	Restful, purposeful study	Learning requires time to think, discuss, and reflect. Pace serves comprehension.
Optimus Magister Bonus Liber Est	The best teacher is a good book	Our scholars read primary texts and great books, not summaries of them.
Docendo Discimus	By teaching, we learn	Scholars explain, defend, and teach their thinking to one another as a standard practice of the classroom.

How We Teach: The Pedagogical Practices

Four practices carry the maxims into daily instruction. These are stated in English because they describe what a teacher does, not what a tradition says.

Practice	What it means for your son's classroom
Embodied Learning	Teachers align physical presence, tone, and modeled behavior with the values they ask scholars to hold. What a teacher does with his body in a classroom teaches more than what he says.
Wonder and Curiosity	Lessons open questions before they close them. Scholars are invited to be puzzled, to ask, and to take intellectual risks without penalty for being wrong out loud.
Educational Virtues	Attention, patience, honesty, and courage are treated as academic skills — taught and assessed the way we teach and assess writing or computation.
Songs, Chants, and Jingles	Key knowledge is set to rhythm, melody, and repetition so that it is retained for years rather than for the length of a unit. Joyful repetition is a serious instructional method.

WHY LATIN

Latin is the discipline that makes the rest of the program possible. A scholar who can parse a Latin sentence can parse a statute, a lease, a lab abstract, or a standardized test passage. Latin builds the vocabulary of law, medicine, and science; it trains patience and precision; and it is the reason this school carries the name it does.

Three credits of Latin — Latin I, II, and III — are required of every Boys' Latin graduate. A scholar who completes the requirement early continues into a modern world language.

The Four-Year Arc

A program of studies is not a list of courses. It is an argument about how a boy develops into the college ready portrait of a graduate over four years. Ours has four movements. Each year asks a different question, builds different pillars, and ends with a gate the scholar must pass through in order to move on.

Year	Movement	The question of the year
Grade 9	Foundation	Who am I becoming, and what does this school expect of me?
Habits, foundational knowledge, and entry into brotherhood. The freshman year establishes the academic floor: reading stamina, written argument, algebraic reasoning, laboratory practice, and the discipline of daily preparation. ☐ Recite the Student Pledge in English. ☐ Deliver two Declamations. ☐ Earn one Lyceum and Leadership Academy Credit. ☐ Complete 10 service hours. ☐ Complete College & Career Readiness Portfolio ☐ Sit for the ELA, Algebra, and Biology Keystone		
Grade 10	Formation	What do I believe, and can I defend it?
Sophomore year turns knowledge into judgment. Scholars move from summarizing what texts say to evaluating what texts argue, and from following ethical rules to reasoning about them. ☐ Complete the Sophomore Ethics Defense. ☐ Deliver two Declamations. ☐ Sit for the PSAT 10. ☐ Complete 10 service hours. ☐ Earn one Lyceum and Leadership Academy Credit.		
Grade 11	Application	Where does what I know meet the world outside this building?
Junior year is the pivot year. Scholars enter block instruction, complete the Praxis internship, sit for AP, SAT examinations, and begin formal postsecondary planning with the Office of College and Career. ☐ Recite the Student Pledge in Latin. ☐ Deliver two Declamations. ☐ Complete the Praxis internship placement. ☐ Complete 10 service hours. ☐ Earn one Lyceum and Leadership Academy Credit. ☐ Sit for the SAT		
Grade 12	Legacy	What have I learned and earned to prepare me for success in college and beyond, and what am I leaving behind?
Senior year is a public accounting. Every scholar researches, writes, and defends original work; completes the personal finance instruction required by the Commonwealth; and submits a postsecondary plan. ☐ Apply to at least 6 colleges ☐ Complete 10 service hours ☐ Pass the Senior Defense ☐ Complete FAFSA		

Graduation Requirements

To earn a Boys' Latin of Philadelphia diploma, a scholar must complete all three of the following: the credit requirements, the non-credit requirements, and one Pennsylvania graduation pathway.

1. Credit requirements

Subject	Credits	How they are earned
English —	4	One credit each year, Grades 9–12
Mathematics —	4	One credit each year. The senior credit is Statistics (0.5) and Personal Finance (0.5).
Science —	4	Courses across grades 9–12
Social Studies —	4	Courses across grades 9–12
College & Career	3	Paideia (1), Virtue Ethics and Leadership (1), Praxis (0.5), Advanced Research Colloquium (0.5)
Latin and World Language —	3	Latin I, II, and III required. World Language is available to accelerated scholars.
Physical Education and Health	1	0.25 each year through athletics, intramurals, or an approved 30-hour equivalent program.
Electives	5	Minimum. Additional electives encouraged.

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED **28** The Commonwealth requires 21. Boys' Latin requires 28.

2. Non-credit requirements— These requirements do not appear on the transcript as credits, but a scholar cannot graduate without them. They are tracked on a separate ledger and audited alongside credits every semester.

Requirement	What it takes
Lyceum and Leadership Academy Credits	3 total. One credit each year in Grades 9, 10, and 11, earned as one approved activity per semester.
Community Service	40 hours total. 10 hours each year, Grades 9 through 12.
Declamations	2 each year, Grades 9 through 12. Delivered and assessed in the College & Career strand, Latin or English course.
The Student Pledge — in English	Recited in Grade 9. Required for promotion to Grade 10.
The Student Pledge — in Latin	Recited in Grade 11, or at the conclusion of Latin III for accelerated scholars. Required for promotion to Grade 12.
The Senior Defense	Three components: the Senior Thesis, the Senior Defense presentation, and Senior Clearance.
Pennsylvania Graduation Pathway	One of five statewide pathways under Act 158 of 2018 and 22 Pa. Code § 4.24.
Postsecondary Readiness Checklist	Completed with the Office of School Counseling in Grade 12.

3. The Pennsylvania graduation pathway— In addition to meeting Boys' Latin requirements, every scholar must satisfy one of the five statewide pathways established by Act 158 of 2018 under 22 Pa. Code § 4.24.

Pathway	In plain language
Keystone Proficiency	Score Proficient or Advanced on all three Keystone Exams: Algebra I, Biology, and Literature.
Keystone Composite	Reach a combined Keystone score of 4452 or higher, with at least one exam Proficient or Advanced and no exam Below Basic.
Alternative Assessment	Meet local grade-based requirements plus one qualifying score — for example SAT 1010, ACT 21, PSAT/NMSQT 970, ASVAB AFQT 31 — or an equivalent piece of evidence.
Career and Technical Education	Meet local grade-based requirements plus one piece of CTE evidence, such as an industry-recognized certification.
Evidence Based	Meet local grade-based requirements plus three approved pieces of evidence, such as an AP score of 3 or better, a completed dual enrollment course, acceptance to a postsecondary institution, a completed internship, or a service-learning project.

The Four-Year Sequence

Everything a Boys' Latin scholar must complete, in one place. Numbers in parentheses are credits. Across four years a scholar earns 22 scheduled credits, 1 credit of Physical Education and Health, and at least 5 elective credits — 28 in total.

Strand or Requirement	GRADE 9 Foundation · Fundamentum	GRADE 10 Formation · Formatio	GRADE 11 Application · Praxis	GRADE 12 Legacy · Legatum
Credit-bearing courses				
English	Classical and Contemporary Literature (1)	World Literature and Critical Interpretation (1)	American Literature and Dialectical Reasoning (1)	Comparative Literature and Socratic Examination (1)
Mathematics	Algebra I (1)	Algebra II (1)	Geometry (1)	Statistics (0.5) Personal Finance (0.5)
Science	Biology (1)	Anatomy and Physiology (1)	Chemistry (1)	Environmental Science (1)
Social Studies	Classical World History (1)	The American Republic (1)	American Government and Civic Reasoning (1)	African American History (1)
College & Career	Paideia (1)	Virtue, Ethics, and Leadership (1)	Praxis — Internship (0.5)	Advanced Research Colloquium (0.5)
Latin and World Language	Latin I (1)	Latin II (1)	Latin III (1)	World Language — accelerated scholars only
Electives	Elective (1)	Elective (1)	Elective (1)	Electives (2)
Requirements and milestones				
Physical Education and Health	Participation (0.25)	Participation (0.25)	Participation (0.25)	Participation (0.25)
Lyceum and Leadership Academy Credit	1 credit (one per semester)	1 credit (one per semester)	1 credit (one per semester)	Not required
Community service	10 hours	10 hours	10 hours	10 hours
Declamations	2	2	2	2
Assessment	Keystone	PSAT 10	Keystones · SAT PSAT/NMSQT	SAT · AP examinations
Milestone	Student Pledge in English	Sophomore Ethics Defense	Student Pledge in Latin Praxis placement Junior transcript audit	Senior Defense (Thesis · Defense · Clearance) Postsecondary checklist
Credits earned this year	7.25	7.25	6.75	6.75

Accelerated pathways

Acceleration at Boys' Latin means going further, not finishing sooner. A scholar who accelerates still takes four years of core subjects; he simply reaches higher-level content and converts required periods into elective ones.

A scholar who arrives having	Follows this sequence
Algebra I completed in Grade 8	Algebra II (9) · Geometry (10) · Precalculus (11) · Calculus through CCP dual enrollment (12). Personal Finance is taken as a half-credit elective.
Latin I completed in Grade 8	Latin II (9) · Latin III (10) · World Language I (11) · World Language II (12). The Student Pledge in Latin is recited at the conclusion of Latin III in Grade 10.

Electives

Five elective credits is the largest block of choice in the program. The categories below are listed in the order the school will prioritize them as the elective catalog is built.

Priority	Category	What it includes
1	Fine and Performing Arts	Music, visual art, and theater. The school's first priority for elective expansion, and the home of the AP Visual Arts offering.
2	Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement	College credit through the Community College of Philadelphia and the AP courses named in Part Seven.
3	Computer Science and Technology	Including the AP Computer Science offering.
4	World Language	Spanish, French, or another modern language, ordinarily for scholars who completed the Latin requirement early.

Honors, Advanced Placement, and Dual Enrollment

Boys' Latin offers three levels of advanced coursework. All three carry weighted quality points, which means that a scholar who takes harder courses is not punished in his grade point average for doing so.

Level	What it means
Honors designation	Available in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Latin. Honors sections carry additional reading, a heavier writing load, and independent work. Quality points are weighted by 0.50.
Advanced Placement	Offered in English Language and English Literature; Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science; United States History, Government, and African American Studies; Visual Arts; and Computer Science. AP scholars sit the College Board examination in May. Quality points are weighted by 1.00.
Dual Enrollment	Eligible juniors and seniors earn college credit through the school's partnership with the Community College of Philadelphia, governed by the board-approved Boys' Latin Middle College and Dual Enrollment Manual. Calculus is offered through dual enrollment rather than as an Advanced Placement course. Quality points are weighted by 1.00.
Placement	Placement is by demonstrated readiness — prior course grade, assessment data, and teacher recommendation — not by application or family request alone. A scholar denied placement receives a written statement of what he must demonstrate to earn it, and may be reconsidered at the semester.

Mandatory college and career meetings

Scholars and their parents or guardians are required to attend several meetings outside regular school hours during the junior and senior years, covering the college search and application process, financial aid, and the Senior Defense. These meetings are listed on the school calendar. Every scholar is required to attend.

English

The English sequence is anchored in whole works rather than excerpts, and it moves a scholar from reading what a text says, to interpreting what it means, to reasoning about what it argues, to examining a question across texts and traditions. Writing runs alongside reading in every year. The Grade 9 and Grade 10 courses draw on Fishtank Learning units; Grades 11 and 12 draw on EngageNY modules; and a dedicated composition strand carries argument, informative, and narrative writing.

Classical and Contemporary Literature

Grade 9 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · No prerequisite

Freshmen read whole works that put questions of power, justice, and culpability directly in front of them. The year pairs Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* with the nonfiction account of the Central Park Five, moves into Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* to examine how societies manufacture ideas about desirability and worth, and closes with Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies* to study voice and agency under authoritarian rule. Roughly sixty instructional days are distributed across these units, with the remainder devoted to the habits every later English course assumes: annotation, tracking an argument across a long text, constructing a defensible thesis, and citing evidence with accuracy. Because the Literature Keystone is administered in this year, the course also carries sustained work in the Assessment Anchors for key ideas and details, craft and structure, and integration of knowledge — not as test preparation bolted on, but as the ordinary business of reading closely. Scholars produce a quarterly timed analytical essay and defend one reading of a self-selected work in a spring seminar.

Source: 9th Grade ELA Pacing Guide (Fishtank Learning); PA Core Standards 1.2 and 1.3; Literature Keystone Assessment Anchors

World Literature and Critical Interpretation

Grade 10 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · Prerequisite: Classical and Contemporary Literature

Sophomores read across continents and centuries and learn that interpretation is a discipline with standards, not a matter of opinion. The year opens with Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* read against the historical and social context of the 1619 Project, turns to Toni Morrison's *Sula* to examine self-respect and the terms on which a person claims it, takes up Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* as the longest and most demanding unit of the year, and closes by putting Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire* beside August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* in a comparative study of sanity, truth, and power. Running parallel is the composition strand: a formal multi-paragraph argument, an informative paper built from provided sources, and a narrative. The emphasis shifts decisively from comprehension to interpretation — identifying an author's assumptions, weighing competing readings of the same passage, and distinguishing a strong interpretive claim from a weak one. Formal research writing is introduced, including source evaluation and MLA citation.

Source: 10th Grade Literature and 10th Grade Composition Pacing Guides (Fishtank Learning; Unbounded writing modules); PA Core Standards 1.2, 1.4, 1.5

American Literature and Dialectical Reasoning

Grade 11 · 1 credit · Year long, A/B block · Prerequisite: World Literature and Critical Interpretation · AP option available

Juniors examine the American literary tradition as an argument the country has been having with itself, and they are taught to state the strongest version of a position before answering it. The year works through EngageNY modules that move from Browning's dramatic monologue and Shakespeare's *Hamlet* into Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*, then into a sustained unit that sets Du Bois's opening chapter of *The Souls of Black Folk* against Booker T. Washington's Atlanta address, with Audre Lorde and Elizabeth Cady Stanton read alongside. That pairing is the intellectual center of the course: two Black thinkers, in the same decade, arguing about strategy and freedom, with the scholar required to reconstruct both positions fairly before taking his own. The block period allows full-length seminar, timed writing under test conditions, and SAT-aligned reading and language work. Scholars keep dialectical journals, write a synthesis essay from multiple sources, and complete a formal rebuttal exercise.

Source: 11th Grade Literature Pacing Guide (EngageNY Module 1 and Module 2); Literature Grade 11 Pacing Guide (Literary Abstracts, Exploding Analysis); PA Core Standards 1.2, 1.4, 1.5

Comparative Literature and Socratic Examination

Grade 12 · 1 credit · Year long, A/B block · Prerequisite: American Literature and Dialectical Reasoning · AP option available

The capstone English course is run as a seminar and examined orally. The year opens with a long unit on The Autobiography of Malcolm X as told to Alex Haley, focused on how an author structures a life into an argument, and continues with Leslie Marmon Silko's essay on beauty and belonging. It then turns to two units of direct consequence for the scholar's own future: personal narrative and the college essay, and an extended research writing unit that supplies the method the Senior Thesis will require. The course is deliberately built like a first-year college humanities seminar — reading is assigned, discussion is graded, and the instructor does not summarize the text. Scholars are assessed on weekly seminar participation, a final oral examination, and a long-form critical essay, and they leave with a drafted college essay and a working research method.

Source: 12th Grade Literature Pacing Guide (EngageNY Module 1 and Module 3); Literature Grade 12 Quarter 1 Pacing Guide; PA Core Standards 1.4, 1.5

Mathematics

Mathematics is taught as a system of reasoning. Scholars explain why a method works, show complete solution paths, and defend answers publicly. The high school sequence is built on the All Things Algebra unit curriculum in Algebra I and Geometry and aligned throughout to the Pennsylvania Core Standards for Mathematics and the Algebra I Keystone Assessment Anchors. Every scholar completes four years.

Algebra I

Grade 9 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · No prerequisite · Keystone course

Algebra I is the gateway course of the high school program and the subject of a Pennsylvania Keystone Exam. The year proceeds through algebra basics and the properties of real numbers, multi-step and literal equations, relations and functions, linear equations and their graphs, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratic equations, radicals, and an introduction to statistics. Scholars are required to move fluently among tables, graphs, symbolic equations, and verbal descriptions of the same relationship, and to justify each step of a solution rather than reproduce a procedure. The Keystone Assessment Anchors for operations and linear equations, linear functions and data organization, and modeling are addressed directly within the unit sequence. Daily practice, error analysis, and public explanation of solutions at the board are standard, and unit mastery checkpoints permit reassessment so that a scholar who has not yet learned something is given the chance to learn it rather than simply recorded as having failed.

Source: All Things Algebra Algebra I curriculum units in use (Algebra Basics, Relations and Functions, Linear Equations, and subsequent units); Algebra I Keystone Assessment Anchors; PA Core Standards 2.1, 2.2, 2.4

Algebra II

Grade 10 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · Prerequisite: Algebra I

Algebra II extends the scholar's toolkit to polynomial, rational, radical, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions, to systems of higher order, to complex numbers, and to the modeling of real situations with each of these families. Placing Algebra II immediately after Algebra I is deliberate: symbolic reasoning is kept continuous rather than interrupted for a year, and the fluency built here is what makes both Chemistry and Geometry workable in Grade 11. The course carries the heaviest procedural load of the four-year sequence and is the year in which the study habits established in Grade 9 are genuinely tested. Structured tutoring and mastery reassessment are built into the course rather than offered as remediation after the fact. Scholars complete unit mastery checkpoints, a modeling project in which they fit a function family to real data and defend the choice, and a cumulative final examination.

Source: PA Core Standards 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.8; department sequence per the SY2027 Core Course Requirements grid. No current Algebra II pacing guide was retrievable — requires department validation.

Geometry

Grade 11 · 1 credit · Year long, A/B block · Prerequisite: Algebra II

Geometry is the school's formal course in proof, and it is placed in the junior year on purpose — the same year a scholar is doing dialectical reasoning in English and civic reasoning in social studies. The sequence begins with geometry basics and the language of definition, postulate, and theorem, and proceeds through logic and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, relationships within triangles, similarity, right-triangle trigonometry, quadrilaterals, transformations, circles, and three-dimensional measurement and volume. Scholars are required to construct deductive arguments in writing and to critique the arguments of others, which is the transferable skill the course exists to build. The algebraic fluency developed in Grade 10 is applied continuously through coordinate geometry and the algebra of measurement. Assessment is by written proofs, a constructions portfolio, and a cumulative final examination.

Source: All Things Algebra Geometry curriculum units in use (Geometry Basics and subsequent units); PA Core Standards 2.3, 2.9

Statistics

Grade 12 · 0.5 credit · Semester, A/B block · Prerequisite: Geometry

Statistics is the mathematics an adult actually uses, and it is scheduled in the same year as the Senior Thesis so that scholars analyze and present their own data rather than a textbook's. The semester covers data collection and sampling design, descriptive statistics and the shape of distributions, probability, the normal and binomial distributions, correlation and regression, and an introduction to inference and significance. A recurring thread runs through the course: how numbers are used to mislead. Scholars learn to identify a biased sample, a misleading axis, a confused correlation, and a claim that outruns its evidence — the statistical literacy required to read a news report, a medical recommendation, or a policy brief with judgment. The two graded products are an original data investigation, ordinarily drawn from the scholar's own Senior Thesis question, and a written statistical critique of a published claim.

Source: PA Core Standards 2.4; alignment to the Advanced Research Colloquium. No current pacing guide — requires department validation.

Personal Finance

Grade 12 · 0.5 credit · Semester, A/B block · No prerequisite · Required by Act 35 of 2023

Required of every Pennsylvania graduate under Act 35 of 2023 and taught here as the second half of the senior mathematics credit. The semester covers earning and income, banking and account management, credit and credit scores, budgeting, taxes and withholding, insurance, saving and investing, debt, and consumer protection and fraud. Substantial weight falls on the specific financial decisions a senior is about to make: student loans and their true cost over time, the FAFSA, comparing financial aid award letters across institutions, and the real difference between a sticker price and a net price. Scholars complete the FAFSA and build a personal postsecondary budget as graded coursework rather than as an optional exercise, which means the course does double duty as a financial literacy requirement and as a college matriculation support. Assessment is by the completed budget, the FAFSA submission record, and a comprehensive final assessment covering the Act 35 content areas.

Source: Act 35 of 2023 required content areas; PA Career Education and Work Standards 13.3. No current pacing guide — requires department validation.

Science

Every science course at Boys' Latin is a laboratory course. Scholars generate questions, design procedures, collect and analyze data, and write formal laboratory reports in the conventions of the discipline, assessed against the school's science, history, and electives writing rubric. Scientific literacy is treated as a civic obligation as much as an academic one.

Biology

Grade 9 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · No prerequisite · Keystone course

Biology examines life from the molecular level to the ecosystem and is assessed by a Pennsylvania Keystone Exam. The year moves through the chemical basis of life, cell structure and function, bioenergetics and the transfer of energy through photosynthesis and

respiration, homeostasis and transport, the cell cycle, genetics and heredity, DNA and protein synthesis, the theory of evolution and the evidence for it, and ecology and the interdependence of organisms. These map directly onto the Keystone Assessment Anchors, and the course is paced so that all tested content is complete before the spring administration. Laboratory work introduces microscopy, controlled experimentation with identified variables, quantitative data collection, and the formal laboratory report — the writing genre that will recur in every science course a scholar takes here and in college. Assessment is by a laboratory report portfolio, unit examinations, and the Biology Keystone Exam.

Source: Biology Keystone Assessment Anchors; PA Academic Standards for Science 3.1; SY2526 Science, History, and Electives Writing Rubric

Anatomy and Physiology

Grade 10 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · Prerequisite: Biology

Scholars study the structure and function of the human body system by system — integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive — beginning with anatomical terminology, body organization, and the tissue types. The course is built around a premise the school states plainly: a young Black man in Philadelphia should understand his own body and the conditions that disproportionately shorten the lives of men who look like him. Hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, sickle cell trait, and mental health are studied as physiology rather than as warnings, and the behaviors that mitigate risk are examined with the same rigor as the systems themselves. Laboratory work includes dissection, physiological measurement of pulse, blood pressure, and respiratory capacity, and case-study analysis in which scholars reason from symptoms to systems. The course is the common on-ramp to the school's health science and dual enrollment pathways. Assessment is by system practicals, a case-study analysis, and a cumulative final examination.

Source: Anatomy Curriculum folder, Boys' Latin science Drive; PA Academic Standards for Science 3.1.B

Chemistry

Grade 11 · 1 credit · Year long, A/B block · Prerequisite: Biology and Algebra II · AP option available

Chemistry covers measurement and significant figures, atomic structure and the development of atomic theory, electron configuration and periodicity, ionic and covalent bonding, chemical nomenclature, reaction types and balancing, stoichiometry, the states of matter and the gas laws, solutions and concentration, acids and bases, and thermochemistry. Stoichiometry is the spine of the course and the place where a scholar's Algebra II fluency either pays off or is exposed, which is the substantive reason Algebra II precedes it in the sequence. The A/B block is not a scheduling convenience here but a requirement: a full titration, a gas law investigation, or a calorimetry lab cannot be set up, run, and cleaned up inside a single period. Scholars produce quantitative laboratory reports with error analysis and propagated uncertainty, complete stoichiometry mastery checkpoints, and sit a cumulative final examination.

Source: PA Academic Standards for Science 3.2; department sequence per the SY2027 Core Course Requirements grid. No current pacing guide — requires department validation.

Environmental Science

Grade 12 · 1 credit · Year long, A/B block · Prerequisite: Chemistry · AP option available

Environmental Science synthesizes the biology and chemistry sequence and turns it on the scholar's own neighborhood. The year covers ecosystem structure and energy flow, biogeochemical cycles, population dynamics, biodiversity, soil and agriculture, water resources and quality, air quality and atmospheric pollution, energy resources both conventional and renewable, solid and hazardous waste, climate change, and environmental policy and law. The organizing project is a field investigation in West Philadelphia — air quality, tree canopy, heat island effect, water infrastructure, waste, or a comparable question the scholar selects and defends. That design makes the course the science analogue of the Senior Thesis: independent, evidence-based, locally rooted, and publicly presented. It also produces exactly the kind of service-learning and research evidence that satisfies the Evidence Based graduation pathway under Act 158. Assessment is by the field investigation with written findings and a public presentation of results.

Source: PA Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology 4.1–4.5; alignment to Act 158 Evidence Based pathway. No current pacing guide — requires department validation.

Social Studies

History at Boys' Latin is taught from documents. Scholars read constitutions, speeches, treaties, court opinions, letters, and testimony, and learn that history is an argument built from evidence rather than a settled story to be memorized. The four-year sequence moves from the ancient world to the American founding to the machinery of present-day government to the history of Black America — ending, by design, with our scholars' own inheritance.

Classical World History

Grade 9 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · No prerequisite

The World History course at Boys' Latin opens by naming the problem directly: the history of the world was rewritten by the powers that conquered it, and the retelling was built to justify what had been done. The first unit accordingly reframes the ancient world by centering African civilizations — Egypt, Nubia, Kush, and the West African empires — alongside Greece, Rome, and the classical civilizations of Asia, and by restoring the events and voices that conventional survey courses omit. From there the year examines how societies organize power, law, religion, trade, and education, and follows those structures through the medieval world, the age of exploration and the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and the beginnings of colonization. The course is the historical companion to Latin I and to Paideia, and it establishes the document-based writing format used in every later history course at the school. Assessment is by document-based essays and a comparative civilizations project.

Source: World History Quarter 1 Pacing Guide, Boys' Latin; PA Academic Standards for World History 8.4

The American Republic: Principles and Democratic Ideals

Grade 10 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · Prerequisite: Classical World History · AP U.S. History option available

Scholars examine the founding of the United States and the long contest over who its promises actually cover, from the colonial period through the Revolution, the Constitutional Convention, the early republic, expansion, slavery and abolition, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and into the twentieth century. Founding documents are read closely and set against one another — the Declaration beside the Constitution's three-fifths clause, Frederick Douglass beside the Fourth of July, the Reconstruction Amendments beside the decisions that hollowed them out. The course satisfies the Commonwealth's statutory requirement for instruction in the history and government of the United States and Pennsylvania, including the state's own founding documents and constitutional history. Scholars write document-based argumentative essays throughout and complete a formal historical debate in which each side is required to state the opposing case before answering it.

Source: PA Academic Standards for United States History 8.3 and Pennsylvania History 8.2; 24 P.S. § 16-1605. No current pacing guide — requires department validation.

American Government and Civic Reasoning

Grade 11 · 1 credit · Year long, A/B block · Prerequisite: The American Republic · AP option available

Juniors study how government actually works at the federal, state, and city level: constitutional principles and federalism, the legislative process, executive power and the administrative agencies, the federal and state court systems, civil liberties and civil rights, elections and campaign finance, political parties and interest groups, budgets and taxation, and the administration of the institutions that touch scholars' lives most directly — schools, police, courts, housing, and public health. Civic reasoning is the skill the course exists to build: analyzing a policy on its evidence, its tradeoffs, and its consequences rather than on its slogans, and being able to argue a position one does not hold. The culminating work is a policy analysis on an issue affecting Philadelphia, presented in a testimony simulation before a panel. Assessment is by the policy analysis paper, the testimony performance, and a final examination.

Source: PA Academic Standards for Civics and Government 5.1–5.4. No current pacing guide — requires department validation.

African American History

Grade 12 · 1 credit · Year long, A/B block · Prerequisite: American Government and Civic Reasoning · AP African American Studies option available

The senior history course begins by framing the discipline itself — what African American history is, who has written it, what sources survive, and what it means to study a history built substantially from documents produced by people other than its subjects. From that opening the course traces West African civilizations, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, enslavement and resistance, emancipation and Reconstruction, Jim Crow and the nadir, the Great Migration, the Harlem Renaissance, the long civil rights movement, Black Power, and the present. Philadelphia is treated as a primary site throughout, with sustained attention to Black institutions — churches, schools, businesses, fraternal organizations, and the Black press. The course is taught as intellectual history as much as political history: scholars read Black thinkers arguing with one another about strategy, identity, and freedom, and are required to reconstruct each position on its own terms. Assessment is by a research seminar paper and an oral history or archival project.

Source: African-American History Quarter 1 Unit 1: Framing the Course (School District of Philadelphia course materials in the Boys' Latin Drive); PA Academic Standards 8.1 and 8.3

College & Career

The College & Career strand carries the school's ritual life, the Portrait of a Graduate, health and wellness instruction, the Declamations, the junior internship, and the Senior Defense. It is the only strand every scholar takes together, in every year, at both campuses. It carries three credits: one each in Grades 9 and 10, and one-half each in Grades 11 and 12, when the work moves substantially outside the classroom.

Paideia

Grade 9 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · No prerequisite

Paideia — the classical Greek word for the formation of a whole person rather than the training of a mind — is the freshman entry into the Boys' Latin way of working. The course teaches the disciplines the rest of the program assumes: seminar discussion and how to disagree without contempt, note-taking, study and retrieval systems, time and materials management, goal setting, and public speaking. Scholars learn the school's rituals, the meaning and history of the Student Pledge, and what the six pillars of the Portrait of a Graduate actually require of them, reading short foundational texts on character, brotherhood, and purpose. The course also carries the freshman health strand — nutrition, sleep, physical conditioning, substance use, and how and where a young man asks for help — and the freshman college and career readiness portfolio. Two Declamations are delivered and graded, and the year culminates in the recitation of the Student Pledge in English, which is required for promotion to Grade 10.

Source: Freshman Academy Advisory Scope and Sequence, Boys' Latin; PA Career Education and Work Standards 13.1–13.2. Requires validation against the revised College & Career scope and sequence.

Virtue, Ethics, and Leadership

Grade 10 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · Prerequisite: Paideia

Sophomores study the classical and contemporary accounts of virtue — what a good man is, how character is formed by habit rather than intention, and how leaders decide when genuine duties conflict. Scholars work from cases drawn from history, sport, business, and their own lives, and they practice making and defending hard calls in public where the cost of a weak argument is immediate. The course connects directly to the school's expectations for conduct and repair, and it is where a scholar learns why the repair never waives. The sophomore health strand sits here: sexual health, mental health and help-seeking, injury prevention, and first aid and CPR certification. The year culminates in the Sophomore Ethics Defense, a public, evidence-based defense of a moral position before peers and faculty. Two Declamations are delivered and graded, and scholars complete first aid and CPR certification.

Source: Sophomore Seminar Scope and Sequence (in development); PA Health and Physical Education Standards 10.1–10.3. Requires validation and confirmation of CPR instructor certification.

Praxis

Grade 11 · 0.5 credit · Seminar plus supervised placement · Prerequisite: Virtue, Ethics, and Leadership

Praxis is knowledge put into action, and it is the only internship in the Boys' Latin program. Juniors are placed in a supervised professional setting and held to workplace standards rather than school standards: attendance, punctuality, dress, written and spoken communication, and the completion of assigned work on someone else's timeline. The seminar portion prepares scholars for placement — résumé and cover letter, interview practice, professional email and phone conduct, workplace norms, and what to do when something goes wrong — and then debriefs the experience through structured written reflection. Placements are matched where possible to a scholar's emerging interests and become the raw material for the Senior Thesis question in the following year. The course culminates in the recitation of the Student Pledge in Latin, required for promotion to Grade 12. Assessment is by supervisor evaluations, a reflective portfolio, and two graded Declamations.

Source: PA Career Education and Work Standards 13.1–13.4; Act 158 Evidence Based pathway. New course — requires full design.

Advanced Research Colloquium

Grade 12 · 0.5 credit · Seminar plus independent research · Prerequisite: Praxis

The Colloquium is the course that carries the Senior Defense, the school's final examination of a Warrior. Scholars develop a research question of personal and community significance, conduct a literature review, and write the Senior Thesis: a research introduction, a six-page research paper, three paragraphs of reflection on identity and growth at Boys' Latin, two paragraphs on future plans and career goals, an interview with a Boys' Latin alumnus with the transcript appended, and a three-paragraph defense statement on what the diploma means. They then build and deliver the defense presentation — introduction and record, legacy statement, research and key findings with supporting data, personal journey, alumni interview insights, future plans, and a conclusion explaining why they have earned the right to receive a Boys' Latin diploma. The course closes with Senior Clearance: recitation of the Latin Pledge from memory and sign-off from department leaders. The whole is scored on a 100-point rubric, and nothing about it is optional.

Source: Boys' Latin Senior Defense proposal and rubric; PA Core Standards 1.4 and 1.5; Career Education and Work Standards 13.1

Latin and World Language

Latin is not an ornament of this school; it is the school. The department's work runs continuously from Grade 6, where scholars begin with vocabulary and grammar taught through Latin roots, derivatives, prefixes, and suffixes, and where the nominative, accusative, and ablative cases and the present tense are introduced through classroom commands, songs, games, and presentation. High school Latin builds directly on that foundation. Three credits are required of every graduate.

Latin I

Grade 9 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · No prerequisite

Latin I establishes the grammatical foundation on which everything else rests: the first three declensions with their case functions, present-system verb conjugations across all four families, adjective and noun agreement, prepositional phrases, and the standard subject-object-verb Latin sentence order. Scholars acquire roughly five hundred high-frequency words together with their English derivatives, which is the point at which Latin begins repaying itself in every other course a scholar takes. Reading is continuous from the first weeks — adapted connected Latin narrative rather than isolated exercise sentences — so that scholars learn to read Latin rather than to decode it. Roman daily life, geography, and mythology are studied alongside the language, and oral work continues the middle school practice of recitation, classroom commands, and song. Assessment is by sight translation, oral recitation, and a cumulative examination.

Source: Middle School Latin Department Scope and Sequence (Grades 6–8) as the entry point; ACTFL proficiency descriptors; PA Standards for World Languages. High school guide requires department validation.

Latin II

Grade 10 · 1 credit · Year long, single period · Prerequisite: Latin I

Latin II completes the noun and adjective systems, including the fourth and fifth declensions and comparative and superlative forms, and introduces the perfect verb system, the passive voice, participles, infinitives, and relative clauses. Reading stamina is built deliberately through longer adapted passages, and scholars begin translating short passages of unadapted Latin. Derivative study intensifies with direct and explicit application to SAT-level vocabulary, and scholars are taught to attack an unfamiliar English word by decomposing it. The National Latin Exam is administered in the spring, giving scholars an external, national measure of their work. Assessment is by extended translation, grammar mastery checkpoints, and the National Latin Exam.

Source: ACTFL proficiency descriptors; National Latin Exam syllabus; PA Standards for World Languages. Requires department validation.

Latin III

Grade 11 · 1 credit · Year long, A/B block · Prerequisite: Latin II

Latin III moves scholars into authentic authors. The subjunctive mood and its uses, indirect statement, gerunds and gerundives, and complex subordination are completed in the first half of the year, and the balance is devoted to reading selections of Roman prose and poetry in the original — ordinarily Caesar, Cicero, Catullus, Ovid, or Vergil, at the department's selection. The block period is what makes this possible: sustained reading and literary commentary in Latin cannot be done in forty-five-minute fragments. Successful completion satisfies the school's three-credit Latin requirement and qualifies the scholar to recite the Student Pledge in Latin. Assessment is by unadapted author translation, written literary commentary, the National Latin Exam, and the Pledge recitation.

Source: ACTFL proficiency descriptors; National Latin Exam syllabus. Author selection requires department decision.

World Language

Grades 11–12 · 1 credit per year · Year long, A/B block · Prerequisite: Latin III · Accelerated scholars

Scholars who complete the Latin requirement early — ordinarily those who took Latin I in middle school — apply their classical foundation to a modern spoken language, most commonly Spanish. The Latin background is a genuine accelerant here: case function, verb aspect, and roughly half the vocabulary of any Romance language are already familiar, and scholars typically move through the first year of a modern language faster than a novice cohort. Instruction develops communicative proficiency across all four skills — interpretive listening and reading, interpersonal conversation, and presentational speaking and writing — with cultural study of the Spanish-speaking world, including Afro-Latin communities. World Language credits count toward the five-credit elective requirement. Scholars who prefer to continue in Latin may enroll in Latin IV instead. Assessment is by an oral proficiency interview and a performance-based final assessment.

Source: ACTFL proficiency descriptors; PA Standards for World Languages. Language offering and staffing require confirmation.

Advanced Placement Offerings

Boys' Latin currently offers eight Advanced Placement courses across five departments. AP courses carry a full quality point on the 5.33 scale, and an AP examination score of three or better is qualifying evidence under the Act 158 Evidence Based graduation pathway. Placement is by demonstrated readiness rather than by request. The paragraphs below describe each offering as it currently runs.

AP Course	Department	Prerequisite	Availability
AP English Literature and Composition	English	English 11, 11 CP, or 11 Honors	SY2026–27 — biennial rotation
AP English Language and Composition	English	English 10, 10 CP, or 10 Honors	SY2025–26 — returns SY2027–28
AP Calculus AB	Mathematics	Pre-Calculus Honors	Annual

AP Course	Department	Prerequisite	Availability
AP Biology	Science	Proficient or Advanced on the Biology Keystone	Annual
AP Environmental Science	Science	Biology or Biology Honors	Annual
AP United States History	History	World History	Annual
AP African American History	History	World History and a U.S. History course	Annual
AP Studio Art	Arts	One passing visual arts credit; instructor determination	Two semesters, one period

AP English Literature and Composition

Grade 12 · Year long, one period · Prerequisite: English 11, English 11 College Prep, or English 11 Honors

This course immerses scholars in the close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature, following the College Board's AP English Literature and Composition framework and preparing them to sit the examination in May. Scholars read across novels, plays, poetry, and short fiction, analyzing structure, theme, and the stylistic devices — figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone — through which writers make meaning. The course provides an in-depth study of major works of world literature organized by literary movement, and it asks scholars to examine how a writer's purpose, techniques, and the conventions of a genre operate together. Writing is the discipline of the course: timed analytical essays on prose, poetry, and open questions, developed to the standard a college seminar assumes. Under the department's biennial rotation, AP Literature is the offering available in SY2026–27.

Source: Boys' Latin Program of Studies SY2025–26, English Department; College Board AP English Literature and Composition course framework

AP English Language and Composition

Grade 11 · Year long, one period · Prerequisite: English 10, English 10 College Prep, or English 10 Honors

This course trains scholars in the critical reading and analysis of nonfiction — essays, speeches, articles, and memoirs — following the College Board's AP English Language and Composition framework. Scholars study how writers construct arguments and deploy rhetorical strategy to persuade, inform, and move an audience, working across topics in politics, ethics, identity, and culture and attending closely to the rhetorical appeals, structure, style, and tone. The organizing question is how language choices shape meaning and condition a reader's response, which makes this the most directly transferable course in the English department: it is the skill set a young man needs to read a contract, a policy, or a campaign and to write something that changes a reader's mind. Assessment centers on argumentative writing, research-based essays, and rhetorical analysis. Under the biennial rotation, AP Language ran in SY2025–26 and returns in SY2027–28.

Source: Boys' Latin Program of Studies SY2025–26, English Department; College Board AP English Language and Composition course framework

AP Calculus AB

Grade 12 · Year long · Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus Honors

AP Calculus AB covers the content of a first-semester college calculus course and is deliberately run as one, with substantial responsibility placed on scholars to assimilate complex ideas at an aggressive pace. The course treats both differential and integral calculus and the applications of each, and it requires scholars to understand core concepts at a conceptual level rather than as procedures — which in practice means arriving with secure algebra and trigonometry from the Pre-Calculus Honors sequence. A scholar who completes it successfully is prepared for the demands of college calculus and generally enters the college mathematics environment with real advantage. This course sits within the accelerated mathematics sequence and is available only to scholars who reached Pre-Calculus Honors in Grade 11.

Source: Boys' Latin Program of Studies SY2025–26, Mathematics Department. Note: the SY2027 decision to deliver Calculus through CCP dual enrollment must be reconciled with this existing offering — see Notes on Alignment.

AP Biology

Grades 11–12 · Year long · Prerequisite: Proficient or Advanced on the Biology Keystone

AP Biology is a college-level course organized around four big ideas — evolution, cellular processes and energy, genetics and information transfer, and interactions among biological systems. The curriculum covers biochemistry, cell structure and function, cellular energetics, heredity, molecular genetics, evolutionary biology, and ecology, with hands-on laboratory investigation as the primary vehicle for building skill in scientific inquiry, data analysis, and communication of findings. The Keystone-based prerequisite is meaningful: the course assumes a scholar has already demonstrated proficiency in foundational biology and can carry a college reading load in a scientific register. Scholars sit the AP examination in May and are prepared for further study in the biological sciences and for the health science pathways the school supports.

Source: Boys' Latin Program of Studies SY2025–26, Science Department; College Board AP Biology course and exam description

AP Environmental Science

Grades 11–12 · Year long · Prerequisite: Biology or Biology Honors

AP Environmental Science offers a comprehensive account of the relationship between human society and the natural world. Scholars examine ecological concepts and environmental systems alongside the consequences of human activity for ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources, working through population dynamics, energy systems, pollution, conservation, and global sustainability. Laboratory investigation, field study, and application to real conditions carry the course, and scholars are expected to reason from evidence toward defensible positions on contested environmental questions. The course pairs naturally with the school's West Philadelphia field investigation work and produces exactly the kind of independent, evidence-based project that satisfies the Act 158 Evidence Based pathway.

Source: Boys' Latin Program of Studies SY2025–26, Science Department; College Board AP Environmental Science course and exam description

AP United States History

Grades 11–12 · Year long · Prerequisite: World History

AP U.S. History is the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college survey. Scholars investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes across nine historical periods from roughly 1491 to the present, and they work in the methods historians actually use: analyzing primary and secondary sources, developing historical arguments, making comparisons, and reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course fits the school's document-based approach to history exactly, and the argumentative writing it demands runs parallel to the dialectical reasoning work in junior English.

Source: Boys' Latin Program of Studies SY2025–26, History Department; College Board AP United States History course and exam description

AP African American History

Grade 12 · Year long · Prerequisite: World History and a United States History course

AP African American History examines the experiences, contributions, and struggles of African Americans from the pre-colonial era to the present. Scholars analyze primary sources and key historical developments — the trans-Atlantic slave trade, Reconstruction, the civil rights movement, and contemporary questions — building capacity for historical analysis and a deeper account of African American influence on United States and global history. For a school whose scholars are the inheritors of this history, the AP designation matters twice over: it is rigorous college-level work, and it is college-level work about them, taught with the same apparatus of evidence and argument applied to any other field.

Source: Boys' Latin Program of Studies SY2025–26, History Department; College Board AP African American Studies course framework

AP Studio Art

Grades 11–12 · Two semesters, one period · Prerequisite: one passing visual arts credit and instructor determination

AP Studio Art builds on the foundational work of Studio Art and moves scholars from the seven elements of art — line, shape, form, space, texture, value, and color — and the seven principles of design — contrast, movement, emphasis, balance, rhythm and repetition, unity, and proportion — into sustained personal expression. The emphasis falls on representational drawing and painting from observation, including still life, anatomy, and nature. The purpose of the course is concrete: scholars build a portfolio suitable for submission with a university fine arts application. Eligibility is determined by the art instructor, and the course runs across two semesters in a single period.

Source: Boys' Latin Program of Studies SY2025–26, Arts Electives; College Board AP Art and Design course framework

Elective Catalog at a Glance

Category	Course	Duration
Arts	Studio Art 1	One semester
Arts	Studio Art 2	One semester
Arts	Ceramics 1	One semester
Arts	Ceramics 2	One semester
Arts	Graphic Design 1	One semester
Arts	Graphic Design 2	One semester
Arts	AP Studio Art	Two semesters
Arts	Theatre Design	One semester
Arts	Acting I	One semester
Arts	Black American Playwrights	One semester
Arts	Choir	Two semesters
Arts	Music Appreciation	One semester
Arts	Music Theory	One semester
Arts	Health	One semester
Arts	Fitness	One semester
English	Creative Writing	One semester
English	The Trivium	Full year
English	Applied Rhetoric	Full-year
English	Public Speaking	Full-Year
History	Philosophy	One semester
Science	Genetics	One semester
Science	Ecology	Full year
Science	Physics	Full-year
Science	Public Health	Full-Year
Technology	Coding I	One semester
Technology	Coding II	One semester
Latin	Ancient Military History	One semester
Latin	Principles of Latin I,II,III	Full-year
Latin	Latin Studies	One Semester
Mathematics	Financial Literacy	One semester
Mathematics	The Quadrivium	Two Semesters
Mathematics	Algebraic Modeling	One Semester
General	Transitions	One semester
General	SAT Preparation	One semester
General	Independent Study	One semester
General	Cooperative Education	One Semester

