



# LATIN

THE DETROIT LATIN SCHOOL

Founding Year Program Guide  
For 2021-2022 Academic Year

## *A New Expression of an Old Idea – The Classical Town School*

No educational model has proven more durable or successful than the Classical Town School. From the earliest colonial times until well into the twentieth century, some version of this school defined what it meant to grow up in these United States. In small villages and bustling commercial centers stretching out across the great expanse of prairie and plains, many classical town schools were initially housed in primitive, one-room structures which, with a cupola and a bell, resembled little churches.

In 1816, just such a school was established in Detroit when Governor Lewis Cass invited a young Presbyterian minister to come to the Michigan Territory to organize a Protestant congregation. Fresh out of Princeton, John Monteith arrived well studied in French, Latin, Hebrew and Greek. An abolitionist, social activist and first-rate scholar, he immediately set about to establish Detroit's first library—now the Detroit Public Library—and a fine classical town school which, with the help of Cass, Augustus Woodward and other leading citizens, would soon become The University of Michigan.



Long before the emergence of sprawling bureaucratic systems of public instruction, classical town schools, with their commitment to both intellectual and moral formation, made the United States the land of opportunity for people from every corner of the earth. Those that remain—schools like Boston Latin, Roxbury Latin and New York City's Collegiate School—continue to be the very best schools in the cities they serve.

THE DETROIT LATIN SCHOOL will begin serving students in 2020 with city-wide programs in literacy, rhetoric, the arts and environmental stewardship. During this year, the Head of School and faculty will be appointed and the inaugural class—the class of '28—will be selected. When LATIN officially opens its doors on 7 September 2021, it will be as a 21st century iteration of those unique academies which enabled the United States to become the most inclusive and inventive society the world has ever known. Its programs of liberal studies rooted in classical antiquity will be combined with advanced instruction in mathematics, the sciences and technology to create a K-12 institution comparable to the nation's very best independent academies.

Set in an American city where too many students have been underestimated and underserved for too long, The Detroit Latin School has been designed as a template for new schools in cities and towns throughout the nation. As a private school with a very public mission, LATIN will make classical learning available to students of every social and economic circumstance. It will be open to *all* "students of character who are eager to learn and willing to work."



**THE DETROIT LATIN SCHOOL 2020**

This *Founding Year Program Guide* is an invitation to parents who harbor high hopes for their sons and daughters and for students who are serious about learning, and about life. It is a call for the active engagement and investment of every citizen who understands what a school like LATIN will mean to the City of Detroit.

The establishment of LATIN is a vote for Detroit. It is a critical next step in the transformation of the Motor City into a 21<sup>st</sup> century hub of commerce and culture. Its academic standards will be the highest in the region. By offering access to excellence in the heart of the City, The Detroit Latin School will be a singular institution—a school which gives those who live in Detroit one more good reason to stay and those who don't, one more great reason to come, put down roots, raise a family and create their own version of the American Dream.

## Starting Small in the Fall



With the support of individual donors and friends who care deeply about the education of youth, the engagement of civil society and the investment of corporations and foundations committed to Detroit, the classical town school, funded directly by the public for the public good, will find new expression in the U.S. LATIN will start small in the fall of 2021, welcoming just 56 scholars to its Indian Village schoolhouse. The excellence they achieve will lay the foundation for the region's premier K-12 academy.

As an inclusive meritocracy, LATIN will offer discerning families a singular educational opportunity. Combining enriched literature-based learning rooted in classical antiquity with advanced offerings in science, mathematics, logic and engineering, The Detroit Latin School is designed to serve those students who relish the challenge of high standards and who want to be pushed to discover their limits in the classroom, the studio, the stage and on the field of competitive sport. For such young women and men, LATIN will be the place to be.

Through a simple and inviting interview process, LATIN's admissions team will explain the school's academic programs, its general graduation requirements, its *Standards of Conduct & Civility*, and its *Parent Resolve & Covenant*. Students who demonstrate their willingness to accept the challenge and parents who commit to be full partners in their success are encouraged to apply. This invitation includes an open door to students from low or non-performing schools who, through no fault of their own, are not yet performing at grade level. LATIN's high standards will be matched by a robust regime of academic supports and tutorial interventions.

With a student-teacher ratio of less than 10 to 1, Latinians will be taught by a talented core of Masters and Instructors supported by articulated relationships with institutions including the National Archives, The National Geographic Society, Wayne State's College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, The Detroit Institute of Arts, The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The Michigan Science Center, the Nature Center at Belle Isle and The Detroit Public Library. The teaching team will include Artists-in-Residence, guest lecturers, poets, philosophers, and volunteer mentors.

LATIN's Founding Year Program will lay a solid foundation for life-long learning and leadership through instruction in classical languages & civilization and formal training in rhetoric, ensuring that every student is at or above grade level competency in reading, writing and arithmetic. Student's will study history through the examination of primary sources, literature through Socratic discussion of great books, and science through both laboratory and field work which reinforces the scientific method while instilling in each one a new appreciation for the beautiful and fragile Lower Detroit River ecosystem which is their home. Distinctives of DETROIT LATIN's program will include:

- A hearty and wholesome teaching and learning community
- Socratic teaching and learning in Harkness Classrooms
- Regular access to Detroit's premier cultural and scientific institutions
- Introduction to classical languages and civilization
- Environmental studies and preparation for advanced STEM learning
- Formal training in Logic and Rhetoric
- A comprehensive system of student supports & tutorial assistance
- Constant opportunities in visual and performing arts
- A robust program of after-school sports

## *A School Culture like no other*



At LATIN, the primary task is not to prepare young women and men for university, but “to equip each one for the real business of living and to challenge them to serve the world through their character and leadership.”

The Detroit Latin School will be a nursery for Citizen-Leaders. The School’s motto, *Virtus Sola Nobilitat* (Virtue Alone Ennobles) will inform a vibrant community in which reverence, integrity, simplicity and a generosity of spirit are cultivated in every possible way. LATIN’s unique *Standards of Conduct and Civility*—modeled by Head Master and faculty—will be reinforced daily through the student-led Morning Meeting.

### THE DETROIT LATIN SCHOOL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT & CIVILITY™

1. Do everything with respect for others
2. Judge no one by race, rank or property, but by their character
3. Be a slave to no man, but a servant to all
4. Dress modestly and keep well groomed
5. Neither flatter nor make sport of another
6. Avoid ceremony, but honor worthy customs
7. As a gentleman, uncover your head indoors
8. Make your handshake firm and greet passers by
9. Tell the truth, even to your own hurt
10. Rise when a school master enters the room
11. Read for pleasure and avoid vain entertainments
12. Aim High and choose your friends wisely
13. Do your best, and offer no excuses
14. In adversity, stand, fight & prevail – Never relent
15. Under no pretense speak a self-congratulatory word
16. Practice thrift and tend what you own
17. Jest not concerning things of great import
18. Neither curse nor speak coarsely
19. Hand write Thank You notes
20. At table, check both conversation and consumption
21. Defend always and only the freedom to do what is right
22. Keep alive the celestial fire called conscience

These *Standards*, posted in every classroom and explicated by students in each day’s Morning Meeting, create a society built on honor, discipline, kindness and trust in which words are used to build up and not to tear down and backpacks can be left unattended in open lockers in the full confidence that they will still be there at day’s end.

And the Spirit of LATIN will extend beyond the school day and the school yard. Through the School’s *Citizen Leader Community Service Requirement* and cooperation with several community partner organizations, young Latinians will serve the elderly and infirm, work to clean, plant and beautify the city and—in a special program overseen by the School’s Department of English Language and Literature—work to tutor unlettered adults, underserved students from other schools, and small children.

Through the Morning Meeting, the Honor Code, competitive sports, visual and performing arts, debate, various clubs and inter- varsity academic contests, students will learn the value of hard work, fair play and esprit-de-corps. Special programs including Outward Bound and The Theodore Roosevelt Institute for Ethics & Public Policy will further enable students to test their expanding knowledge within the challenging context of real life situations which develop personal resolve, compassion, resourcefulness and character.



## 2020 – 2021 SAMPLE SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Home Room 7:30 – 7:55 AM					
First Period 8:00 – 8:50 AM	Latin / Classics	Latin / Classics	Latin / Classics	Latin / Classics	Latin / Classics
Second Period 8:55 – 9:45 AM	English Lit	English Lit	English Lit	English Lit	English Lit
Third Period 9:50 – 10:40 AM	Math / Logic	Math / Logic	Math / Logic	Math / Logic	Math / Logic
Morning Meeting 10:45 – 11:05 AM					
Fourth Period 11:10 - Noon	Environment Studies	Studio Arts	Environment Studies	Studio Arts	Environmental Studies
Lunch 12:00 – 12:30 PM					
Advisor/Tutorial Help 12:30 – 1:25 PM	Study / Tutorial Flex Time	Rhetoric	Study / Tutorial Flex Time	Rhetoric	Study / Tutorial Flex Time
Fifth Period 1:30 – 2:20 PM	History / Civics	History / Civics	History / Civics	History / Civics	History / Civics
Sixth Period 2:25 – 3:15	French or Chinese	French or Chinese	French or Chinese	French or Chinese	French or Chinese
After School Activity or Supervised Study 3:30 – 4:45 PM	Field Hockey	A Cappella Choir	Field Hockey	A Capella Choir	Field Hockey

- The academic school day will begin at 7:30 AM and end at 3:15 PM. A variety of after-school activities will be available. Library & Supervised Study will also be available between 3:30 and 4:45 and may be required of students with a GPA of less than 2.5. This supervised study will generally be staffed by senior volunteer mentors.
- In the middle of each school day, students will meet with their Homeroom Teacher/Faculty Advisor to review material being covered and, if necessary, schedule extra tutorial assistance. Students may visit the Artist-in-Residence or find a supervised study cove. On occasion, this after-lunch period may also be used to entertain distinguished guests as honored luncheon speakers.
- Detroit Latin is one of few schools in the nation which still requires students to master two foreign languages, one ancient and one modern. Through traditional language instruction, advanced language lab work, cultural studies and term abroad, **LATIN's** *Comprehensive Linguistic and Societal Studies* (C.L.A.S.S.) programs help students achieve both literacy and fluency in Chinese or French while gaining a modest familiarity with the art, history and culture which the language expresses.
- In its Founding Year, **LATIN** will serve just fifty-six sixth graders—the Class of '28—all taking the same subjects, reading the same texts, discussing the same ideas and held to the same high standards of academic performance and personal conduct. With teachers, coaches, mentors, parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors, and supporters, **LATIN** will be a true *schola*—a community committed to the life of the mind and the soul.



2019 – 2020 / SAMPLING OF CORE CLASS OFFERINGS

Fall Term

History	The Geography of the United States	Agreeing with Herodotus and his Ionic predecessors that geography is an essential element of history, students explore their region and nation. This course includes an introduction to cartography.
Classics	Introduction to Greek	Introducing students to Homeric myths, the musicality of Greek poetry, the Greek roots of English words, as well as the geography, archeological remains, and cultural achievements of the Hellenes.
Science	Introduction to the Scientific Method	This course, involving reading, discussion and lab work, instilling the first principles of inductive reasoning and reinforcing the process of observation, hypothesis, experimentation and repetition.
Mathematics	Basic Math I: From Arithmetic to Pre-Algebra	Employing the <i>Saxon Math</i> methodology, students are instructed at grade level mathematics with the goal of numerical automaticity.
Rhetoric	Interpretive Reading & Declamation	Students are occupied with the oral mastery of poetry and prose including the works of Pericles, Shakespeare, Patrick Henry, Churchill, Robert Frost, JFK, Maya Angelou & Martin Luther King, Jr.
Civic Responsibility	The History of Democracy: Athens to Philadelphia	This course traces the democratic idea from its birth in Athens, ca. 507 BC, through the birth of the American Republic in 1776. It focuses on the idea of "civitas" and the essential elements of informed self-government.
English Language & Literature	Intensive Grammar	This course reinforces Rule and Practice, based on Holt, Rinehart & Winston's <i>Elements of Language</i> . With tutorial assistance, students will internalize the fundamentals of English usage.
Visual & Performing Arts	Introduction to Art History	Through an Artist in Residence, the DIA, the Scarab Club and several galleries and studios, students will develop a deeper appreciation for esthetics, including a knowledge of basic genres and periodization.

Spring Term

History	Geography, Ethnology & the emergence of civilization	This course traces the emergence of civilization from Sumer settled between ca. 5500 and 4000 BC to the present, exploring the concepts of race, culture, art, language, religion and civilization itself.
Classics	Introduction to Latin	This course explores myths of early Roman heroes and heroines as ideal civic and moral types, Latin roots of English words, and Rome's archeological remains, cultural & engineering achievements.
Science	The Geology and Ecosystem of Detroit	Through extensive field work, students will learn both life and earth science as they explore the Lower Detroit River Ecosystem and develop an informed sense of environment stewardship.
Mathematics	Grade Level Math Tutorial	Employing both <i>Saxon Math</i> and <i>University of Chicago Math Project</i> texts, students will be able to work at the highest level of their comprehension and move beyond grade level competency.
Rhetoric	Interpretive Reading & Declamation	Building on continued work in declamation and oration, students will begin their instruction in formal debate
Civic Responsibility	The History of Democracy: From Philadelphia to Reykjavik.	Beginning at Independence Hall, students examine the development of republican ideals during and since the Federal period. Several weeks are devoted to close textual study of the U.S. Constitution.
English Language & Literature	Introduction to Reading & Writing	Students enjoy great essays and good books as they glean elements of style to inform their own scholarly and creative writing.
Visual & Performing Arts	Introduction to Art History	Through an Artist in Residence, a cappella choir, and private instrumental lessons, students will begin to find and hone their own creative voice.

## ***2021 – 2022 Academic Calendar – A Traditional School Year\****

### **Fall Term**

Tuesday, September 7            Opening of School  
Thursday, September 9        Convocation  
Tuesday, September 14        Claret & White Day (Half day followed by family picnic and games)  
Friday, September 24         Faculty Development Day (Students dismissed at noon)

Monday, October 11            Columbus Day (School Recess)

Friday, November 5            First Quarter Grade Report  
Thursday, November 11        Veterans Day – Half Day (GW Fife & Drum)  
Wed-Fri, November 24-28      Thanksgiving Recess (Noon Dismissal)

Friday, December 17         Dismissed at 3:00 PM for Winter Recess

Monday, January 3             Return from Winter Recess  
Friday, January 15             First Semester ends  
Monday, January 18            Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (School Recess)  
Friday, January 22             First Term Grade Report

**Winterim Term**                Project-based Learning for all students

Monday, January 25            Winterim Term Begins (School will be in Session)  
Wednesday, February 3        Winterim Term Ends (School will be in Session)

### **Spring Term**

Wednesday, February 3        Spring Term Begins  
Monday, February 14          Presidents' Day (School Recess)  
Friday, March 11                Faculty Development Day (Students dismissed at noon)  
Friday, March 25                Third Quarter Grade Report

Friday, April 1                 School closes for Spring Break  
Monday April 18                Classes Resume for half-day. (Patriot's Day - Claret & White 5K Run)  
Friday, May 15                 Faculty Development Day (Students dismissed at noon)  
Monday, May 30                Memorial Day (School closed)

Friday, June 10                Final Grades Due in Academic Dean's Office  
Friday, June 17                Honors Day (Last Day of Spring Term)

*\*In addition to this basic academic schedule, Detroit Latin's Founding Year Program will include many wonderful opportunities for adult learning, student recitals and recitations, and engagement with neighborhood projects and events. LATIN's Founding Year will be all about building a true community—one that includes parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and friends.*



To apply for admission to Detroit Latin's Founding Year Program, parents with children entering the sixth grade in the fall of 2021 may go online at [www.detroitlatin.org](http://www.detroitlatin.org) or inquire at [info@detroitlatin.org](mailto:info@detroitlatin.org). Parents with promising students entering 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade in that year may also seek early admission in order to secure a place in Detroit Latin's Upper School Program.

The Detroit Latin School is Michigan 501 (c)3 not-for-profit corporation. All gifts are tax deductible.



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