

LATIN AT SOMERSET ACADEMY

Are you aware of the power of words and their connections to modern and ancient cultures? Do stories of heroism and mythology interest you? If you could speak with the greatest minds in history, what would you say?

Introducing Latin at Somerset!

At Somerset Academy you will learn more than just another language – you will discover the hidden meanings of words. Did you know that more than 60 percent of the English language is based on Latin? Most of our more common words are derived directly from Latin. Consider that if you want to become a lawyer, doctor, or scientist, you will be faced with words and phrases that come from Latin like:

- *Nolo contendere*
- *Habeas corpus*
- *Mens sana in corpore sano*



This is a “welcome” mat at the doorstep of a *domus* in Pompeii.

8th Graders! If you enroll in Latin I it will count as a high school credit! This means you could have all high school credit done after 9th grade simply by starting with Latin!

Stand Out With Latin!

It has been shown that students who take Latin:

- Strengthen basic English skills in vocabulary and increase reading comprehension
- Improve English writing and communication
- Gain a strong foundation for the acquisition of other languages
- Increase cultural awareness and make connections that promote tolerance and understanding
- Sharpen their minds and develop critical thinking skills and comparative analyses
- Acquire a rich background immersed in mythology, literature, and history
- Learn material REQUIRED for Language Arts and Social Studies Sunshine State Standards
- Earn higher SAT scores and are more valued by colleges and universities.

What Is In A Word?

When the word “arena” is mentioned, what kinds of images come to mind? Perhaps you think of a Miami Heat game at the American Airlines Arena? The word comes from a Latin word *harena*, meaning “sand” in Latin; how did this happen? One reason: gladiatorial combat. When the Romans went to see gladiatorial shows, the matches were fought inside amphitheaters (another word still used today) but the pit of the structure, where the fighters clashed with one another in mortal combat, was filled with sand. The gladiators fought on the sand (easier to clean up the blood – think of a cat’s litter box!). When people went to watch a *spectaculum*, they saw *gladiatores in arena pugnabant!*

For more information about Latin and its benefits, please visit these Web sites:

www.romae.org – Mr. Ricard’s Latin website!
www.promotelatin.org



The *arena* at the Colosseum in Rome.