

## Liberty High School Classical Studies Program

Liberty High School's Classical Studies program is a comprehensive educational experience founded on the principle that the study of the past deeply enriches a student's understanding of the present and facilitates a skill set which allows students maximized opportunities for success in the modern world. The Classical Studies curriculum is a component of the education of all Liberty High School students, many of whom take their exposure to the classics a step further by involving themselves in advanced classical study in a variety of disciplines and in unique and enriching extra-curricular pursuits.

Introduction to Classical Studies, a mainstay of Liberty High School's Classical Studies curriculum since the school's inception, is a year-long course emphasizing study skills and high school survival skills, as well as basic cultural literacy, taught within the context of a detailed study of the four primary classical western civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Introduction to Classical Studies serves as the mandatory freshman studies component for Liberty High School. As curriculum standards change, Introduction to Classical Studies offers material not found in most standard high school curricula.

Latin language instruction is a key element of the Liberty Classical Studies program. Liberty currently offers all levels of Latin language instruction, up to and including Advanced Placement Latin, which was first implemented in 2007-2008. According to multiple national studies, students of Latin enjoy increased verbal SAT scores and classical language education is looked upon favorably by college admissions officers. Latin education has been enjoying a renaissance in recent years, and, although still relatively rare in Nevada, Latin is alive and very well at Liberty.

Other courses offered by the Classical Studies Department include Philosophy, Mythology and Folklore, and Classical Logic and Rhetoric. Honors World Literature is offered with an emphasis on classical texts from ancient societies from around the globe. Advanced Study: Social Studies is a semester offering focusing on varied topics of classical study. Classical Studies II provides an extended examination of the cultures studied in Introduction to Classical Studies. The Classical Studies Department is constantly working on the expansion of its classical offerings.

A self-study conducted by the Liberty Classical Studies Department in 2010 showed a direct correlation between student achievement in Classical Studies courses and student achievement in all core content areas. Student success in Classical Studies courses was directly related to student success in English, Math, and Science courses. Success in Classical Studies courses was also directly related to higher grade point average. As the Liberty Classical Studies Department has grown and expanded its influence, overall honors and advanced placement enrollment has increased, as have overall student scholarship awards and the number of students receiving advanced and honors diplomas.

The Classical Scholars medallion is an award unique to Liberty High School. Students receive the medallion in recognition of excellence in honors and advanced placement courses from across the

curriculum as well as in the classical disciplines. In the last three school years, the number of medallion recipients has tripled and in 2009, a scholarship was created. To date, six Liberty graduates have been awarded \$3,000 from the Liberty Classical Scholarship fund. 45 Liberty graduates received the Classical Scholars medallion in 2010.

The Liberty Classical Studies program provides opportunities outside of the classroom as well. Liberty's Junior Classical League chapter is a regional leader, and Liberty students have received multiple National Latin Exam honors and state, regional, and national Junior Classical League recognitions in a variety of disciplines, including academics, graphic arts, performing arts, and athletics. Liberty students are hard at work on competitive certamen (Latin quiz) teams and are in the process of helping to pilot a national virtual certamen competition. All Liberty Latin students take the National Latin Examination and the school also participates in national tests and competitions encompassing mythology, classical etymology, Roman history, and Roman culture. The Liberty Classical Studies program is a comprehensive educational experience that seeks to enhance student preparation for the future by firmly grounding them with an acquaintance with the lessons of the past.