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The Bishop's Latin School



PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

LATIN SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 1961

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HISTORY . . .

The opening of the Bishop's Latin School is the result of a determination of the Most Reverend John J. Wright, Bishop of Pittsburgh, to guarantee close to home a solid grounding in the classics and humanities for candidates for the priesthood. It is the first stage in the Diocese of Pittsburgh's projected seminary training program and represents not only a reaction to a temporary need for vocations, but a positive affirmation of the place of the pre-liberal art disciplines in the training of future priests. Plans for staffing the school by the Jesuits were worked out between Bishop Wright and Very Reverend John M. Daley, S.J., Provincial of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, and were first announced in the January 12, 1961 issue of the *Pittsburgh Catholic*.

Preview . . .

1. The Bishop's Latin School will open at 7120 Kelly Avenue, Pittsburgh 8.
2. It will be a pre-seminary day school exclusively for boys who intend to become priests.
3. Only freshmen courses will be offered in September, 1961; thereafter one higher class will be added each year until the full four years of high school are in operation.
4. The faculty will be composed of Jesuits—or members of the Society of Jesus — and lay teachers.
5. It is intended that the Bishop's Latin School will be fully approved and accredited by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and the Jesuit Educational Association.
6. The Latin School will offer the classical courses traditional in Jesuit preparatory schools and accordingly will place special emphasis on the Latin and Greek classics, modern languages, history and mathematics.
7. A full program of extra-curricular activities will also be offered.
8. Admission will be based entirely on examination results, once the necessary qualifications of character have been determined.

Goals . . .

The objective of the Bishop's Latin School is to help fashion intellectually alert Catholic gentlemen of solid moral character who will be outstanding candidates for the priesthood. For this purpose the faculty will strive to promote the intellectual, moral and physical development of each individual pupil.

To this end, each student will be encouraged to acquire the following during his years at the Latin School:

1. An appreciation of his personal dignity and his obligations to God, his fellow men and himself.
2. An elementary understanding of basic principles of language, mathematics and religion, and of his historical and cultural heritage.
3. An ability to reason and to use his acquired knowledge to reach sound conclusions.
4. Skill in communicating his ideas to others through writing and speaking.
5. An esteem for excellence and a devotion to its pursuit in his every undertaking.
6. A conviction that with God's grace he must make every effort to become worthy of the sacred vocation to which he is called.

The Courses . . .

Religion is more than a class; it entirely influences the life of Latin School students. As a class subject, it is taught daily; as a way of life, it is presented in all its richness.

Mass will be offered each day and an occasion for going to confession during the school day will be available on Thursdays. Each class day will begin with the Morning Offering. This is one of the practices of the League of the Sacred Heart, an organization all the students will be expected to join. Each month the League will sponsor special First Friday devotions, and weekly Mass on Friday for all.

All students will be required to make a three-day retreat at the start of the school year. The Sodality of Our Lady, moreover, will play a special role in the spiritual formation of the students.

To coordinate these activities, a Student Counselor will be appointed to care for the spiritual life of the students and be available for consultation at all times.

Latin is a prized educational tool. Latin School students will devote four years to its study, mastering grammar, reading, translating, analyzing—and in the process coming face to face with the great men, the significant ideas and events that make up the cultural heritage of Roman civilization.

The Latin course will embrace three elements: grammar, composition, and literature. The study of grammar will unfold systematically. Frequent exercises in composition are intended to develop a working knowledge of the grammar rules and provide efficient training in logical thought. Translation of the classical authors—Caesar, Cicero, and Vergil—will call for exactness of thought and expression while it develops the student's taste and literary powers.

Greek, like Latin, introduces a young man to one of the sources of his language, culture and history. Its highly inflected language affords excellent training in logical thought. Greek will therefore be studied by all students in sophomore, junior and senior years.

English is made up of rhetoric, composition and literature. Rhetoric deals with the practice of writing clear, orderly and forceful English, and hence looks to composition as its fulfillment. Short exercises in composition will be given during every recitation period, and a weekly composition will also be required. Literature aims to develop literary

Ratio Studiorum . . .

System is the key to Jesuit efforts in the classroom. Their systemized approach to education stems from the "Ratio Studiorum" or Master Plan of Studies for a liberal education which is characterized by:

1. Personal attention to the individual student.
2. The daily prelection, or preparatory explanation, given by the teacher before every lesson that is assigned to be studied out of class.
3. Persistent review—daily, weekly and semester repetitions of the matter given for home study. This is based on the conviction that mastery of a subject is the product of practice and self-activity.
4. Emulation—the attempt to get the best out of each boy by means of competitions and rewards.
5. Close cooperation with parents.
6. Insistence on three hours of study each night.

appreciation as far as can be by stimulating the imagination, taste and the critical faculty.

Without reading there is little progress in writing or literary appreciation. For this reason, students will be expected to read two books during each marking period. Throughout the summer vacation, moreover, all students will be requested to read at least thirty minutes a day. Without it, there is little education, less appreciation and very little ability to express oneself.

History and the historical sense are necessary acquisitions of the liberally educated man. Taught as a record of human experience—the strivings and failures and accomplishments of men and nations—history has an honored place in the Latin School program of studies. As a disciplinary subject, history demands that the student aim at an accurate grasp of significant facts. Freshmen at the Latin School will devote the year of study to Ancient and Medieval History and also Civics. Sophomores will study American History, an integral part of which will be a special course in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Junior and senior years will be devoted to topics involving home, family, society and labor.

French and German will be available to juniors and seniors. The practical objectives of the modern language course are a fluent reading knowledge of easy prose and some readiness in speaking.

Elocution is assigned one period per week throughout the four years, in which special drilling will be given in vocal expression and gesture. In all classes and particularly in the English class, emphasis will be directed to proper habits of speech. The training in elocution will be supplemented by an opportunity to participate in the activities of the debating society and in the work of the dramatic society.

Mathematics is given its due place in the Latin School, because of the role science has played in promoting the technological changes that have transformed the modern world. The study of mathematics trains the student's logical faculty, develops habits of accuracy and precision through insistence upon exactness of definition, precision in the use of mathematical terminology, accuracy of computation, order of procedure and neatness of form. The mathematics course will run through the first three years and will be based on the new syllabus of the School Mathematics Study Group.

Science will be represented by a course in physics which will be offered in senior year.

Program of Studies . . .

Freshman Class

Religion
Latin I
English and Elocution I
History I
Civics
Mathematics I
Physical Education
Health Instruction

Sophomore Class

Religion
Latin II
English and Elocution II
History II
Greek I
Mathematics II
Physical Education
Health Instruction

Junior Class

Religion*
Latin III
English and Elocution III
Greek II
Modern Foreign Language I
Mathematics III
Physical Education
Health Instruction

Senior Year

Religion*
Latin IV
English and Elocution IV
Greek III
Modern Foreign Language II
Physics
Physical Education
Health Instruction

*Social Studies

Academic Honors, Prizes and Awards . . .

Monthly Honors At the close of each marking period, student assemblies will be scheduled in the course of which the Honor Roll will be read and Honor Cards distributed. Students who receive a grade of 90% or above in all their subjects merit a testimonial of First Honors. A testimonial of Second Honors will be awarded to students receiving 90% or above in two subjects and 85% or above in the remaining subjects.

Yearly Honors Gold Medals, Silver Medals and Premiums will be awarded annually to those students who shall lead their respective classes in scholastic achievement. To merit the Gold Medal, a student must rank first in his class and attain a general average above 90%. The student next in merit, also with a general average above 90%, will be awarded the Silver Medal. Any others, whose general averages are above 90%, will be considered worthy of Honorable Mention. In the various subjects, moreover, book premiums will be awarded to the student whose average above 90% is the highest in a particular subject.

Yearly Awards At the end of the scholastic year, all fees and charges for the following year will be guaranteed one tenth of the students in each year's class. One half of these awards will be granted strictly on the basis of academic standing. The remaining half will be granted without regard for mere rank in class to those students who in the judgment of the school authorities best exemplify the ideals and traditions of the Latin School by their general spirit of loyalty and service in all school activities.

Scholarships Three full scholarships, each covering two years of college and two years of the Major Seminary, will be awarded to the three members of the senior graduating class who shall rank first, second and third in scholastic achievement during their four years at the Bishop's Latin School.

These awards will be known as The Most Reverend John Francis Regis Canevin Scholarship, The Most Reverend Michael O'Connor Scholarship, and The Most Reverend Michael Domenec Scholarship—in honor of three outstanding Bishops of Pittsburgh.

Admission Requirements . . .

General Policy Admission of a candidate to the Bishop's Latin School is determined chiefly by evidence of a truly Catholic character, a strong school record and a firm desire, consistent with his age, to become a priest. Other requirements are letters of recommendation and appraisal, and performance on the Latin School's entrance examinations. Because of the limited spaces available at the Latin School and in view of the large number of applications from qualified students, it will be necessary to make a selection on an objective basis.

Application Procedure Application for the Latin School will be processed through the Bishop's Office in the following manner:

1. All eighth grade students with a present interest in studying for the diocesan priesthood should apply for the consideration of their interest to the Office of the Diocesan Director of Vocations who will supply them with preliminary application forms.
2. In planning the possible placement of applicants, the Diocesan Director of Vocations will make recommendations to the Bishop's Office concerning those applicants who seem more likely to succeed in a resident minor seminary and those others who might profit from attendance at the Latin School.
3. Students recommended for the course at the Latin School will then be referred to the Headmaster for the entrance examinations. Not more than sixty will be accepted for the freshman year.
4. Students failing to qualify in the competitive examinations for the Latin School remain eligible for consideration to study elsewhere for the diocesan priesthood.

Fees for activities, program and basic supplies (including books) will total \$100.00 per year and should be paid directly to the Office of the Diocesan Director of Vocations, 111 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh 22, Pa.