

AMICI MENTORING PROJECT

Purpose of the Project

- Encourage Iowa classicists to network, especially secondary and post-secondary
- Support healthy Latin programs
- Ascertain the health of Latin in Iowa
- Learn where AMICI can intervene to re-instate Latin programs or save endangered programs
- Promote high school teaching as a career to undergraduate majors and graduate students

How it works

Each Latin program with only one Latin teacher is matched with one other member of AMICI. Each mentor (called a praetor in the parlance of AMICI) would work to strengthen the presence of Latin in the school through various ways:

- Be in contact with the teacher, either in person or on the phone, twice a year, to learn about enrollments, ascertain the health of the program, strategize about making Latin a strong part of the school curriculum, or swap teaching ideas
- Make materials available in the spring to recruit new Latin students (listed on the new AMICI website: (http://www.cornellcollege.edu/classical_studies/amici))
- Provide a sounding board to discuss challenges at that school
- Perhaps offer to visit each other's schools; Latin teachers can talk about teaching Latin in the schools as a profession while mentors can offer to give a talk on a topic of interest to high school students
- Act as a liaison with the school principal and/or superintendent when needed or contact AMICI officers

Possible topics to discuss with the Latin Teacher

1. Textbook(s) used
2. Typical day
3. Favorite techniques for teaching current grammar
4. Current or upcoming culture topics in class
5. Integrating more than one level in one class
6. Class projects, either for the rest of the school or in the community
7. Latin Club
8. Enrollments
9. Ways to promote Latin or encourage incoming students to take Latin (e.g., flyers to parents, posters in school, working with the guidance counselor, etc.)
10. How Latin is perceived by the rest of the school
11. Challenges either in the classroom or with the school

Questions to ask when there is no longer a Latin program

If at all possible, speak with someone who was sympathetic to the Latin program, a foreign language teacher, a counselor, or administrator.

1. When was Latin last offered?
2. Who taught Latin at that time?

3. How many students studied Latin during the last decade Latin was offered?
4. How did the program contribute to the overall curriculum (i.e., did it contribute to a foreign language requirement, enhance English, Social Studies, Civics, Art, World Cultures)
5. Who supported the program (get names of faculty, counselors, administrators, parents if possible)?
6. Why was the program discontinued?
7. What support currently exists for re-instating Latin? Interested in setting up a Latin program over the ICN? Any interest in Latin/foreign languages at the elementary or middle school level?
8. Would you like to receive materials about Why Study Latin? (available at http://www.cornellcollege.edu/classical_studies/amici/benefits.shtml)

Thanks for your interest in and support of Latin in Iowa. Your participation means a lot.

Sincerely,

John Gruber-Miller
Secretary-Treasurer, AMICI
Classical and Modern Languages
Cornell College
600 First St W
Mt Vernon, IA 52314
319-895-4326 (O); 319-895-4473 (Fax)
mailto:jgruber-miller@cornellcollege.edu
http://www.cornellcollege.edu/classical_studies/