

CHES Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2009
Facilitator: Dani Sigurdson

Parent/teachers have expressed a desire to introduce their children to Latin. Consequently, this meeting focus was on the Latin curriculum that PACT has to offer. Tricia Wynne, a former PACT Latin teacher, provided an overview on each of the following programs designed for students in the primary grades through high school.

Minimus Latin Program - This program can be used in the First Grade or anytime after that. It is a wonderful introductory Latin program based on a cartoon format which makes Latin fun and builds confidence in learning a new language. It is based on a real archeological site in the north of England and the family members who lived there during Roman times. Each chapter also contains a story from Greek or Roman mythology. Students will learn the eight parts of speech in English and basic Latin vocabulary for each part of speech (e.g. nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc.). There is also a teacher's guide which provides hands-on activities for each chapter. There are two books, *Minimus* and *Minimus Secundus*, with 12 chapters each. It is a very flexible program which can be used with younger or older students and each book can be covered in a semester or a year. It is an introductory Latin program not a program designed on mastery of Latin, so it can also be used as a fun supplement to a mastery program such as *Latin for Children* with older students (Grade 4+).

Latin for Children Program - This program is designed for Grades 4+ but could also be used with a third grader who had completed the *Minimus* program in grades 1 and 2. It is a systematic program which offers the student ten vocabulary words per week as well as weekly grammar lessons beginning with conjugating regular and irregular verbs and declining masculine, feminine, and neuter nouns. It consists of three levels, Primer A, B, and C, and is ideal for grades 4, 5, and 6, but can also be used with older students who want to prepare for a high school Latin program beginning in 9th grade. An *Activity Book* (with crossword puzzles, wordsearches, etc.) is also available to help students memorize their vocabulary, as well as a *History Reader* for each level to introduce students to translating from Latin to English.

Oxford Latin Course - This course can be used anytime from middle school (for students with previous Latin experience) to high school or even college. It is the course used by UC Davis for their introductory Latin courses. The difference between using it in middle school or college would be the pace. A middle school student might take two years to work through Course 1, whereas a college student would complete that course in one quarter. The *Oxford Latin Course* is designed primarily to develop Latin reading and translating skills, and presents the necessary vocabulary and grammar to read increasingly longer passages in each chapter.