The purposes for studying Latin:

Literacy Skills and Vocabulary Expansion: Latin contributes to the literacy of students and helps them better understand their first language, because it shows how language works. Because over 65% of all English words come from Latin, both in everyday language and in technical vocabulary, the study of Latin can help students organize and understand this vocabulary, laying a solid foundation for modern language study and improving English skills.

Acquisition of Other Languages: Classical languages equip a student with a strong foundation for mastering other languages. Learning Latin broadens the student's connection to structures possible when acquiring languages other than English.

Links to Other Cultures: A background in the classical civilizations connects Americans with the customs, values, and ideas that our culture has in common with Eastern and Western Europeans and with North and South Americans. There are many shared concepts in government, religion, art, literature, and economic systems among these cultures.

Role of Grammar: Grammar plays an essential role in the teaching of Latin. However, the grammar per se is not one of the long-term goals of the Latin curriculum. Grammar serves several purposes:

* Communication: Grammar is a tool for the communication and the comprehension of ideas. Grammatical concepts are taught to guide students toward mastery of the objectives.
* Understanding First or Native Language: Grammar is also a tool for understanding the student's own language. Students reinforce their understanding of their own grammar while learning the syntax of the Latin language.
* Talking about Language: Grammar is a tool for talking about language and about how language works. Latin provides students with the needed terminology.

Translation: An important component in the study of classical languages is translation, which has value when it is connected to reading and writing and when it can be used as a (not the only) way of assessing comprehension. Also, reading and translating are not the same. Reading is understanding a text, while translating is interpreting it so that it is understandable to others.

Course Description for Classical Language Level IV: A major focus of Level IV is on the reading of authentic texts with grammar taught in context of the readings. Emphasis is placed on figures of speech, analysis, and essay writing. There is more in-depth study of the Greco-Roman culture and its influence throughout the world, as well as the student’s own culture. Students are able to connect the classical language to other disciplines and compare it to their own language. Note: The objectives and proficiency expectations for Level IV are written at the honors level.