

Introducing St. Croix Prep's new seal

This seal is a visual representation of our founding mission statement which was established before St. Croix Prep opened in 2004:

St. Croix Preparatory Academy will develop each student's academic potential, personal character, and leadership qualities through an academically rigorous and content rich educational program grounded in a classical tradition.



It's Greek to me!

Well, actually, the words are in Latin, which represents our commitment to teaching today's students in the classical tradition. Using Latin in our seal also declares our founding belief that learning Latin is an important and valuable discipline.

Understanding the history of words allows a better understanding of new words, and improves English, vocabulary and grammar.

'Mores – Exempla – Studia' - What does this mean?

This is best answered by St. Croix Prep's resident Latin scholars Mr. Wolke and Mr. Vorhis, who selected the Latin words which most accurately translate the heart of St. Croix Prep's mission: *academics, character and leadership*. Their translation of 'Mores – Exempla – Studia' is as follows:

Academics = *Studia*.

In its most basic sense, the Latin word *studium* (of which *studia* is the plural) means "eagerness", "zeal", or "desire." The Romans also used this term to refer to what we would call "studies" or "learning, their thinking being that that which you study is probably (though not always!) something you are eager, even zealous, to learn about.

Character = *Mores*

A common Latin term for character, *mores* is the plural of *mos*, a noun that means "custom" or "habit". For the Romans, then, "character" was conceived of as being, in essence, a composite of the customs and habits that make up each of our lives.

Leadership = *Exempla*

Of the three SCPA motto terms, "Leadership" was the hardest to put into Latin. While Latin does have a word that can be translated as "leadership" (*ductus*) this word is not only relatively rare, but can also be easily misconstrued as a different Latin word, a word meaning "having been led." Thus, Mr. Wolke we settled on a Latin word that gets at the spirit, rather the literal meaning, of the English word "leadership": *exempla*. The basic meaning of *exempla* is "examples" or "specimens", but the word is also frequently used in the sense of "role models" or "exemplars"--precisely the type of people, in other words, who tend to exhibit leadership.

Gratias vobis ago et linguae mortuae semper vivant! (Translation: "Thank you and may dead languages live forever!")

Magister Wolke and Magister Vorhis

Look for this new seal logo throughout the school building, on communication materials and on our spirit wear which can be purchased through Branding Wearhouse on the St. Croix Prep website ([CLICK HERE](#)).