

THE MONTFORT ACADEMY

CAPSTONE SUMMER 2020



Standing on the Shoulders of Giants



CLASSICAL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM For Rising 7TH & 8TH Graders

A CAPSTONE is a culminating educational experience that is meant to provide the finishing touches to one's preparation. Many prestigious institutions from Harvard University to the United States Department of Defense offer capstone programs to those students and officers who show exceptional promise of leadership and ability to move to the next stage of their training.

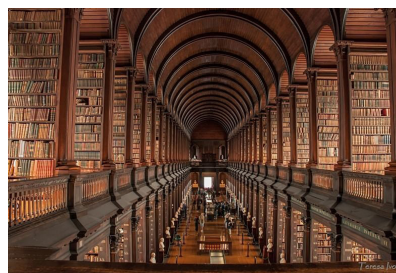
The Montfort Academy's **Classical Achievement Program** is designed to be the capstone of your elementary school years and to help you prepare for admission to the most prestigious high schools, including The Montfort Academy. Montfort's Capstone Program exposes you to the best that man has thought, said, or done in the world and introduces you to classical education, the Socratic methodology, and formation in Christian virtue. The Program is a two-week commitment that will take

place from July 6-July 17, 2020. Each day begins at 9:00 am (except for the first day, which begins at 8:00 am) and ends in the late afternoon. Most days are structured with a class in the morning, followed by noon Holy Mass in our Chapel and then lunch, and capped with an afternoon trip to a special place related to the class. A Capstone Certificate is awarded to all graduates of the program. Those who successfully complete the Capstone will be awarded a \$1,000 annual scholarship to attend The Montfort Academy.

www.themontfortacademy.org

Day 1 - Monday, July 6, 2020 THE GREAT CONVERSATION OF WESTERN THOUGHT

A room without books is like a body without a soul. Cicero



Deep, broad reading habits are a defining characteristic of our greatest leaders and can inspire insight, innovation, empathy, and personal effectiveness.* The Great Books of Rome and Greece have been the foundation of innovation and leadership for centuries. Come experience the Great Books and the Great Conversation—that ongoing conversation of great philosophers, theologians, authors, scientists, mathematicians, industry leaders, and political thinkers. We start in ancient Greece and travel through ancient Rome and Medieval Europe, delight in the Renaissance, and end up in 2020 America. Ignite in yourself the spark and love of reading that will last a lifetime and that will help make you a leader. Harvard Bussines Review

GREAT BOOK: Dr. Eliot's Five Foot Shelf, The Harvard Classics

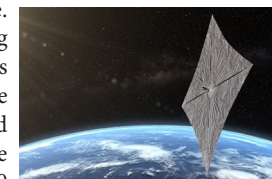
TAUGHT by Dr. Nathan Liebowitz, PhD, Mr. Jerry O'Sullivan, and The Honorable Richard Greco, Jr.

TRAVEL to The University Club of New York and visit one of the world's most exquisite libraries and enjoy a private tour.

Day 2 - Tuesday, July 7, 2020 ASTRONOMY: FROM ANTIKYTHERA TO MARS

Astronomy compels the soul to look upwards and leads us from this world to another. Plato

Astronomy is both the first science and the last science. From wondering about the night sky to dreaming about a manned mission to Mars, Astronomy has been the mother of all science and has been at the center of technological innovation. Come feel and touch an exact replica of the world's first computer, the Antikythera Mechanism, which dates to the year 200 BC, used to predict eclipses of the sun and moon, from The Montfort Academy's historical archives. Learn about the 2034 planned mission to Mars, and build your own rockets.



GREAT BOOK: Galileo's *The Starry Messenger* and Aristotle's *Metaphysics*

TRAVEL to The Hudson River Museum & Planetarium.

TAUGHT by The Honorable Richard Greco, Jr., former Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Evan Iervolino, Montfort Class of 2022.

Day 3 - Wednesday, July 8, 2020

ORATORY

A good orator is pointed and impassioned. Cicero.

The art of speaking in public, or Ars Oratoria, was a mark of the distinguished Roman citizen, especially those engaged in public life. With a long heritage already established in ancient Greece, many Roman families sent their children to Greece to study under Greek masters. Cicero was among the greatest orators in all of history, and his speeches are timeless. Read from Cicero, *De Oratore*, a manual he wrote for good public speaking, and learn the basics of good public speaking.



GREAT BOOK: Aeschylus, *The Persians*, recitation at Untermyer Gardens

TRAVEL to Untermyer Gardens Conservancy

TAUGHT by Mr. George DeGaetano, Debate Team Faculty Advisor at The Montfort Academy

Day 4 - Thursday, July 9, 2020

BIOMIMICRY: FROM BIRDS TO AIRPLANES

The human bird shall take his first flight, filling the world with amazement, all writings with his fame, and bringing eternal glory to those whose nest whence he sprang. Leonardo da Vinci



The Classical world was full of birds, and birds inspired the human imagination. Birds inspired language, art, and science, including the invention of the airplane. Today birds inspire scientists in Biomimicry, namely a type of innovation where scientists and engineers solve the challenges that human beings face in sustainable ways

by studying patterns of nature.

GREAT BOOK: Leonardo da Vinci, *Codex on the Flight of Birds*

TRAVEL to the Audubon Society of America

TOUGHT by Mr. William Haffey, Chairman of the Montfort Academy Science Department and Siobhan Schenk, Director of Admissions, The Montfort Academy

Day 5 - Friday, July 10, 2020

GLADIATORS: FROM WEIGHTLIFTING TO FENCING

It is exercise alone that supports these spirits, and keeps the mind in vigor. Cicero.



Are you ready to train as a gladiator? The Gladiator needed to train well or face defeat. The Ancient Greeks and Romans used different types of exercise equipment, some of which is very similar to what we use today. For training, they used halteres, an ancient version of the dumbbell. For practicing, punching,

and kicking, the gladiators used a variety of punching bags. Train in the Montfort Academy's very own Teresa and Sean Reynolds weight room and learn about sword fighting and fencing.

GREAT BOOK: Aristotle's *On the Motion of Animals*

TRAVEL to Fencing Academy of Westchester

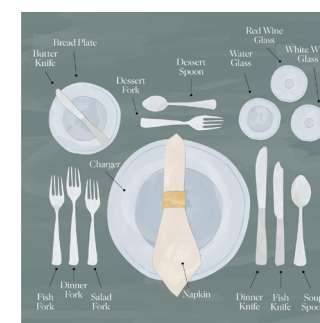
TAUGHT by Siobhan Schenk, Director of Admissions, The Montfort Academy

Day 6 - Monday, July 13, 2020

ANCIENT CHIVALRY AND MODERN ETIQUETTE

Many cities did he visit, and many were the nations with whose manners and customs he was acquainted. Homer, The Odyssey

Explore manners and customs of the ancient world, those that last today, and manners and customs of different worlds and societies. The mark of a gentleman or gentlelady is good manners. The Montfort Academy is pleased to host America's leading expert in manners and television personality, Mr. Thomas Farley, known as Mr. Manners. Mr. Farley will provide a history of chivalry and good manners and teach students proper etiquette and behavior between boys and girls, and how to set a table.



GREAT BOOK: Lucius Metrius Plutarchus (also known as Plutarch), *Lives of the Noble Greek and Romans*

TRAVEL to The University Club of New York

TAUGHT by Television Personality, Thomas Farley, (Mr. Manners)

Day 7 - Tuesday, July 14, 2020

WATER, SUSTENTABILITY, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

If we consider the distances traversed by the water before it arrives, the raising of the arches, the tunneling of mountains and the building of level routes across deep valleys, we shall readily admit that there has never been anything more remarkable in the whole world."

—Pliny the Elder, Roman author and statesman



When you buy that small bottle of water for \$1.00, did you ever stop and think that you are paying more for water than you pay for gasoline? Water is both a necessity (because you cannot live without it) and a luxury (because it so scarce). Water is essential for life, and water management is essential to water supply. The

Romans knew this and built aqueducts that are masterpieces of engineering and architecture, with both beauty and functionality. We are the heirs of this magnificent skill of water planning, which is essential to the future, even our planned mission to Mars.

GREAT BOOK: Julius Sextus Frontinus, *De Aquaeductu*

TRAVEL to the Bronx River Reservation and participate in a day of river clean-up

TAUGHT by The Honorable Richard Greco, Jr. and Ms. Siobhan Shenk

Day 8 - Wednesday, July 15, 2020

LATIN IS BEAUTIFUL

Latin is beautiful,...and beauty is the face of freedom. Latin is alive in literature, and literature is life. Nocola Gardini, author of Long Live Latin, 2016

In his book *Long Live Latin* (2016), Nicola Gardini argues that Latin is neither useful nor useless. Rather, Latin is beautiful, and because Latin is beautiful it is the foundation of science, art, politics, law, medicine, literature, and culture. When we study Latin, we must study it for one fundamental reason: because it is the language of a civilization; because the Western world was created on its back; because inscribed in Latin are the secrets of our deepest cultural memory, secrets that demand to be read.



GREAT BOOK: Virgil, *The Aeneid*

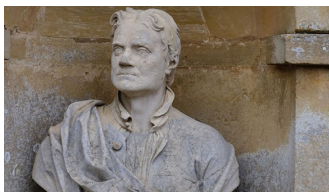
TRAVEL to Glen Island Park for an afternoon of fun

TAUGHT by Mr. Steven Merola, Chairman of the Classical Language Department, The Montfort Academy

Day 9 - Thursday, July 16, 2020

MIRACLES

The most incredible thing about miracles is that they happen. G.K. Chesterton in the Innocence of FR. Brown, 1911



From Euclid's Geometry to Newton's Physics, from Galileo's Heliocentrism to Einstein's relativity, man has sought to define the world in math and physics. Yet, every day man experiences miracles that cannot be described by mathematical or physical law. Are not math and physics the language with which God wrote the universe? Might

the author of that universe reveal himself in both the discoverable language of math and in the revealed language of miracles? We will study the work of world-renowned theologian and physicist Fr. Stanley L. Jaki, Templeton Prize Winner 1987, and guest speaker at The Montfort Academy.

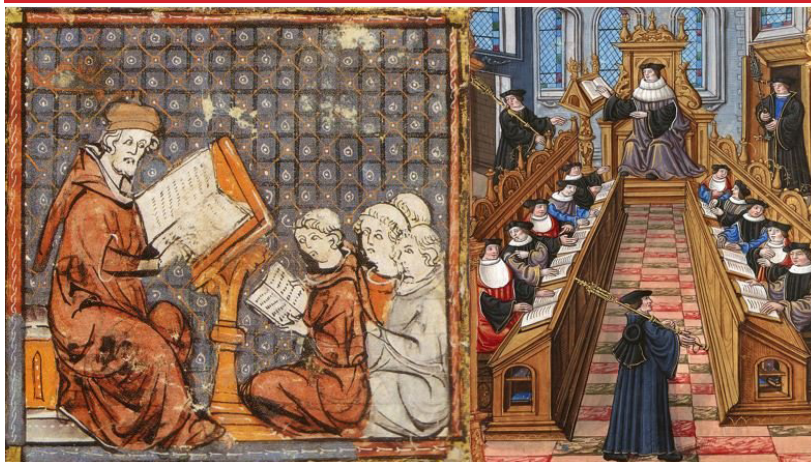
GREAT BOOK: Sulpicius Severus, *The Life of St. Martin of Tours*

TRAVEL to The Cloisters

TAUGHT by Mr. Joseph Pagnozzi, Independent Science Teacher at The Montfort Academy, Pharmacist

Day 10 - Friday, July 17, 2020

GRADUATION



Cost of CAPSTONE 2019: \$750 for all ten days

Please make check payable to The Montfort Academy

125 E. Birch Street, Mount Vernon, NY 10552 914-699-7090

Subjects, instructors, and field trips are subject to change depending on availability, enrollment, and transportation