



## ***1516 Classical Literacy Exam Award Winners***

*We are proud to announce that three VCHS students won awards for excellence on the National **Latin Classical Literacy Exam**.*

- Allison Cong scored a **perfect score** on the exam and won the Gold Medal.
- Megan Li and Anika Khubchandani also won Gold Medals.
- Medha Kolhe received a Silver medal

Allison, Megan and Anika qualified to enter an essay to win a \$100 cash prize.

***Allison Cong's essay won the Classical Literacy Exam prize of \$100.***

Allison is the only student to achieve this honor in all of California.

***Congratulations to Allison and to her dedicated teacher Mrs. Jeanette Anderson!***

The following is the announcement from the Classical Literacy Exam Committee:

“We are pleased to announce the winners of this year’s CLE Cash Awards:”

Elena Bonetti, Arlington Catholic High School, Boston, MA.

**\*\*Allison Cong, Valley Christian High School, San Jose, CA.\*\***

Anna Wimmer, Classical Ravens, Albuquerque, NM

Julianne Cuevo, Flint Hill School, Oakton, VA.

Jocelyn Robertson, Classical Cottage School, Waterford, VA.

Winners will receive their cash award, which is being sent in care of their teachers, by early next week. Please let us know if we have your student’s permission to publish her or his essay on the CLE website.

### **This is the essay written by VCHS Gold Medal winner Allison Cong**

“From the tongue-twisting taxidermy terms in biology to the seemingly nonsensical college mottos, Latin is ingrained in modern society. Yet to the rest of the world, it is dead. Forgotten and useless. As a high school freshman, I came in with the same misconception, taking Latin simply to fulfill my graduation requirements. Declensions, moods, and terms all fell into place within my mind, but it never struck me why I was learning this ancient script. And now, nearly three years after that first step into Latin, I understand.

There's something fascinating about Latin, in that it's not just a language. It is a language rich with a gallant history, mystic mythologies, elaborate arts, and unimaginable culture. In class, I have been able to endlessly explore these aspects, from translating ancient texts to researching and recreating a Roman villa to watching movies completely in Latin. Being able to read Latin and promptly imagine the forums that once existed were bustling with men and women in stolae and togas or the hills lined with fierce armor-clad battalions has become a staple in my exploration of the ancient worlds. But beyond understanding the history and culture of ancient Greece and Rome, Latin has allowed me to appreciate the intricateness of languages and recognize the harmony of humanity. So many languages and cultures have evolved from Latin, most of which are continued to be in use today. Latin is the root of the sciences, law and government, theology, and logic. Latin is the mother tongue of the world, the uniting force of the ancient world. Its pervasiveness is not only in our daily lives but also in the fundamentals of human association and communication. The world and humanity are built on communication, using sounds to replicate emotions, logic, and trust among others. The ancient texts and lifestyle represent an age without the social constraints or stereotypes of today, an age of unrepressed creativity, philosophy, and art. This "raw" association with the world helps me to break modern conformities and ponder the changing times. If everyone could study the classics and delve into Latin, they could understand the world and the beginning of the society as we perceive today. Latin also builds the mind--its (sometimes relentless) grammar and elements have challenged me as a student to think critically and carefully. Studying Latin has transformed my perception of society and the world, inspiring to look beyond imposed limits and to appreciate the connectivity of the human mind."

*Miss Mary Riley*  
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