

# THE NORTHWEST CURRENT

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it's in the public interest. Seattle, meanwhile, puts most of its videos online, but blurs the entire image.

There's work to be done, but it should be a step in the process, not be a roadblock. Let's resolve these questions and move swiftly to get cameras on the entirety of D.C.'s police force. It's unquestionably the right thing to do.

## With highest distinction

When Washington Latin Public Charter School opened in 2006, its 179 fifth- through seventh-graders studied the ancient language in a Cathedral Heights church and played games on its small driveway.

Today, the 670 fifth- through 12th-graders learn Arabic, French or Mandarin — on top of Latin, of course — in a proper school building in Petworth and compete with more than 20 teams on a true athletic field. Soon they'll exercise in a brand-new gym.

And the school's successes go deeper than course listings and facilities. At least 90 percent of seniors have graduated each year since the first class departed, yielding, in 2012 and 2013, the highest graduation rate of any non-selective school in D.C.

The classical curriculum featuring small classes and a reliance on the Socratic method has helped nearly 100 percent of each senior class win offers of acceptance to college, and vaulted the high school into the city's top tier of schools.

The "achievement gap" is shrinking among the diverse student body. On last year's standardized test, black and white students at Latin had closer scores compared to the average gap for pupils at D.C. public schools — as much as 44 percentage points narrower in some categories. And low-income students at Latin scored better than their peers in other city schools by at least 10 percentage points on last year's DC-CAS tests.

Who is to thank for this impressive performance? Well, everyone who works at Latin, no doubt. But we'd like to single out head of school Martha Cutts, who will retire at the end of the coming school year.

Ms. Cutts came to Latin from National Cathedral School, planning to spend just six months as interim head of the fledgling program, which had quickly yielded impressive results but struggled with management challenges. That was in 2008.

"Martha's dedicated and steady leadership throughout more than eight years have been central to creating the excellent school that Latin is today," Latin Board of Governors president Chinesom Ejiasa wrote in a letter on the school's website, adding that the community is "profoundly grateful" to her.

Ms. Cutts herself noted the changes under her tenure, writing in her own letter that she is "filled with pride for the Latin community that has gone from the scrappy, tenuous school I first encountered ... to the vibrant, purposeful, and successful school we have now."

The transformation has indeed been remarkable. Congratulations to Ms. Cutts, who is undoubtedly departing summa cum laude.

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## LETTER THE ED

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