First Form Latin Oral Recitation at Highlands Latin School

Our 4th graders can say or write all of their Latin forms from memory because they have been taught in a way that makes them meaningful and memorable. For instance, in the first lesson students learn the personal endings, the verb stem, and how to conjugate a present tense verb and its meanings. The present tense makes sense to them and they memorize it by saying it aloud and writing it until they know it. The following week it is part of their beginning recitation, which at that point has only two parts, the personal endings and the present tense.

In the next lesson students learn the imperfect tense by contrast and comparison to the present, and the following week they learn the future tense. The recitation grows each week as students continue to add grammar forms to the ones they have already learned. The English meanings are also recited but have not been included in the charts below to save spaces.

When the student understands the present system of the 1st conjugation, the present system of the other conjugations is easy to learn. First Form teaches the present system of sum in one lesson, and then on to the perfect system. Contrast, comparison, and analysis carries the student through the whole grammar. It's a beautiful, elegant, amazingly consistent grammar system. It is a pleasure to learn and to teach.

We usually do a selection of the recitation on a particular day, but on occasion we do the whole thing just for fun and to show the students how much they know. Here are two suggested recitations for specific lessons of First Form. The entire recitation for First Form is at the end of this post.

FIRST FORM LESSON 6 ORAL RECITATION/REVIEW

Teacher: Salvete amici Latinae (Hello friends of Latin)
Students: Salve, magistra (magister) (Hello teacher)
Teacher: Surgite (Stand up)
Teacher: Recitemus (Let us recite)
   o, s, t, mus, tis, nt (personal endings)
   bam, bas, bat, bamus, batis, bant (imperfect tense endings)
   bo, bis, bit, bimus, bitis, bunt (future tense endings)
   amo, amas ... (present, imperfect, future)
   voco, vocas... (present, imperfect, future)
   sum, es... (present, imperfect, future)
Teacher: Sedete (Sit down)

Grammar Questions: 1-37

FIRST FORM LESSON 19 ORAL RECITATION/REVIEW

Greeting

Teacher: Recitemus
   personal & tense endings
   1st conj. principal parts, regular endings
   amo six tenses, principal parts
   do, sto, juvo, lavo, principal parts
   sum six tenses, principal parts
   case names
   mensa, ae
   servus, i
   bellum, i
   bonus, bona, bonum

Grammar Review Questions: 1-88
FIRST FORM COMPLETE RECITATION

Present System 1st Conjugation
Present tense amo, amas, amat, amamus, amatis, amant
Imperfect tense amabam, amabas, ...
Future tense amabo, amabis, ...
personal endings o, s, t, mus, tis, nt
imperfect tense endings bam, bas, …
future tense endings bo, bis, bit, ….

Perfect System 1st Conjugation
Perfect tense amavi, amavisti, amavit, amavimus, amavistis, amaverunt
Pluperfect tense amaveram, amaveras, amaverat, …
Future perfect tense amavero, amaveris, ...
perfect tense endings i, isti, it, imus, istis, erunt
pluperfect endings eram, eras, ….
future perfect endings ero, eris, ….

1st Conj. principal parts amo, amare, amavi, amatus
o, are, avi, atus

Irregular principal parts do, dare, dedi, datus
sto, stare, stei, status
juvo, juvare, juvi, jutus
lavo, lavare, lavi, lautus

Irregular verb sum sum, es, est, sumus, estis, sunt
eram, eras, erat. eramus, eratis, erant
ero, eris, erit, erimus, eritis, erunt
fui, fuisiti, fuit, fuimus, fuitis, fuerunt
fueram, fueras, …
fueron, fueris, …

Declensions 1st-2nd Declensions
1st declension mensa, mensae, mensae, mensam, mensa
mensae, mensarum, mensis, mensas, mensis
case endings a, ae, ae, am, a, ae, arum, is, as, is
2nd declension M servus, servi, servo, servum, servo
servi, servorum, servis, servos, servis
case endings us, i, o, um, o, i, orum, is, os, is
2nd declension N bellum, belli, bello, bellum, bella, bellorum, bellis, bella, bellis
case endings um, i, o, a, orum, is, a, is
1st-2nd decl. Adjectives bonus, bona, bonum
boni, bonae, bono
bonum, bonam, bonum
bono, bona, bono
plural forms ...

Declensions 3rd -5th Declensions
3rd declension M/F pater, patris, patri, patrem, patre, patres, patrum, patribus, patres, patribus
case endings –, is, i, em, e, es, um, ibus, es, ibus
3rd declension N nomen, nominis, nomini, nomen, nomine
nominina, nomininum, nominibus, nominata, nominibus
case endings –, is, i, -e, a, um, ibus, a, ibus
4th declension portus, portus, portui, portum, portu, portus, portuum, portibus, portus, portibus
case endings us, us, ui, um, u, us, uum, ibus, us, ibus
5th declension res, rei, rei, rem, re, res, rerum, rebus, res, rebus
case endings es, ei, ei, em, e, es, erum ebus, es, ebus
2nd Conjugation Present System
Present tense       moneo, mones, monet, monemus, monetis, monent
Imperfect tense    monebam, monebas, ...
Future tense       monebo, monebis,...

Perfect System
Perfect tense       monui, monuisti, monuit, monuimus, monuistis, monuerunt
Pluperfect tense   monueram, monueras, monuerat, ...
Future perfect tense monuero, monueris, ...

1st Cong. principal parts moneo, monere, monui, monitus
eo, rre, ui, itus

(* 2nd conj. irregular principal parts aren't included in the above)

First Form covers about ¼ of the Latin grammar, and this recitation is very close to the order in which the grammar is covered in its five units.