

# THE SCHOOL OF ATHENS

*Raphael*

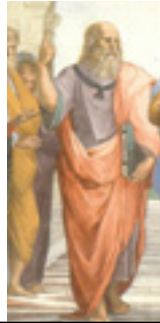
**T**he School of Athens was painted by the Italian Renaissance painter, Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino (1483–1520), better known simply as Raphael, when he was twenty-seven years old. Commissioned for Pope Julius II (1503–1513), this large fresco (5.77 x 8.14 meters, 16.5 x 25 feet) can still be viewed in the Room of the Segnatura (the highest court of the Holy See) within the Vatican. The frescoes in this room mark the beginning of the high Renaissance.<sup>1</sup> Raphael is often associated with Renaissance Neoplatonism because of his skillful depictions of the ideal. Raphael died on his thirty-seventh birthday in 1520.



*The School of Athens* by Raphael. A legend for this painting, identifying the various figures, has never been found. We suggest the possibilities on the following page.



*Socrates*



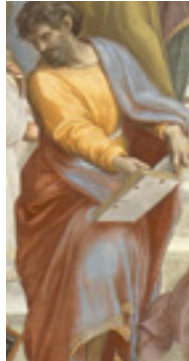
*Plato*  
(pointing upwards with *Timaeus* in his hand)



*Aristotle*  
(holding *Ethics*)



*Hypatia*



*Parmenides*



*Plotinus*



*Ptolemy*  
(holding the earthly sphere)



*Heraclitus*  
(a portrait of the artist Michelangelo)



*Zoroaster*  
(holding the heavenly sphere)



*Pythagoras*  
(with Sacred Tetraktys)



*Raphael*  
(Self Portrait)



*Euclid*  
(teaching geometry to his pupils)

