



*The MDJCL*

# TORCH

April 2026 - State Convention!



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INTRODUCTION:

# *Certamen Ultimum!*

## *An MDJCL First...!*

If you've been to State Convention in the past, you might remember it being hosted further east at Easton High School. It's always been an amazing time at Easton, but this year, the MJCL is switching it up a little bit...

For the first time ever, the Key School has decided to host State Convention! It takes a lot of planning and work to pull an event of this scale off, so I hope you'll join me in giving "magnas gratias" to Magistra Bruestle, the Key School, and everyone else who made today's festivities possible!

Check out the State Convention packet here!!



Salvete amici - we've made it to State Convention! It's hard to believe that we're already at the end of this MDJCL year. It feels like just yesterday we were competing against each other at the UMD Olympics!

Despite what the title says, State Convention is so much more than Certamen. From art competitions, to academic testing, to colloquia, ludi, and more, I hope you have a fun and action-packed day! There's a little something for everyone at this event!!



I've tried my best to cover the majority (maior, -or, -us) of what you'll want to know in this edition of the Torch, including information about elections and what comes after State Convention, but if you need help while you're here, ask any member of the MDJCL board, a teacher, or someone wearing golden laurels (Key School students).

*Concordia Parvae  
Res Crescunt!*

# Event Schedule:

10:00-10:30

Registration (Science Library)

10:30-11:00

Introduction & Spirit (Katherine Hall)

11:00-12:30

Certamen (Science Library)

12:30-1:30

Lunch & Candidate Speeches (Katherine Hall)

1:30-2:30

Ludi (Manse Field)

2:45-4:15

Colloquia (See Convention Brochure)

4:20-5:00

Meet the Candidates & Elections (Katherine Hall)

5:00-6:00

Dinner & Awards (Amphitheatre)

6:00

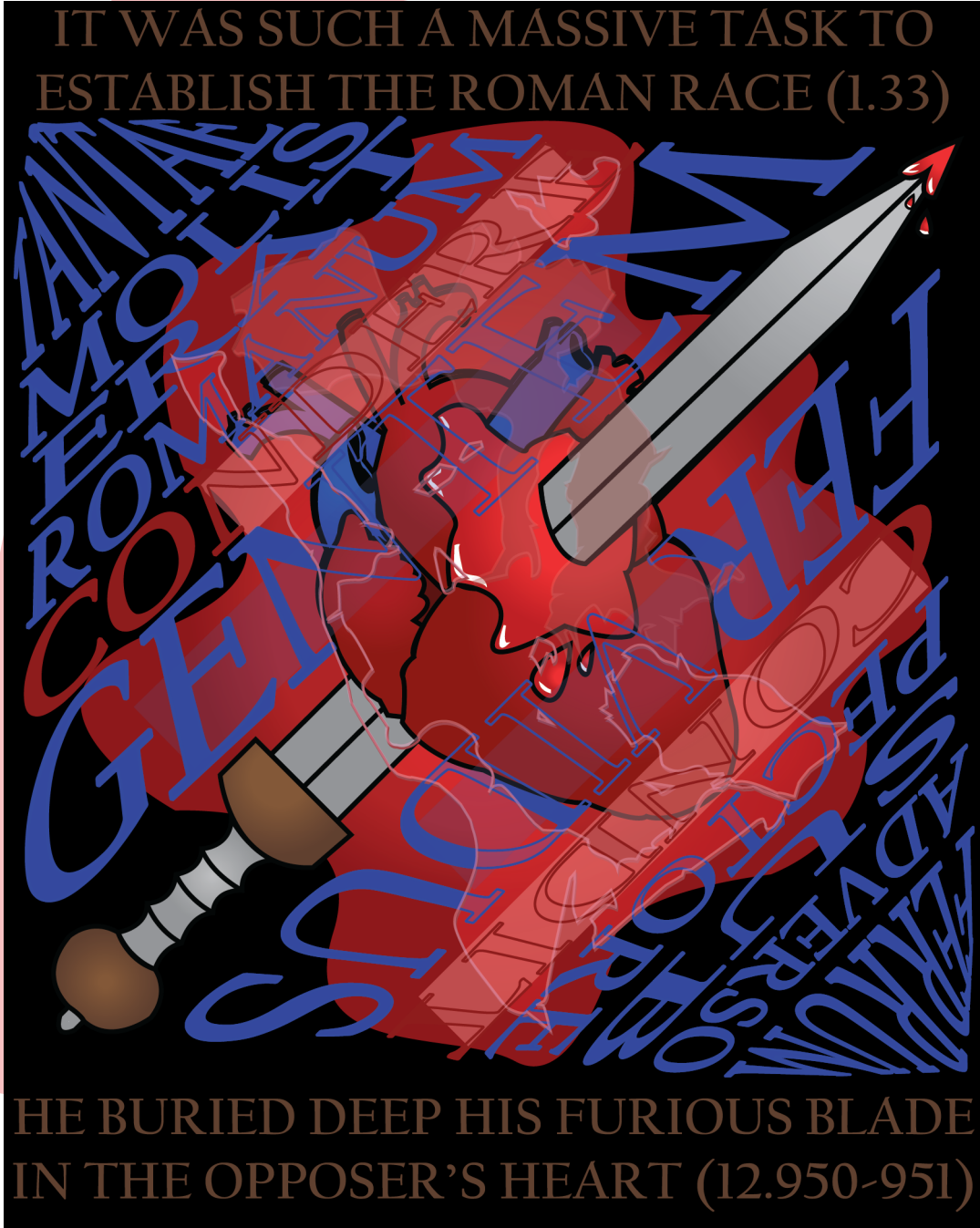
Group Picture & Farewell (Amphitheatre)



# MDJCL ART

"Condere, Condit"

IT WAS SUCH A MASSIVE TASK TO  
ESTABLISH THE ROMAN RACE (1.33)



HE BURIED DEEP HIS FURIOUS BLADE  
IN THE OPPOSER'S HEART (12.950-951)

Created by Sophia Kantsevov, the Bryn Mawr School



# “Comites Catulli: The Hunt for Lesbia”



As the final Catullus project in our Latin V class, we were tasked with making short films based on an interpretation of Catullus poetry. Our film is a modern take on Catullus’s Carmen 11, starring his friends whom he asks to deliver a message to Lesbia. We hope you decide to check it out by scanning the QR code!!

Created by Sophia Kantsevoy,  
Johanna Pitts, & Bani Gourab  
The Bryn Mawr School



## Ask MDJCL

Do you have a favorite MDJCL memory from this year?



Photos taken by Ivy Carver,  
@mdjcl.archivist



Watching the scooter chariot race at the U.M.D. Certamen!

– Sophia Kantsevoy, the Bryn Mawr School

# MDJCL State Convention

# B I N G !



Shake hands with someone running for office	Find a Greek student and ask them for their favorite Greek word	Try to have a conversation with someone entirely in Latin	Find someone interested in attending, or who has attended the National Junior Classical League convention	Find someone who shares your favorite mythological figure or character
Check out and pick your favorite page/spread of the MDJCL Scrapbook! (in the Library)	Get someone to take a sick action-shot of you during Ludi/take one of someone else	Ask a question during an SJC/UMD Workshop Colloquium!	Ask someone about their favorite piece of Classics-related media	Talk to someone from a different school that you encountered at a past MDJCL event OR find someone who's at their first Statecon!
Play a game with someone new in the Game Room	Read the proposed amendments!	Cheer in the Spirit Competition!	Identify the scenes in each peep diorama	Browse the Bazaar
Eat a muffin!	Take selfies with as many state officers as you can find!	Locate and say salve to the two SCLers (hint: they may be accompanied by a green pefafrog named Percival)	Contribute to Coin Wars!	IMPROV A QUICK SPIRIT CHANT FOR SOPHIA KANTSEVOY (NJCL 2ND VICE PRESIDENT!)
Invite someone from another school to sit with you at lunch!	Read the Torch in full	Visit the art display in the Library, and compliment one of the artists!	Take notes during Meet the Candidates	Tell someone a classics-themed joke (laughter is optional)

# Amendments



This year, we have four proposed amendments to the Consitution that need to be voted on: Removal of Unused Offices, Classics Class Requirement, Modified State of Emergency Procedure, and Officers at Large. If you are confused by anything in the amendments, please ask a friend, a teacher, or our Parliamentarian Caroline!

Amendment #1:



## Removal of Unused Offices

### Current:

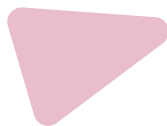
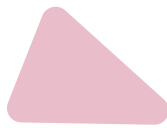
**Article 4, Sections 7 and 8.**

Section 7. Duties of Webmaster . The Webmaster shall:

A. Maintain and consistently update the MDJCL webpage.

Section 8. Duties of Executive Assistant. The Executive Assistant shall:

A. Any duties of the Executive Assistant are to be determined by the State Chairperson(s).



### Proposed Revision:

**Striking both sections.**



### Rationale:

Neither of these officer positions have existed in multiple years, and so their vestigial presence in the Constitution both serves no purpose and potentially confuses readers, especially those considering running for office.

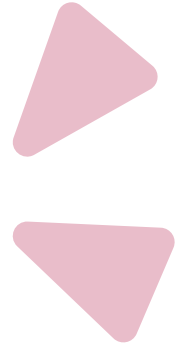
# Classics Class Requirement

## Current:

### Article 3, Section 3.

To be eligible to run for office a candidate MUST:

- A. Have the permission of a legal guardian and their local sponsor;
- B. Be a member in good standing of a chapter in good standing;
- C. Be enrolled in a Latin or Classical Humanities class during their years of office or have completed all the Latin [courses] offered in their schools;
- D. Have attended at least one state or national JCL convention



## Proposed Revision:

### Article 3, Section 3.

To be eligible to run for office a candidate MUST:

- A. Have the permission of a legal guardian and their local sponsor;
- B. Be a member in good standing of a chapter in good standing;
- C. Have attended at least one state or national JCL convention



## Rationale:

On the N.J.C.L. level, this requirement exists so that, if an officer stops responding to J.C.L. communication, their Latin/Classical Humanities teacher (who presumably sees them regularly in class) can be contacted to find out whether there's a specific reason why the officer isn't responding.

Since M.D.J.C.L. chapters are typically fairly small, most students (even those not enrolled in Latin/Classical Humanities classes) interact with their sponsors regularly, there is no need for an additional contact point between the State Chairs and potential State Officers. Also, since sponsors are already required to approve potential candidates from their chapters, sponsors would have the ability to withhold approval if they have concerns about getting in contact with their student. Thus, the requirement that candidates be enrolled in a Latin/Classical Humanities class unnecessarily prevents students whose schedules do not have space for these classes from running for State Office.



# Modified State of Emergency

## Current:

### Article 3, Sections 5 and 6.

**Section 5.** If a vacancy occurs within the title position of President, the newly-elected Vice President shall fill the vacancy. The position of Vice President shall then be determined amongst the Executive Board.

**Section 6.** If a vacancy occurs within any other title position in the Executive Board excluding the State Chairperson(s), the position shall then be declared to be in a state of emergency. The person to fill this state of emergency shall be determined by the Executive Board. With the Executive Board's determination, all eligible persons with interest in the vacant position must notify an Executive Board member and must submit the application within the first week of the vacancy. If no applications are submitted within a week, the Executive Board is permitted to hand-select an eligible candidate at their own discretion.



## Proposed Revision:

### Article 3, Sections 5 and 6.

**Section 5.** If a vacancy occurs in any office after the application deadline but before state convention, all candidates shall be notified of the vacancy and permitted to change their candidacy to that vacant office.

**Section 6.** If a vacancy occurs within the title position of President after elections have concluded, the newly-elected Vice President shall fill the vacancy. The position of Vice President shall then be determined amongst the Executive Board.

**Section 7.** If a vacancy occurs within any other title position in the Executive Board excluding the State Chairperson(s) after elections, the position shall then be declared to be in a state of emergency. The person to fill this state of emergency shall be determined by the Executive Board. With the Executive Board's determination, all eligible persons with interest in the vacant position must notify an Executive Board member and must submit the application within the first week of the vacancy. If no applications are submitted within a week, the Executive Board is permitted to hand-select an eligible candidate at their own discretion.



## Rationale:

This addition would allow for all offices to be filled, while reducing competition for offices.

# Officers at Large

## Current:

Article 3, No Existing Section  
Article 4, No Existing Section



## Proposed Revision:

### Article 3, Section 7.

**Section 7.** Officers at Large shall apply after the election of State Officers. Their application shall be reviewed by the Executive Board. To be eligible to apply to be an Officer at Large, the applicant must:

- A. Be a member in good standing of a chapter in good standing
- B. Be a member of a chapter that has no existing representative in the Executive Board

### Article 4, Section 9. Duties of Officers at Large.

#### The Officers at Large shall:

- A. represent the MDJCL at events of state and local JCLs;
- B. represent their local chapter at Officer meetings;
- C. assist the Executive Board in event planning and organization.

## Rationale:

Officers at large already exist, but this amendment would create official procedure for their election and outline their roles.

# What Stopped You?

If you decided NOT to run for MDJCL office this year, but are eligible and were considering, why didn't you? Tell us your thoughts - is there something we can improve?



# Candidate Paragraphs

Every year, MDJCLers who want to run for one of the five positions on the state board have to do five things to confirm their candidacy:

1. Indicate interest upon registration
2. Write a paragraph
3. Create a poster 
4. Deliver a speech
5. Turn in a signed permission slip

The paragraphs are what you are about to see in this section of the Torch! Candidates had option of choosing between two different prompts, and only answered one in their writing. The questions can be found in the State Convention packet, and are as follows...

## 2026-2027 Candidates:

**President:** Johanna Pitts

**Vice President:** Caroline Makowka,  
Vivien Wang

**Parliamentarian:** Chiara Bovio,  
Esmé Ivory

**Archivist/Historian:** Ivy Carver

**Editor:** Morgan Kelly

“ Share one experience you have had with your local JCL chapter this year that demonstrates your capacity to be a leader. ”

Or...

“ Give and explain one idea that you have for making MDJCL a better organization in the future. ”





I know they may seem long, but I really recommend reading through all of the paragraphs to get a better idea of who each candidate is before their speech during lunch! You could even start thinking of some questions to ask them about their platforms in the open forum during Meet the Candidates this afternoon...

As with most things, the paragraphs go in reverse gavel order, which is to say Editor, then Historian, Parliamentarian, Vice President, and finally, President. So, put your reading glasses on and take your notepads out!



## *Editor*



### **Candidate: Morgan Kelly**

One of the most vital characteristics of the Maryland Junior Classical League is our sense of community and connection with one another. As editor for the MDJCL, I would strive to maintain the more interactive elements of both the Torch and our organization as a whole in order for everyone's voice to be heard, such as virtual events, silly Classics-related polls and brackets, and of course creative submissions! However, I would like to place further emphasis on the memories that JCLers share during their events, such as also permitting photo contests (meaning photos taken at MDJCL events) as potential spirit incentives. This system would be similar to the National Junior Classical League's Photo Of The Month competition for JCL Archivists, but opened up to a more general audience instead of solely officers. I feel that this would allow for opportunities for a wider group of JCLers to submit to and be featured in the Torch, and to contribute to their school's spirit earnings!



# Historian



## Candidate: Ivy Carver



Hey friends, Romans, and countrymen! I'm Ivy Carver and I'm (re)running to be your 26-27 Historian/Archivist! I know a lot of you may have seen me before, and this may a bit unusual, but after giving it a lot of thought (and checking and double-checking that it's constitutional) I've decided that I want to use the knowledge and experience I've gained during this past year of serving the MDJCL, to hopefully give you the best possible performance as your Historian for this coming year! ;) In taking a total of 1,228 photos at MDJCL events this year, I've seen the moments that made you smile, captured the community and friendly competition that lights up the room during icebreakers and Certamen/Ludi, and I feel like I understand so much more of what makes us, the MDJCL, special. My goal this year is to dive even deeper into the DNA that makes up this organization, to document and celebrate it as a part of JCL history. This can be either in the form of monthly Club of the Month contests like other state chapters hold, or maintaining strong communication with local chapter leaders through something like a GroupMe or email chain, all with spirit points awarded for submitting local club activities for publishing (if I can get a thumbs-up from our VP)! As officers we've experimented with a lot of things this year, including monthly Instagram contests and a virtual event, and I think they've taught us a lot about what JCLers would want/be able to engage with and how to best promote them, so I'm determined this coming year to work as closely as I can with MDJCL members to hone all the ways I want to make these plans work for you! I'd also make sure to promote more knowledge of what makes the office of Historian so great, likely by compiling and putting out a 'How to Histo' resource about the duties/perks of being Historian/Archivist, just so someone out there who would love to have this office, and just doesn't know it yet, can hopefully think of running!





# Parliamentarian



## Candidate: Chiara Bovio

It was chaos; kids acting like satyrs while adult voices were not loud enough to quiet them. No, this was not recess, but Aequora, a local after-school program where volunteers revive classical knowledge by teaching it to the next generation. After many failed attempts in trying to grab the attention of the young students, they instantly stopped the ruckus when they heard me clap my hands together. They did not bow their heads to the others who tried to silence them, but me, whose forceful authority and loud clap called. This is usually the case, as my loud presence and ability to interrupt allow for refocusing and refinement when others cannot. I am naturally able to lead others, as I am also a coxswain for my rowing team, and I have always been someone whom people turn to, either with questions about Latin or otherwise. Being a leader in Aequora is just the beginning!

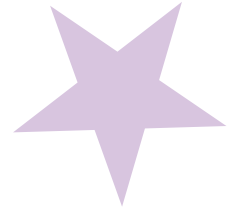
## Candidate: Esmé Ivory



Salvete omnes,

My name is Esmé Ivory. I am a Junior at St. Tim's and this is my 5th year being involved in the MDJCL! I am hoping to be your parliamentarian for the next year! One idea I have to make the MDJCL a better organization in the future is adding a leadership position for the younger members of the community! I have loved being a part of this community for some many years, and I have been lucky enough to see it grow and the middle school membership increase. In order to make sure all members' voices are being heard, as an officer I would hope to create the position of middle school representative. This would help ensure that not only all voices are heard, but also that people don't feel like they have to wait until they are upperclassmen in high school to get leadership experience. It could also help keep people engaged as they enter new environments, like high school, and keep a steady stream of new ideas flowing. As I look to my senior year of high school, I want to give as much as I can to a community who has given me so much! My fun fact is that I can sing the Alphabet backwards!

# Vice President



## Candidate: Caroline Makowka

Although the anecdote I'm about to recount is not exactly a local chapter experience, it is one of my favorite MDJCL memories. When I search my mind for instances of leadership, this experience in particular stands out to me. While planning this year's Saturnalia Certamen at Calvert, the officers (myself included) were asked to plan a warm-up service project. Together, we came up with the idea of writing holiday cards, but we were stumped as to where we should send them. Interrupting the awkward zoom-call silence, I suggested Keswick Senior Center. My idea was greeted with enthusiasm characteristic of the MDJCL. After some emailing and organizing, I had the privilege of seeing an entire organization mobilize at my idea. I think about this moment often, as an example of the good the MDJCL can do, as well as the impact one idea can have. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Parliamentarian, but what I find myself wishing to do more of is to mobilize and serve my community, which (as laid out in the constitution I know well) is the very role of Vice President.

## Candidate: Vivien Wang



Community is the foundation to any lasting organization. As a relatively small state in the JCL, MDJCL cannot prove community through sheer size; our strength has always come from the quality of our community instead. If elected, I want to build on this community through fostering spirit. Leading up to Nationals, I'd create and distribute spirit guides with chants, theme ideas, and reminders to make sure that participation is effortless, regardless of how big or experienced their school may be. I want every member to arrive unified and excited; to feel the confidence of knowing that they're truly a part of something. MDJCL's greatest asset has always been its people, and I want to make sure that every single one of you feels it too. The VP for you is VW!



# President



## Candidate: Johanna Pitts



Salvete, omnes! My name is Johanna, and I'm a junior at Bryn Mawr. Something I've learned from serving as the Vice President of both the BMS Classics Club and the MDJCL is that leadership manifests itself not only onstage in front of other people, but also doing the hard work behind the scenes. I volunteer creating and teaching Classics-related lessons at Govans Elementary School in Baltimore City, and this year I've taken on much of the communication that keeps our partnership running smoothly. This involves consistently contacting school officials, coordinating the schedules of volunteers and students, and carrying out my duties with a positivity that keeps people coming back. At the beginning of the year, the Govans afterschool program's leadership changed, so I had to be proactive about renewing our service through Govans and the Paideia Institute, the organization through which we volunteer. Along with maintaining correspondence with the Govans school administrators and collaborating with them to reaffirm our volunteer work, I have also created new resources to make volunteering in the Classics more accessible. For my junior Capstone project, I researched both the importance—and unfortunate decline—of accessibility to a foundational education in the Classics for elementary-aged students. To encourage students of the Classics to inspire younger learners, I created introductory lesson plans for my club (and others!) to use in the future, and am in the process of sharing them through the MDJCL website for anyone interested in a similar service project. I have enjoyed connecting my organizational skills and my passion for volunteering to my job as a service leader and Vice President. I believe that these qualities—strong communication, empathy, clarity, inclusiveness, and a willingness to put in the time to do thorough and meaningful work—are invaluable in a leader, and I hope that you will allow me to continue bringing them to the MDJCL as your President.





# Checking In...



This may be the last MDJCL Torch from me, but Summer NJCL Torch Submissions are open until May 15th at 11:59. Scan this code or visit the link to share your work or thoughts!!



Historian Ivy Carver won the NJCL Photo of the Month Contest with this photo from McLean!



## 2026 State T-shirt Design:

Congratulations to our contest winner: Morgan Kelly from EHS!



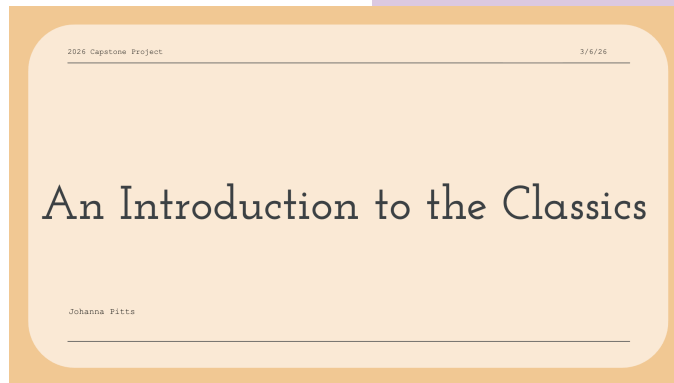
Check out our winning T-Shirt design from Morgan Kelly!



Felicem Diem  
Natalem  
MMDCCCLXXIX, Roma!



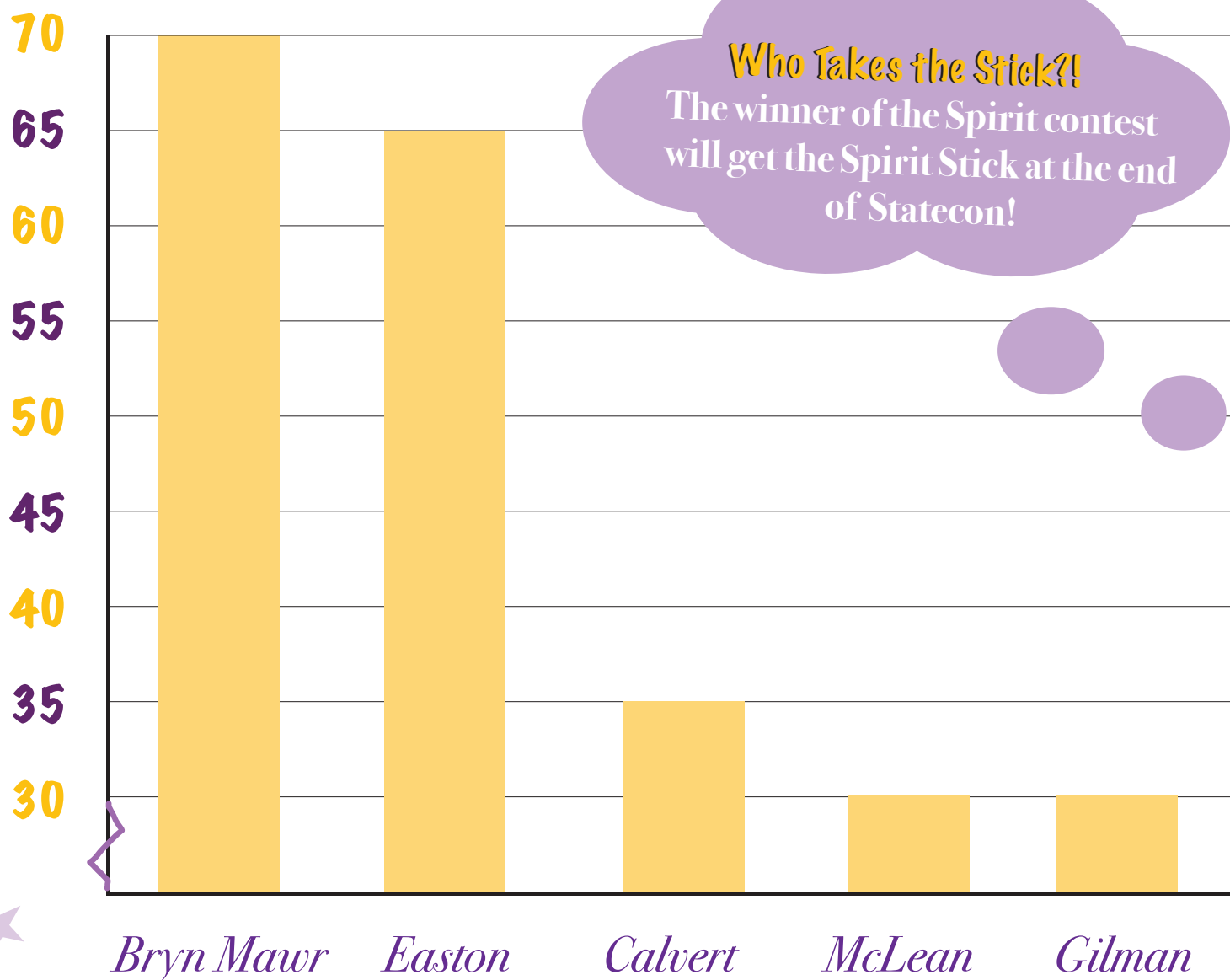
For her Capstone project, our Vice President Johanna Pitts made classics presentations to teach younger students about the Classics! You can find more about her



work on the MDJCL.org home page, where you can also check out the link to the slides!



# SPIRIT STANDINGS:



★ **20 points:** Boys Latin, Key School

★ **15 points:** Dulaney, St. Tim's, Country School Loyola, School Without Walls

*SPECIAL FEATURE:*

# *National Convention!*

Are you also starting to get the end-of-year MDJCL blues? Wondering what in the world you'll do with your summer in the absence of semi-regular Certamen events? Or do you want to try something new and bond with some of the best people out there? Well, maybe you should consider attending Nationals!

## *What is it?*

The NJCL Convention is a week-long convention about all things Classics! Similarly to Statecon, it has ludi, colloquia, arts contests, and certamen, though a much larger scale - how exciting!!



## *When/Where is it?*

July 20th-26th at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana!

**\*Note: the official dates are July 21st-26th, but we typically do early arrival!**



**FAX!**



**Interest Form**



**NJCL Guide**



# 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Junior Classical League Convention

July 21-26, 2026 | Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

***Concordia parvae res crescunt.  
In harmony, small things grow.  
Sallust, Bellum Iugurthinum 10.6***

#### Agenda and Convention events

**Reese Lay**, NJCL President | [president@njcl.org](mailto:president@njcl.org)

**Elizabeth Bouis**, Convention Advisor | [convention@njcl.org](mailto:convention@njcl.org)

#### University and Local Matters

**Lisanne Thorpe**, Convention Co-Chair | [njcl2026@ijcl.org](mailto:njcl2026@ijcl.org)

**Jeremy Walker**, Convention Co-Chair | [njcl2026@ijcl.org](mailto:njcl2026@ijcl.org)

Registration  
Opens  
March 1, 2026

Cost: \$950



#### FOR REGISTRATION

Jenni Moss, Convention Registrar  
[mossj@adclassics.org](mailto:mossj@adclassics.org)  
P. 513-896-2500

#### NATIONAL JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

PO BOX 13030  
Hamilton, OH 45013  
P. 513-896-2500 | [njcl.org](http://njcl.org)

#### MORE INFORMATION

[njcl.org/NJCL-  
Convention/2026-  
NJCL-Convention](http://njcl.org/NJCL-Convention/2026-NJCL-Convention)



# *Farewell Letters*



## **From Johanna Pitts, Vice President:**

Salvete omnes! If I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you this year, maybe you've seen someone short who was wearing an MDJCL pin and running around at various events. That was probably me! Yes, I did a lot of running around like a chicken with its head cut off, but what did I actually do as your Vice President? I'll give you a quick recap of my work this year so you hopefully don't think I was asleep on the job :)

An unspoken (by which I mean not explicitly outlined in the MDJCL Constitution!) job of the MDJCL Vice President is running the spirit and service activities of the Maryland delegation at the National JCL Convention. This past summer, I led Zoom meetings and made way too many Google Docs, spreadsheets, and forms to introduce spirit and service to newcomers and plan out our week at convention. I organized the Maryland and Arizona contributions to the national service project, mediated discussions about which pop culture references to include in our Roll Call, finalized our coordinated outfits and props list, and helped make a seating chart to ensure that people would get to know each other (and also get along!) on the long trek to Ohio. While at Nats, I wrote and choreographed spirit chants themed to each day of the convention and taught them to the MaryZonaVaDC delegates each night alongside my spirit co-leader, Sophia! Each night, we would film our chants and send them to the NJCL Vice President, and at each General Assembly, we would lead those chants for our delegation. I also attended every service project meeting and thoroughly harassed (encouraged!) others to do the same. Although we did not win spirit in the end, we placed very highly on multiple occasions thanks to all of our late nights planning and the effort each and every delegate put into their creativity, collaboration, and bringing their spirit A-game!



During the school year, my role has been a little different, but I've had a ton of fun leading spirit and service on the state level for the MDJCL. My main goals for this year were to incorporate more opportunities at JCL events to participate in spirit and service projects, update the MDJCL website with spirit/service information and resources, and facilitate opportunities for JCL-ers to connect and engage with the wider community outside of our regular monthly events. Although not everything went exactly as planned, I am proud to say that with the support of the MDJCL board, I was able to help set these things into motion!



First, an ENORMOUS thank you to the glorious Magistra Kunz. Without her (and her amazing new website design!), I would not have been able to share the new spirit section (spirit standings, MDJCL chants, an upcoming service resource, and more!) or make other random suggestions about updating the website. Definitely check it out when you get the chance!

I was also really excited to make our spirit competition a little more of a larger presence in MDJCL culture. Ever since going to Nats 2024, I wanted to bring some of that energy and enthusiasm back to the state level! We started the year off strong at UMD with a group-chant-improvising icebreaker, a spirit prize at UMD, and we instituted monthly art competitions for the school year. This was great preparation for both StateCon and Nats for anyone interested in going!



Finally, a couple of VP-related highlights of this year (from my perspective):

1. At Nats: Connecting with other Vice Presidents from across the country during the 2nd VP workshop, leading the chaos that was spirit at each General Assembly, and attending the three service project events!
2. Remember that holiday card writing service project from Saturnalia? I was able to sort through all of them, reach out to multiple retirement homes and initiatives to find a place to donate them, and end up connecting in person with the Keswick Multi-Care Center to deliver them before Christmas to those who did not receive cards. So, thank you to everyone who wrote a card; you made someone's holiday!
3. Getting to spend the year with all of you! I'm so grateful for the MDJCL and all of the passion and drive each JCL-er brings to the community. This year has been such

a wonderful year for me to meet new faces, reconnect with old friends, and look forward to the future of the MDJCL. So thank you for trusting me as your VP, and thank you for an amazing year of spirit, service, and community!


Plurimas gratias vobis ago,  
Johanna Pitts



## From Bani Gourab, Editor:



Salvete omnes—or, to echo the beginning of this month’s Torch, salvete amici! I can’t promise that I’ll say as much as Johanna, not because I don’t have as many words about the MDJCL as the number of kisses Catullus wants from Lesbia, but because I feel like I have too many to write them all down (and in the interest of saving paper when this goes to print). In case we haven’t talked and you don’t know who in the world this is, I’ve been the person in charge of making the MDJCL Torch for every event! Including this one, I have made six Torches from UMD until today, and it’s been fun watching each edition evolve as I’ve tried my best to give them their own distinct color palettes and personalities. No two events are the same, and no two Torches are the same—the MDJCL is constantly changing and adapting, and it’s wonderful!

 I can ramble as much as I want to—and I have in every introduction—but your submissions are what really make the Torch special. I’ve been so overjoyed to see your photographs, essays, 3D album covers, logo designs, opinions, fun facts, memes, and everything in between, and I can only hope that I have presented them in a way that feels true to you. This year, I tried to expand the Torch’s reach and appeal by working with Johanna (VP) and Ivy (Archivist/Historian) to give out spirit points for submissions and advertise deadlines on the MDJCL Instagram, @maryland\_jcl. I still think there’s a long way to go in terms of publicity, especially when it comes to reaching out to people who may not have social media, but this year has been a good start!

I also wanted to highlight Magistra Kunz for posting each and every edition

of the Torch on mdjcl.org under Archive / Torches. She's done incredible work on the website this year, and it looks absolutely stunning! If you see her, you should definitely compliment her on it—such a transformation would shock Ovid. But genuinely, thank you so much Magistra Kunz for everything you've done to connect the MDJCL and for always being a friendly face at events :)



Additionally, thank you to the entire MDJCL board for putting up with my constant questions, crazy schedule, and tendency to unmute too early on Zoom (I promise it's because of the delay). When I had the idea for a virtual Game Night, they not just entertained it, but immediately started trying to figure out how to make it happen. We did end up hosting a Game Night/Q&A Session, and though it wasn't perfect, I hope what we learned from it can improve any virtual events that may be hosted in the future. You've been such a lovely group of people to work with, and this past year has been amazing!

Finally, I say this at the end of every Torch, but THANK YOU! Whether you've submitted an artwork, voted in the bracket (congratulations to the Fama Monster, though I wish Aeneas had placed higher...), been a devout reader, or haven't looked at a single page until now, thank you for being part of the MDJCL and making this incredible organization what it is. It's super cliché, but I hope that you've enjoyed this year of the Torch (or, as I like to call it, "the Yorch") just as much as I have enjoyed making it. While I won't miss my Adobe Illustrator program crashing before I can click the save button, I will miss the work. To the next Editor, you have a great job—I'm sure you'll crush it!!

Thank you again for reading (and maybe even enjoying) these six Torches, despite the occasional font change or spelling error. It's been a fun year!

Curate ut valeatis,  
Bani Gourab



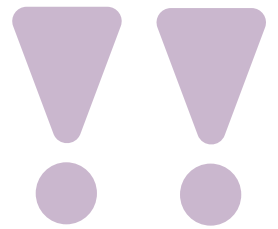
**\*\*Post scriptum: Remember to submit to the NJCL Summer Torch by May 15th!! The information is in this Torch, on the NJCL website, and on the NJCL Instagram, @nationaljcl!!**

SAVE THE DATE: ★

# National Convention!

Monday, July 20th - Sunday, July 26th ★

★  
**THANK YOU**



To everyone who submitted to the Torch this year! You can find all of the Torches on [mdjcl.org](http://mdjcl.org) under the [Archive](#) → [Torches](#) page. Scan this QR code to check them out!



See You Next Year!