



The MDJCL

TORCH

March 2026 - McLean Open Certamen!



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*It's that time
of year...*



INTRODUCTION:

Et Tu, Brute?

Salvete amici, and welcome to our penultimate Certamen event of the year! Today's Certamen is a bit different from our other ones... here is a quick rundown of how Open Certamen works:

No Schools!

Instead of playing for your school, teams will be mixed up! You'll still be in one of the three divisions (beginner, intermediate, or advanced), but you'll also be in a group with MDJCLers from across the state. Open Certamen is a great time to meet new people, so don't forget to introduce yourself!

Pop-Culture?

You might notice that there aren't as many of your favorite grammar questions this time around. That's by design! Most of the questions in Open Certamen are pop-culture or entertainment-based in some way.

Relax!

Because you're not proudly competing for your chapter's honor, Open Certamen tends to be a bit more laid-back than a usual Certamen event. Now, this doesn't necessarily mean less hyper-buzzing...

All that's to say, there is no time like the present to make some new friends! Why not ask one of your teammates what the best Latin word is (it's caudex), or if they have any conspicuous plans on Sunday, March 15th. I know I do...

Ad Infinitum!

Event Schedule:

10:30-10:30

Registration (Main Entrance)

10:30-11:00

Introduction and Icebreaker
(All-Purpose Room/APR)

11:00-12:15

Certamen

Beginner: Room 416, 418
Intermediate: 407, 408
Advanced: 403, 404, 410

12:15-1:00

Lunch and Elections Overview (APR)

1:00-2:00

Gladiator Battles (Outdoors)
OR the Great Fire of Rome (Room 410)

2:00-2:30

Awards and Farewell (APR)

Checking In...

Gilman Lupercalia Certamen Winners:



@maryland_jcl

Beginner

1st: Easton High School

2nd: Calvert

3rd: The Key School

Intermediate

1st: School Without Walls B

2nd: The Country School

3rd: School Without Walls A

Advanced

1st: Bryn Mawr

2nd: Easton High School

3rd: School Without Walls

Check Out the 2026
NJCL Spring Torch Here!



And be on the look out
for information about a
virtual games +
elections Q&A night
sometime in late March....

MDJCL T-Shirt Contest:

1.

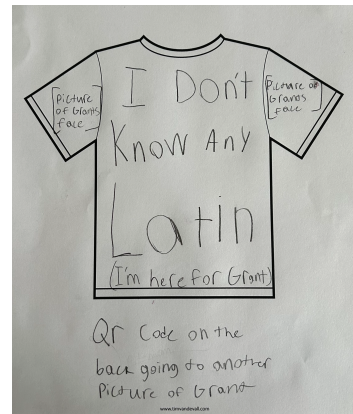


All designed by your fellow MDJCLers, one of these three T-Shirt designs will be the one we get at State Convention!

Vote Here!!

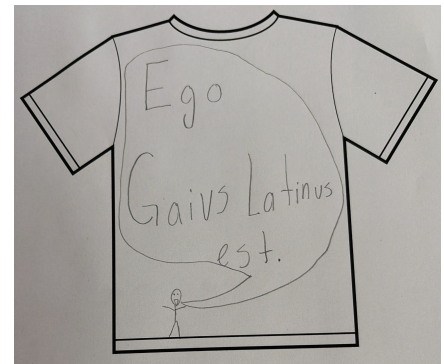


2.

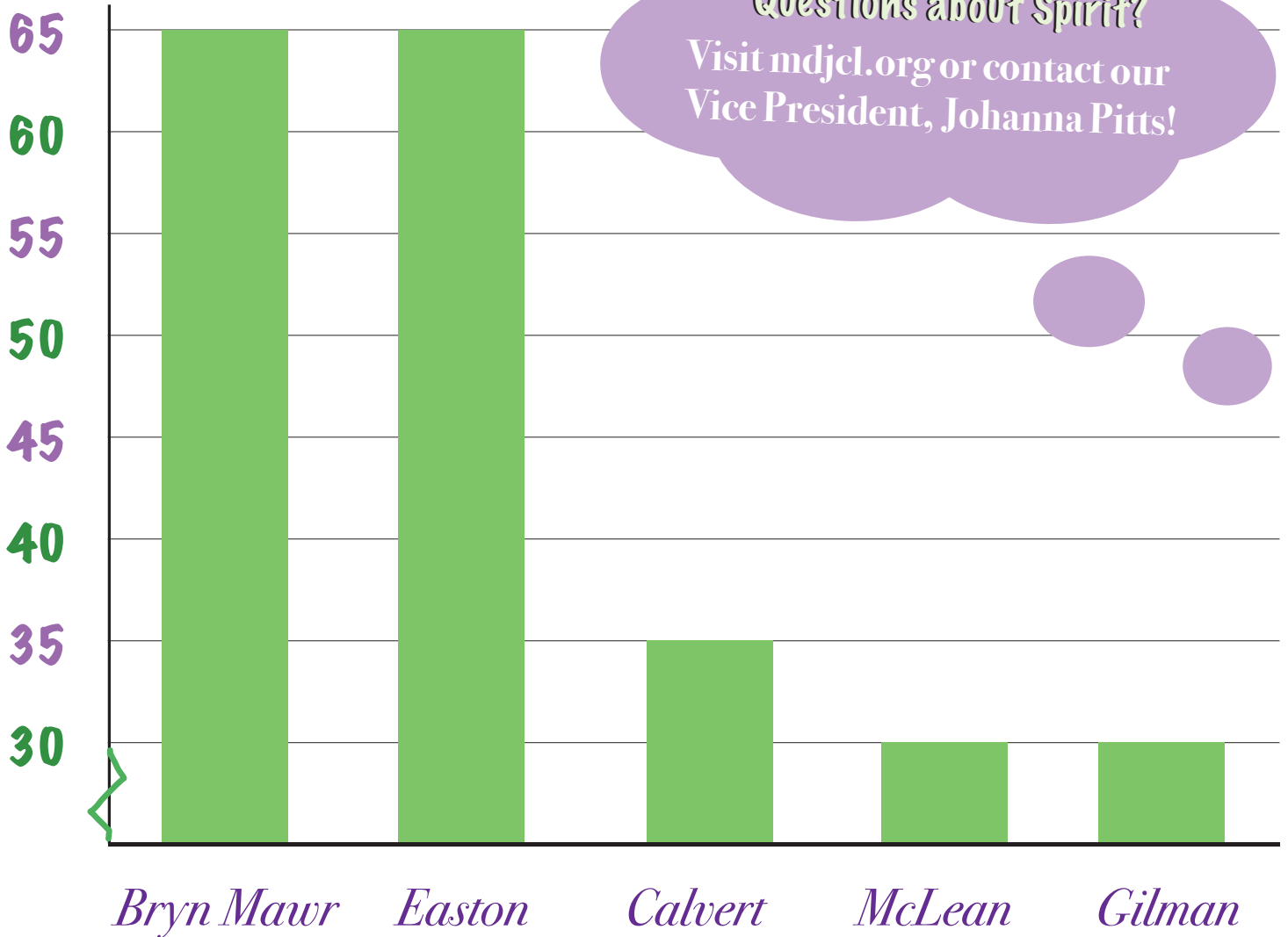


Honorable Mentions

3.



SPIRIT STANDINGS:



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

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

"Let's Not Love" (Back Album Cover)



01 Love in the Jussive

02 Carmen Erroris
ft. Ovid

03 300 + 1

04 Worst Regards
ft. Furius and Aurellus

05 Of the Careless

06 To My Critics

07 When You're With Him

08 (Oxy)Moronic

09 Ab Catulle



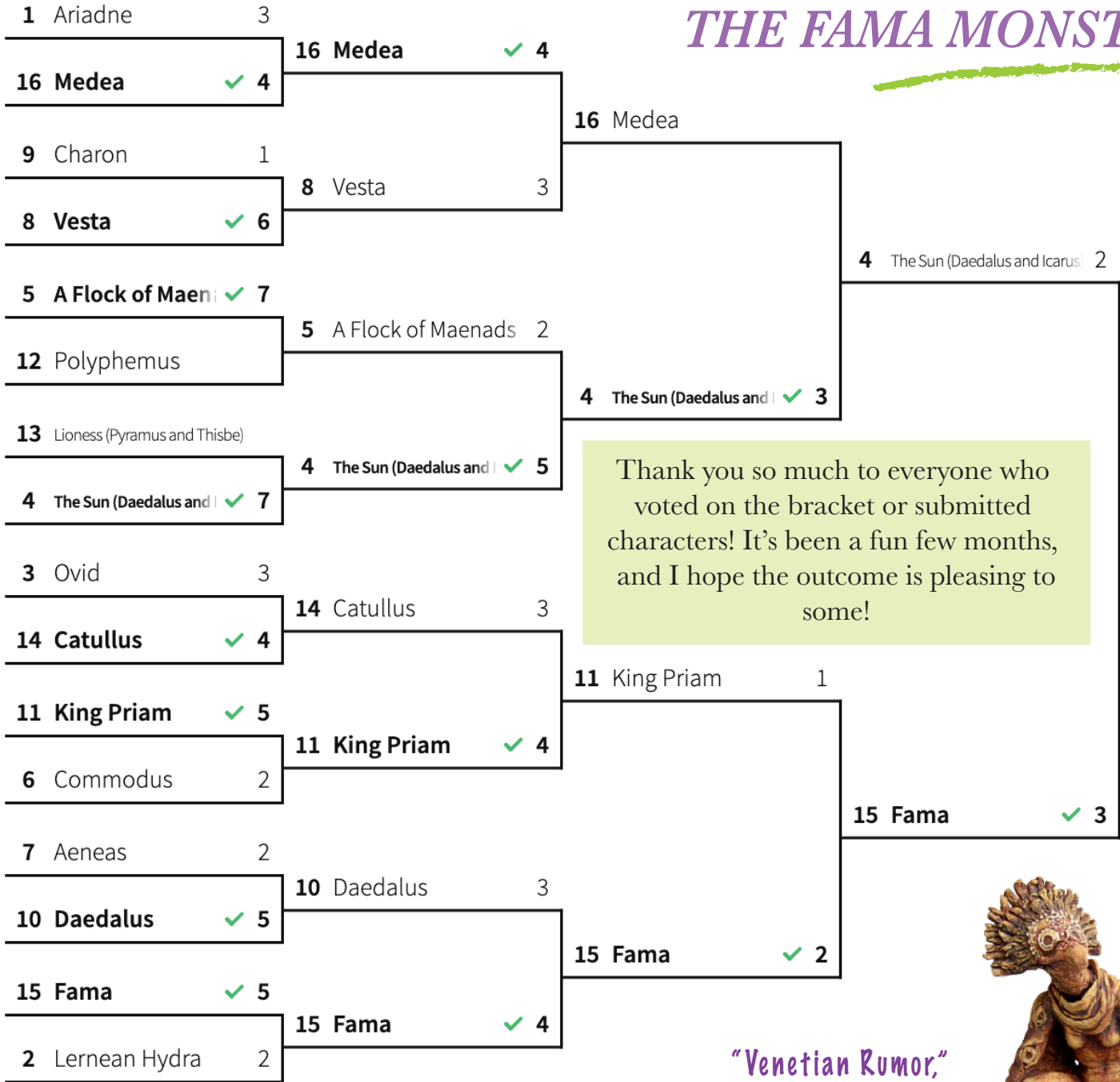
05 08 11 11 12 16 51 85

Want to see more?
Check out the December Torch!

Mythological Characters and Creatures Bracket!

THE FINAL ROUND - and the ultimate victor is...

THE FAMA MONSTER



Thank you so much to everyone who voted on the bracket or submitted characters! It's been a fun few months, and I hope the outcome is pleasing to some!

"Venetian Rumor,"
Sculpture by Lindsey M Dillon

lindseymdillon.com



SPECIAL FEATURE:

Constitutional Amendments

The **MDJCL Constitution** is an integral part of the functioning of the organization. It not only dictates the positions and duties of the board, but also the process for voting on amendments, what happens in a state of emergency, and what it means to be a member of the MDJCL. Every year prior to State Convention, members have the chance to **propose amendments to the Constitution** if there is anything they would like to fix or change.

Currently, we have **two amendments** submitted to be voted on at State Convention. While there may still be more on the way, it won't hurt to familiarize yourself with them now to start thinking about how your chapter is going to vote!

And just a reminder: if you write an amendment, submit it via the Google Form by **March 28th, 2026**. Amendments must receive a 2/3 majority to pass.

If you have any questions about amendments or the upcoming elections, please reach out to our **Parliamentarian, Caroline Makowka**. Her contact information as well as the Constitution itself can be found, as always, on mdjcl.org. Happy reading!

Elections:

With State Convention just under two months away, elections are ever looming!

While we don't have all the details yet, check the states information packet, the Campaign Corner, and the website for any upcoming information on campaign deadlines!

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.

Officer Positions

Current:

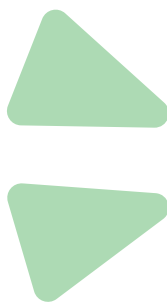
Article 4, Sections 7 and 8.

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.

Working on an Amendment
of your Own?

Submit it here!

DEADLINE: 3/28

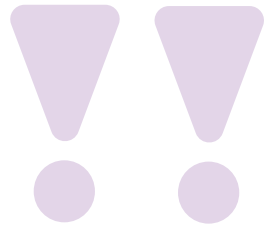


SAVE THE DATE:

State Convention!

Saturday, April 25th 2026

THANK YOU



To everyone who submitted to the March Torch! Submissions for April will open soon, and once they do you can scan **this** QR code to get to the form!!



You can also access the link through the **MDJCL Instagram** (once it's posted) or at **mdjcl.org** under the **Archive** → **Torches** page!

See You at States!