

The Torch: NC

Anno Domini MMXXIV

Edition Veris: Edited by Crow Niess

Salvete NCJCL,

It is with a heavy heart that I deliver this final message to you all, as the NCJCL 2023-2024 President. I hope that like myself, all of you are gearing up for what is shaping up to be a State Convention for the ages.

This past year as President has been an incredible experience that I am honored to have had. I believe that my journey through JCL shows that anyone can start their love of the Classics at any time. My first year having any exposure to the classics and taking Latin was in 8th grade, and I, like many non-JCLers, considered Latin to be an “irrelevant” and “dead” language. I had no interest in Greco-Roman history or literature and my only knowledge of mythology was from the Percy Jackson series (The Percy Jackson to JCL pipeline is real). I would be unrecognizable to my 8th grade self, as I now lead an entire state worth of amazing people all enamored by the Classics.

Therein lies the beauty of JCL. This wondrous organization does not discriminate against any, no matter their level or interest in any subject of the Classics. This is apparent in the structure of JCL, as we quite literally have something for everyone. If you have a competitive nature and a keen memory, we have Certamen and academic testing. If you have a knack for creativity and an artistic soul, we have Graphic and Creative Arts. If you have always been the most athletic kid in the room, we have Olympika. And even if you don't know what you want to do, which is the case for so many, then JCL is the perfect place to try—and fail—before finding something that you love to do.

My heart will forever be with JCL, and it is for that reason that it is so bittersweet to leave it. However, before I leave, I would like to impart some wisdom I have picked up from my many years not just in JCL but in life. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to make lasting bonds with other people. Humans thrive on social connection, and I don't know where I'd be without the many friends that I've made in and out of JCL. To be truthful, the only reason I knew that the NCJCL board existed was because a friend encouraged me to run for a position on it, and joining it has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. It can be scary and imposing to make new friends, or talk to people that you've never met before, but trust me, the happiness you will yield from making these bonds far outweighs the initial awkwardness.

Furthermore, do things that you don't want to do. We've all had that moment, where we consider a potential situation and we avoid it, because we are afraid of what could happen. Maybe when your sponsor asks you if you want to try out for Certamen despite really wanting to play for the team you're too nervous that you'll be made fun of if you don't make the team. My advice to you, is to go for it. Go for as many things as you can. My biggest regret throughout my middle and high school years is that I didn't take nearly as many chances as I could have, and the years passed by before I realized. The only thing you should be afraid of is not being able to do something because you were too nervous, and missing your opportunity. JCL is the perfect place to build this skill, as there are so many different things you can try. Take a chance on yourself, and do what you don't want to do.

Finally, thank your teachers and sponsors. You might not notice it but they do A LOT for you, not just for JCL but for everything. I'm not saying that you have to buy them presents and shower them with compliments (though I'm sure they wouldn't mind). I'm saying to take notice of the hard work they put in so that you can live out your middle and high school years the best way you can and give them your thanks, because they deserve it.

To wrap up this very long farewell address, I just want to thank each and every one of you for making my presidency so special, and for allowing me to be your 2023-2024 NCJCL President. This is Nick, signing off.

Ex anima,
Nick Smemoe
NCJCL President

“I have done everything that I should, but the outcome is in the hand of fortune.”

-Nero



Schedule



March 1st

Friday, March 1st

6:00pm–8:30pm - Registration in Dining Hall

6:15pm–8:00pm - Art Registration in Library

6:00pm–9:00pm - Snack bar available in Dining Hall

6:15pm–9:00pm - Teacher Hospitality in 1st Floor Conference Room

7:00pm–8:00pm - Magister Henkle's Iron Chef in Dining Hall Kitchen

8:00pm–9:30pm - Ludi Basketball in Gym

8:45pm–10:00pm - Parliamentarian Meeting in 1st Floor PAC

Contests

6:15pm–8:30pm - Costume Contest in Holding Room 131

6:30pm–8:45pm - Dramatic Interpretation in Holding Room 130

6:45pm–9:00pm - English Oratory in Holding Room 231

Certamen

6:45pm–8:30pm - Adv. Certamen (Rooms 212, 213, 214, 215, 218)

7:00pm–8:45pm - Int. Certamen (Rooms 206, 210, 211, 225, 229)

7:15pm–9:00pm - Nov. Certamen (Rooms 228, 230, 231, 232, 233)



Schedule



March 2nd

Saturday, March 2nd

9:00am-10:00am - Registration in Dining Hall

9:00am-10:10am - Art Registration in Library

9:00am-4pm - Concession Stand in Dining Hall

9:45am-10:00am - Spirit in Gym

10:00am-10:30am - Opening Assembly in Gym*

10:30am-10:45am - Teacher Meeting in Gym

10:30am-2:00pm - Art Judging in Library

11:45am-1:45pm - Lunch

2:45pm-3:45pm - Colloquia: More Than Mythology

4:00pm-5:45pm - Awards Ceremony in Gym

Contests

10:45am-12:15am - Academic Testing (Rooms Below)

Pentathlon - 125, 126, 127

Grammar 1/2 & 1 - 128, 129

Grammar 2 - 130, 131

Adv. Grammar - 215, 218

Roman Life and History - 212, 213, 214

Mythology - 206, 210, 211, 225

12:30-2:30 - Latin Sight Recitation in Holding Room 130

1:30pm-3:30pm - Olympika on Track

1:30pm-2:30pm - Impromptu Art in Marcia Hall

2:00pm-3:30pm - Skit on 1st Floor PAC

*See itinerary for song and creed



Schedule



March 2nd Cont

Certamen

12:30pm-2:30pm - Certamen Round 3

Novice in Rooms 228, 230, 231, 232, 233

Intermediate in Rooms 206, 210, 211, 225, 228

Advanced in Rooms 212, 213, 214, 215, 218

2:45pm-3:45pm - Certamen Semi-Finals

Middle School in Rooms 228, 229, 230

Novice in Rooms 211, 212, 213

Intermediate in Rooms 206, 210, 225

Advanced in Rooms 214, 215, 218

6:00pm-7:30pm - Certamen Finals in Gym!

After the finals, everyone is invited for music and dancing,
as well as reading the sweepstakes winners.

Nationals

Summer MMXXIV

Amicae, amici, and amica, this year, nationals is taking place close to home, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee! Spanning from July 22 to July 27, enjoy this life-changing opportunity to be surrounded by Latin students from all over the country, compete in academics and ludi, and to have the time of your life. There are many scholarships to Nationals available under njcl.org/Students/Scholarships/NJCL-Scholarships if you want to go, but aren't financially able. The close location this year means low travel costs-- capitalize while you can!

Multa, quae impedita natura sunt, consilio expediuntur.

"Many things which are naturally difficult are solved by ingenuity."

Livy, Ab Urbe Condita, XXV.11



Competition Winners

All victors are listed from first to fifth (unless there were less than five entries, in which case they are simply in descending order)

Modern Meme

Lower

James Sommerville
Holland McTyeire
Dennis Greenway
Noah Rooker
Walter Isard

Middle

Grayson Loeffler

Upper

Eithan Ackerman
Cody Boyles
Lainey Blackwood
Eloise Wescott
Ash Daigle

Poetry

Lower

Stephen Tian
Holland McTyeire
Keira Cookson

Middle

Nicholas Willet
Richard Shan
Grayson Loeffler
Miami McConaughy
Chloe Cookson

Upper

Grace Finn
Sydney Evans
Alana Shull
Lainey Blackwood
Elias Gordon

Creative Writing

Lower

Kenley Bingel
Max Alviani
Sydni Adams
Dennis Greenway
Emma Bass

Middle

Lyndsy Song
Chloe Cookson
Zane Smith

Upper

Crow Niess
Lily Krupa

Winners can be accessed on the digital version of *The Torch*.

Underlined names are hyperlinked to the author's piece

Virtual Models

Stuart Christhilf
Richard Shan
Colosseum (Name Not Provided)
Thermae (Name Not Provided)

Multimedia

Jewel Lewis
Chloe Cookson
Emilie Frieson
Cameron Aho
Magnolia Trogdon

Competition Winners

Modern Myth (A)

Lower

Luke Mysyck
Avery Martinez
Sophie Dziurzynski
Alex Carreno
Naomi Runkle

Middle

Chloe Cookson
David Vaughn
Jolin Cheng
Wilson Zheng
Wright Lawrence

Upper

Sydney Evans
Lydia Muniz
Elias Gordon

Modern Myth (C)

Lower

Archer Taylor
Jane Armstrong

Middle

Carston Flowers
Coleman Casey
Porter Hecimovich
Nicholas Willett
Zane Smith

Upper

Crow Niess
Lily Krupa

Modern Myth (B)

Lower

Lilyann Song
Ethan Brainard
Annabel Haynes
Claire Velthuisen

The Story of Music and Power (Name Not Provided)

Middle

Zoey Sideris
Aaliyah Montgomery

Upper

Daniel Kent



Election Info



Dear JCLers,

In the wise words of Jeff Probst, "It's time to vote." On Friday during the State Convention, all amendment voting and state board elections will occur. In the evening, I will be hosting a parliamentarian meeting where I invite any and all JCLers to come and listen to this year's proposed amendments along with meeting our 2024-2025 NCJCL state board candidates. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to candidates talk about their platforms and ask them questions about their plans for office. Remember: for your chapter to get two votes in the election and on amendments, two voting delegates from your chapter **MUST** be present at the parliamentarian meeting.

At the parliamentarian meeting, I will do a roll call of all schools registered for convention to see how many votes each school will get based on their presence at the meeting. At the end of the meeting, I will share a QR code that will lead to a google form where voting delegates will have two hours after the end of the parliamentarian meeting to fill out their ballots. The results of the state board election will be announced on Saturday at the closing ceremony.

If you have any questions, feel free to find me in the hallways today or shoot me an email at chloe.cookson26@thalesacademy.org. Have fun today everyone and see you at the parliamentarian meeting.

Cheers

Chloe Cookson (2023-24 NCJCL Parli)



Farewells



From Your M/MXXIII-IV Officers

Salvete omnes! It's been a gift and an honor to be your 2023-24 Editor. I've had a blast becoming familiar both with the process and love for *The Torch*, as well as familiar with my fellow JCLers. I'm so grateful I got to hold this position, and thank you all.

Valete,

Crow Niess

It is with much sadness that I leave my position as NCJCL parliamentarian this year. I can still remember the unparalleled joy I felt while I was being sworn in as parliamentarian. I was so nervous at the time, yet so excited at the prospect that I would be able to leave a positive mark upon JCL. While there was a steep learning curve to being in office, the mentorship of various veteran state board members and friendships I have made along the way have made the whole process worth it. I will be forever honored that y'all elected me into this amazing position. Thank y'all again for this life-changing opportunity!

Valete!

Chloe Cookson

Hey y'all! This is your Middle School Representative Lainey Crisp sadly saying goodbye to the 2023-2024 JCL year. This has been such a fun year and I hope everyone can say the same. See y'all next year! Adios!

-Lainey Crisp