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FORUM FACTORUM

VOLUME LI
FALL ISSUE



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Quid est in nomine?

The name *Forum Factorum* means “Market of Things Done,” or, less literally, “Forum of Achievements.” Just over fifty years ago, this publication was created to give JCLers an open space to display our talents, reflect on our experiences, and connect as a community. This year’s submissions, ranging from myth-inspired artwork to written accounts of the NJCL Convention, certainly fill those roles—but I hope that, over the season, this *Forum* will grow into something more.

Every year, a new editor takes on the responsibility of making the *Forum Factorum* a reality, bringing with them fresh perspectives and ideas. During my time on the board, I want the *Forum* to truly become a place where every student has a chance to shine, showcasing art and writing from all chapters, grades, and Latin levels. Whether it’s to earn points for your chapter, share something you’ve learned about the classical world, or simply contribute a fun puzzle for others to enjoy, I hope you’ll all join me in making the *Forum Factorum* a publication “discipulis et a discipulis”—for students, by students.

Abigail Lonergan
MassJCL Publications Editor

Acknowledgements to the following for their contributions to this issue:

Sarah Fromm	Evan Yuan	Lexi Pettine
Joseph Hemr	Johan Coisman	Lara Sahagun
Zuhaib Syed	Aahil Hasan	Chloe Silbermann

Photographs by Chloe Silbermann and Ms. Moguel

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Salvēte, MassJCL!

Now that the summer has passed, I am eager to begin another year of JCL with you all—and I hope you are just as excited as I am. The 2025–2026 school year will bring its own set of unique JCL memories, and I look forward to hearing about particularly special moments from each of you throughout the year. As we preview what’s to come, I want to provide some information about our two upcoming events for this fall: Kickoff and Classics Day.

We begin the MassJCL season with Kickoff, which will be held on Saturday, October 25th from 9 AM to 3 PM at Winchester High School. I view Kickoff as a great opportunity to get a taste of different facets of JCL. You might take part in a low-stakes round of Street Certamen, engage in Gladiator Fights, or even attend a Praetoria workshop to learn about JCL leadership.

Just a short while after Kickoff comes Classics Day, hosted this year on Thursday, November 20 at Boston University. At Classics Day, you will have the opportunity to attend lectures from a variety of Boston-area professors and PhD students. This year’s theme is “Legacy: Classics and Modern Times,” centering around connections between ancient cultures and the world of today. With hundreds of Latin students attending, the event is an exciting way to see how others are studying and approaching the Classics.

Finally, I encourage you all to take a look at this year’s Contest Booklet (linked on massjcl.org), where all of this year’s competitions are outlined. There are a few fall-specific contests, including the Monthly Website or Club Highlights Contests, to which you might consider submitting.

I look forward to a great year with you all!

Valete for now,

Tom Pogorelec
MassJCL President

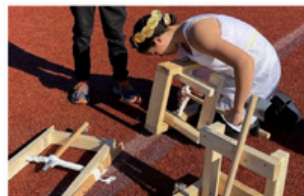
YOU ARE INVITED TO MASSJCL's



CATAPULT INTO MASSJCL!

- Praetoria Street
- Certamen Gladiator
- Fights Marshmallow
- Catapults + Worm Races

Attend symposia about
being a local officer,
managing your chapter,
MassJCL candidacy,
and more!



UBI? UBI?

Saturday, October 25; 9AM - 3PM
@ Winchester High School

On Thursday, November 20, 2025, from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, MassJCL will host its annual Classics Day at Boston University, an event aiming to bring together students in high schools throughout Massachusetts to enrich their knowledge of the Classics. There will be a variety of workshops led by professors, graduate students, and other experts in the classics, according to the theme “Legacy: Classics and Modern Times”—how does the Classical World continue to influence contemporary culture, language, governance, philosophy, literature, and more? Many consider Latin and the Classics to be relics of a distant past, obsolete in our modern landscape; however, the bounds of Antiquity stretch thousands of years and connect to our world in ways we may not even realize. Cost is \$20 per student and free for sponsors.

at BOSTON UNIVERSITY

MASSJCL presents...

on November 20th, 2025

CLASSICS DAY 2025

THEME: **Legacy: Classics and Modern Times**



ALL ARE
WELCOME - NO
BACKGROUND
IN CLASSICS
NEEDED!

9:30AM TO 2:30PM
AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

WHEN? NOVEMBER 20
COST? \$20, FREE FOR SPONSORS

Is Your Latin Club Fundraising?

We know that many of our local chapters in Massachusetts have big plans for the year—and that many of them are fundraising by selling merch. To support our chapters, we've decided to showcase some of your fantastic designs on the MassJCL website. You can check them out at:

<https://www.massjcl.org/local-chapters/>

If you would like your Latin Club's merch to be included on this page, please email Tech Coordinator Johan Coisman at: webmaster@massjcl.org



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5 BOARD 6



TOM POGORELEC, PRESIDENT

Roxbury Latin

"Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?"

What I bring to the board: My love for honorary Roman cognomina
Most looking forward to: Kickoff—I can't wait for the gladiator fights and for the JCL season to officially start!

LARA SAHAGUN, 1ST VP

Noble & Greenough

"Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas"

What I bring to the board: I love mythology, philosophy, and linguistics, and enjoy tracking the progression of words from Vulgar Latin into French

Most looking forward to: Classics Day!



LEXI PETTINE, 2ND VP

Rising Tide

"Ad astra per aspera"

What I bring to the board: SPIRIT!

Most looking forward to: Service events and all the MassJCL spirit

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5 BOARD 6



RIYA JAIN, SECRETARY

Noble & Greenough

"Ars gratia artis"

What I bring to the board: I've read a lot of Catullus and learned about his witty style of writing

Most looking forward to: Connecting with students from all across Massachusetts and playing States Certamen for the last time!

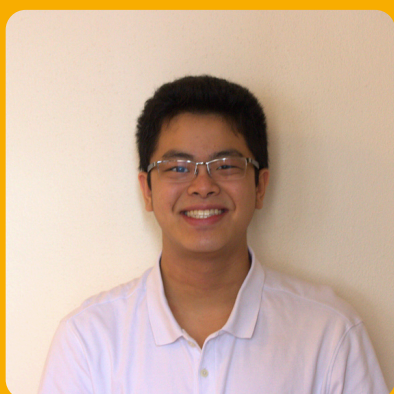
AAHIL HASAN, TREASURER

Shrewsbury

"Aut Caesar aut nihil"

What I bring to the board: Creativity and keeping the chicken funky!

Most looking forward to: Fundraising throughout the year and bringing back some old traditions



ANDY YU, PARLIAMENTARIAN

Boston Latin School

"Forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit"

What I bring to the board: I've received a lot of support from my chapter to run for office, which I hope to pass on to others this year!

Most looking forward to: Certamen, meeting more MassJCLers, and an exciting election next year

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5 BOARD 6



CHLOE SILBERMANN, HISTORIAN

Winchester

"Odi et amo"

What I bring to the board: A love for Pompeii (shout-out Cambridge Latin Course)!

Most looking forward to: Taking pictures at MassJCL events this year and putting together the scrapbook :)

ABIGAIL LONERGAN, EDITOR

Sharon

"Bene legere saecula vincere"

What I bring to the board: Copyediting skills and a Duolingo addiction

Most looking forward to: Getting my chapter involved in every MassJCL event this year



JOHAN COISMAN, TECH CO

Weston

"Aut viam inveniam aut faciam"

What I bring to the board: I can procrastinate for hours and still somehow meet deadlines

Most looking forward to: Expanding the Weston Latin Club to include our high school

NATIONAL CONVENTION IN REVIEW

Chloe Silbermann, Winchester High School

This year's National Convention was a success on many levels. MassJCLers won awards in all kinds of contests, forged bonds with other states, raised money, and learned about the ancient world through Colloquia, Certamen, Agon, testing, graphic arts, and more.

Monday: After the first general assembly, activities started off with Olympika Swim, followed by the first contest session. The afternoon also saw the first Colloquia sessions, with topics ranging from Roman handwriting to indigenous ceremonial sites in Ohio. In the evening, Certamen players fought through their first round; later, the night saw the release of the essay contest prompt, the team trivia contest, and the Pandora's breakout box event.

Tuesday: The morning began with Olympika Track & Field and Ludi Chess. After lunch, the second assembly kicked off the first day of Spirit! The afternoon was packed with Ludi Kickball, English Oratory, Agora, and more. It was also the first night of the Certamen World Series, where Massachusetts teachers and SCLers competed in both classical topics and pop culture.

Wednesday: JCLers rose bright and early for the 7:30 marathon and third contest session. The morning continued with Ludi Chess, the service project, Sight Latin, and the Meet the Candidates event. That day's assembly was special for MassJCL: Mr. Howard was presented with his Silver Bowl award for attending 20 NJCL Conventions! The evening brought Ludi Volleyball,, the costume contest, and Impromptu Art. Later in the night, MassJCLers competed in Agon and attended the "Light Up the Sky" dance.

Thursday: Events started with Ludi Ultimate Frisbee and Contest Session IV. It was a big day for elections—the Candidates' Open Forum took place before the voting fellowship, where MassJCLers discussed candidates for national office. Also that morning were Dramatic Interpretation, more Colloquia, and the second session of the service project. After Silent Spirit, contest results were reported, Silver Bowls were presented, and our very own Olivia Chen was announced as the new national editor! The day concluded with Certamen semifinals and That's Entertainment.



Friday: Ludi Soccer was followed by the eight o'clock awards assembly. Open Certamen started shortly after; at eleven, JCLers watched all three final rounds of Competitive Certamen with bated breath. In the afternoon, Convention wrapped up with the last Colloquia, the Toga Parade, and the last general assembly. At night, the World Series held its last rounds and JCLers attended their last fellowship.

Throughout the convention, attendees exemplified this year's motto, "We learn not for school but for life," in all aspects. They demonstrated their knowledge and hard work in competition while also learning new things from games, Colloquia, and their peers. Next year's convention theme, "In harmony, small things grow," is also especially relevant to JCL. The camaraderie of conventions and other events allow relationships, knowledge, and a lifelong love for the classics to flourish.



NATIONAL ELECTIONS: OLIVIA4EDITOR



Congratulations to Olivia Chen of Boston Latin School, our new NJCL Publications Editor! Read on for an interview reflecting on her campaign and goals for the future.

*The Fall Torch is now available at
<https://joom.ag/TSwd>*

*Subscribe to future issues at
<https://www.njcl.org/Students/TORCH-US>*

Interview conducted by Lara Sahagun, MassJCL 1st VP

LS: Can you describe your experience with MassJCL? How did you start?

OC: I was the BLS Publications Editor. Before taking on that role, I was interested in both the historian and editor roles, but I ultimately chose the editor role because of my passion for writing . . . The following year, though I enjoyed my term as local editor, I wanted to try something new, so I went for the state historian position. It was fun to be the historian, taking pictures and creating the scrapbook, but I wanted to fulfill my writing and design passion, so I decided to run for NJCL Editor.

LS: What is your favorite part of the Classics?

OC: The bonds I made and the amazing people that I met both at Nationals, States, and other MassJCL events. Knowing that I'm a part of this huge and welcoming community [has] enhanced my experience with the Classics.

LS: Favorite thing about the upcoming Torch issue?

OC: I created an Activities & Advice corner where JCLers can engage with the *Torch* and ask any questions they're curious about.

LS: What first drew you to the office of NJCL Editor?

OC: I was deciding between two national offices, but ultimately, I ran for editor because I was passionate about the responsibilities. I also look up to Jenny Chen, another BLS graduate and the NJCL Editor two years ago, and I was inspired by the *Torch* [editions] she made; when I saw them, I was like, "That's so cool!"

LS: How is the election process different at the national versus the state level?

OC: For the state level, it's mainly one day of campaigning, during which events are going on; for Nationals, it's spread out over the course of three days. The third G.A. speech is the main difference. At Nationals, you give it to state your accomplishments and plans, while at States, it's more one direct pitch.

LS: What was the biggest challenge for your campaign?

OC: There was no printing service that JCLers could access at the Miami University, but luckily one candidate's dad was able to go to a second location to print our materials and give it to us the next day.

LS: What are you looking forward to accomplishing as NJCL Editor?

OC: I want to publish all four issues of the *Torch* this year. I also want to create a fifth one with the incoming officer next fall. In addition, I want to maintain connectivity with state and local officers.

LS: What advice do you have for young classicists who want to run for national office in the future?

OC: I would encourage all JCLers to run for national office if they think they are ready to handle the responsibility that comes with being an NJCL officer. Also, look at the Campaign Corner made by the 2024-2025 NJCL Parliamentarian so you can get a good idea of what the role entails . . . Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

SPIRIT

Lexi Pettine, Rising Tide Charter Public School

MassJCL placed third overall in National Spirit, dominating the competition one funky chicken at a time. MA did not come to play; everyone, every day, was bringing their A-game. From silent or propless to cheering our hearts out, each small victory led us to the prize. This year, Massachusetts competed in the Large State Division, with our main competition being Georgia and Ohio. Let's go on a "spiritual" journey to see how we secured our victory.

On Tuesday, MassJCL showed up loud and proud, decked out in our state T-shirts (designed by Sophia Kowalczyk of Boston Latin School.) We arrived at the Arena with gold balloons spelling out "MassJCL," matching shirts, light-up glasses, and glowsticks. We cheered with our whole hearts for all fifteen minutes of Spirit, from "Chowda" to "Paul Revere." All of that hard work paid off, bringing us to a third place win for the day and earning us some cool heart-shaped glasses.

Next was Propless Spirit. The theme for the day was "What's Purple and Gold and Lives in Ohio?" MassJCL wore purple shirts and gold bandanas. We also introduced our Spirit MVP, singling out one person who cheered the most enthusiastically. We shook our cabooses as hard as we could and yelled to the top of the arena. Our third place prize for the day was a stuffed animal and a bubble wand.

The third day's theme was "Just Chillin'"—it was also the Silent Spirit day. We came to the arena dressed in all-out beach attire, but unfortunately, a lot of other states had similar ideas. We wore Hawaiian shirts, swim trunks, bikini tops, and sunglasses, and we brought beach balls and light-up pool noodles. Still, the competition had us beat, and we did not place on Thursday.

Our Silent Spirit loss had us fired up for the final day. The theme was "Romecoming." And what says hometown spirit more than our New England sports teams? MassJCL arrived in all of our Red Sox, Patriots, Celtics, and Bruins gear, ready to fight and win. We put our white togas on and brought our team posters. We got to G.A. carrying all of the props we had left over from previous days. We also had a secret weapon: "Sweet Caroline." The final day of Spirit is also Showcase Day, when each state does their Spirit one at a time, so we had one minute and thirty seconds to give it all we had left. We did all of our cheers and then joined arms for the chorus of "Sweet Caroline." This final hurrah was just what MassJCL needed, bringing us to our overall third-place triumph. Our grand prizes were a program signed by the national officers and an inflatable glitter pool tube!

AGORA

Aahil Hasan, Shrewsbury High School

This year, MassJCL sold two featured items: tote bags with the text *Rosei Equi Grex* ("Pink Pony Club") and shirts reading *Gallinarius Auriga*. We also had a fun new gimmick: anybody who sang "Pink Pony Club" or "Steve's Lava Chicken" received a discount on their respective items. Alongside classic merchandise like Cicero quote tote bags, these items raised \$1105 for a profit of \$550.



CERTAMEN

Aahil Hasan, Shrewsbury High School

At NJCL Certamen, Massachusetts teams brought fierce competition at all levels. After wiping out the competition up to finals at Novice, the Purple Team took the silver, losing to Wisconsin by 20 points. The Intermediate Team decimated everyone in their path and won finals 180-45-35 (shout-out: Meilin Sha is a Certamen WEAPON). The Advanced Purple Team managed to reach finals despite receiving an unlucky seed against the likes of Georgia, who won the tournament overall; ultimately, they lost to Virginia in Semis by only five points. As for me—not to toot my own horn, but when I accidentally signed up for Open Certamen, my team ended up winning without me ever playing. #skilled



ACADEMICS

Johan Coisman, Weston Middle School

Academic tests are at the core of many students' experience at the NJCL Convention. There are sixteen tests given in groups of four across four days—plus a seventeenth, the decathlon, for more advanced students. Each test is 100 questions long. So, if you're taking most of the tests like I did, you could be answering up to 400 questions in each two-hour session. One of my NJCL friends from Florida summed it up best: "It's like running four marathons on four consecutive days." Of course, you're not competing against everyone on each test—only students at the same level of Latin or Greek. You might be thinking that academics seem like a grind, and you wouldn't be wrong, but it's also really exciting to see how you stack up against kids from all around the country.

An interesting thing that I learned after studying for 14 out of the 16 tests is that you don't have to be an expert to do well. Take the Hellenic History test: If you scored a 78 out of 100, you would have earned at least fifth place, regardless of which level you were competing at. A 78% on a history test would get you a C+ at school, but at the NJCL Convention, you'd earn a ribbon and be praised for your accomplishment.

Something else that I was surprised by is that the test-takers aren't as cutthroat as you might expect. Of course, everyone wants to win, but there's a remarkable sense of camaraderie. Every morning, before the testing session started, there were up to a hundred kids sitting outside of the auditorium doing last-minute studying; quite frequently, students shared their study guides and Quizlets with others they'd never met before.

Finally, I'd like to share one of the lesser-known but exhilarating parts of taking the academic tests. Each day, the answers to the previous day's tests are released, and there's a mad scramble for students to find the errors and report them. It's so much harder to do this than actually taking the test. This year, I was able to convince the dispute group that the test writers had made a mistake and that there was no correct answer four times. (Both Mr. Howard and Mr. Cowett were part of that dispute group.)

So, you're probably wondering: How did Massachusetts do in academics? The TL;DR is... WE CRUSHED IT! Here are the statistics. Massachusetts had 165 Top 10 finishes. That's an average of more than three for every member of our delegation. We had 79 Top 5 finishes and nine first places. There's one special shout-out that I'd like to make, and that's Tom Pogorelec's second-place award in the decathlon. This is regarded as the "mother of all tests," with 100 questions drawn from every corner of the classics curriculum. Way to go, Tom!

OLYMPIKA

Joseph Hemr, Boston Latin School

This past July, the National Senior Classical League hosted a variety of Olympika and Ludi events at Nationals at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. These events provided opportunities for individual delegates to compete in Swim and Track & Field Olympika events. In addition, states fielded teams to play various Ludi events, including traditional favorites like Soccer, Basketball, and Volleyball as well as the newer Ultimate Frisbee, Chess and Minecraft contests.

While MassJCL is better known for academics, the delegation put up a strong performance in Olympika and Ludi. MassJCL delegates from various age groups participated in the following events: Swim (including seven events in all four strokes), the "Marathon" (2.62 miles, only a tenth of the recounting of Pheidippides' great journey), and Track and Field (100, 200, 400, 800, and 4x100 relay), as well as several Ludi competitions. Joseph Hemr, Brian Xu, and Jason Zhang, all from Boston Latin School, medalled in Swim. Xu and Hemr placed in the top three of every Swim event for their respective age brackets. Delegates Cece Sun and Emilee Troung also faced difficult opponents, placing fourth and fifth in the Junior Girls' 200-Meter Medley, performing all four strokes in a single event in an Olympic-sized pool.

Despite the heat, MassJCL also had some impressive finishes in the Track and Field events. Xu continued his run (literally), placing third in the Junior Boys' 100-Meter. Sofia Kowalczyk, in addition to her numerous graphic and creative arts awards, competed in the Senior Track & Field division at the youngest grade and placed fifth in the 100-Meter Sprint and fourth in the 400-Meter race.

Finally, the Ludi results: Raymond Pan from Boston Latin School won fourth overall in the ever-popular Ludi Chess tournament, and in the newly minted Ludi Minecraft competition, Zuhaib Syed from Oak Middle School won fifth place. Many people also competed on multi-state teams in Ludi Kickball, Ultimate Frisbee, Soccer, Volleyball, and Basketball.

MassJCL takes well-deserved pride in its academic accomplishments at Nationals, but those who participate in Olympika and Ludi also help build the community that is JCL's greatest asset. These contests provide another avenue for delegates to make friends across state lines whom they can see year after year. Our athletes have made connections and built friendships through these events with delegates from Wisconsin, Maine, California, Texas, and South Carolina. These casual, friendly events give participants a chance to learn how Latin programs work around the country, which authors people love and read, anecdotes about the other dorms and food halls, and build friendships based on shared interests. Those memories will last a lifetime.

One of the first pieces of advice I was given when I started in JCL nearly six years ago was handed down from Alex Chou, a Boston Latin School graduate and NJCL 1st Vice President in 2022. His advice was to "try everything." I am going to modify that a little and suggest that, at your next State or National Convention, you try everything and bring friends along for the ride. Get a group together for the chariot race, try some crazy Olympika or Ludi event, run the Marathon, go to the dance, prepare for Latin oratory, and do it all together.

FEATURED: LUDI MINECRAFT

Zuhaib Syed, Oak Middle School

The omnipotent SCLers sent down a new contest upon the JCL this year, much unlike any prior JCL events in the last decade. The theme of the pilot year of the Ludi Minecraft competition (otherwise known as E-lympika on the @nationalscl Instagram) was Myths and Monsters, and builders were given three days to create structures using vanilla Minecraft (no mods/texture packs) in a superflat world. A delegate from our state went through these trials and tribulations and even placed in the top 5 in this competition!

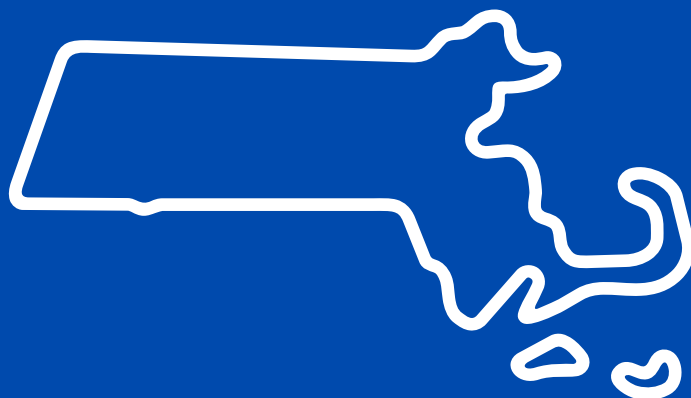


Ludi Minecraft Contest Entry:
"Pandora's Box" by Zuhaib Syed

GRAPHIC ARTS GALLERY



NATIONALS RESULTS



#1 INTERMEDIATE CERTAMEN

#2 NOVICE CERTAMEN

#3 LARGE STATE SPIRIT

#3 STATE WEBSITE CONTEST

WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
#5 LOCAL WEBSITE CONTEST

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
#3 STATE CONVENTION PROMOTION

BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
#1 MAY PHOTO OF THE MONTH
#3 LOCAL PUBLICATIONS
#4 ACTIVITIES CONTEST

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

ACADEMICS

Decathlon

Thomas Pogorelec (2)

Heptathlon

Meilin Sha (1), Audrey Kollett (2), Thomas Pogorelec (4), Sid Chopra (5)

Triathlon

Johan Coisman (1), Sahaj Swaroop (3)

Ancient Geo

Johan Coisman (3)

Classical Art

Johan Coisman (2), Brynn Bennett (4), Evelyn Rae Ruggiero (5)

Greek Derivatives

Zuhaib Syed (1), Evelyn Rae Ruggiero (4)

Greek Life & Literature

Evelyn Rae Ruggiero (1), Johan Coisman (1), Cece Sun (4)

Hellenic History

Johan Coisman (2), Daniel Jane (5)

Latin Derivatives I

Zuhaib Syed (3), Evelyn Rae Ruggiero (4), Kanav Vashishth (5)

Latin Derivatives II+

Audrey Kollett (2), Meilin Sha (3)

Latin Grammar I

Cece Sun (3), Sahaj Swaroop (3), Kanav Vashishth (4), Emilee Truong (5)

Latin Grammar II

Harry Dinh (4), Sid Chopra (5)

Latin Grammar Adv.

Thomas Pogorelec (2), Jason Zhang (4), Andy Yu (5)

Latin Literature

Johan Coisman (2), Meilin Sha (2), Soyou Choi (2), Avish Kumar (3), Brynn Bennett (4), Leo Margalit (5)

Latin Vocabulary I

Sahaj Swaroop (2), Cece Sun (3), Kanav Vashishth (4), Zuhaib Syed (4), Evelyn Rae Ruggiero (5), Johan Coisman (5)

Latin Vocabulary II+

Audrey Kollett (1), Meilin Sha (2), Sid Chopra (2), Thomas Pogorelec (3), Harry Dinh (4), Lana Nguyen (5)

Mottoes

Audrey Kollett (2), Johan Coisman (2)

Mythology

Meilin Sha (1), Chloe Silbermann (2), Sahaj Swaroop (2), Emmanuelle Fung (5)

Reading Comp I

Zuhaib Syed (2), Cece Sun (3), Kanav Vashishth (3), Sahaj Swaroop (4), Evelyn Rae Ruggiero (5)

Reading Comp II

Harry Dinh (1), Leo Margalit (5)

Reading Comp Poetry

Thomas Pogorelec (2), Audrey Kollett (5)

Reading Comp Prose

Thomas Pogorelec (1), Andy Yu (5)

Roman History

Johan Coisman (2), Raymond Pan (3), Silas Rosenberger (4), Thomas Pogorelec (4)

Roman Life

Audrey Kollett (2), Emmanuelle Fung (2), Johan Coisman (2), Brynn Bennett (4), Meilin Sha (4), Soyou Choi (4), Avish Kumar (5), Zuhaib Syed (5)

CERTAMEN

Novice

Johan Coisman, Kanav Vashishth, Ryan Liu, and Sahaj Swaroop (2)

Intermediate

Brian Xu, Harry Dinh, Meilin Sha, Raymond Pan, and Sid Chopra (1)

Open Novice

Evelyn Rae Ruggiero (2), Cece Sun (3), Zuhaib Syed (4), Nirav Sadavarte (5)

Open Advanced

Aahil Hasan (2), Sophia Kowalczyk (3), Nayan Seetharam (5)

Agon

Thomas Pogorelec (1)

CREATIVE

Dramatic Interpretation I

Cece Sun (1), Evelyn Rae Ruggiero (5), Soyou Choi (5)

Dramatic Interpretation II

Emmanuelle Fung (4)

Dramatic Interp. Poetry

Aahil Hasan (2)

Dramatic Interp. Prose

Andy Yu (4)

English Oratory Lower

Johan Coisman (1), Nirav Sadavarte (3)

English Oratory Middle

Aahil Hasan (3)

English Oratory Upper

Lara Sahagun (1)

Essay 6-9

Johan Coisman (2), Kanav Vashishth (5)

Essay 10-12

Evelyn Cai (1), Lara Sahagun (1)

Latin Oratory III

Aahil Hasan (1)

Modern Myth Lower

Johan Coisman (1), Zuhaib Syed (5)

Modern Myth Middle

Sophia Kowalczyk (2)

Myth & History Video

Lana Nguyen (2)

Sight Latin I

Zuhaib Syed (4)

Sight Latin II

Sid Chopra (1), Harry Dinh (2), Lana Nguyen (4)

Sight Latin Poetry

Thomas Pogorelec (3)

Sight Latin Prose

Aahil Hasan (2), Andy Yu (2), Avish Kumar (3), Chloe Silbermann (4)

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Acrylic & Oil 6-9

Johan Coisman (4)

Cartoons 6-9

Lana Nguyen (5)

Cartoons 10

Sophia Kowalczyk (2)

Chalk & Pastel 6-9

Johan Coisman (3)

Charcoal 6-9

Lana Nguyen (1), Johan Coisman (2)

Charts (Drawn) 7-9

Lana Nguyen (2)

Colored Pencil 6-9

Johan Coisman (5)

Essay 6-9

Johan Coisman (2), Kanav Vashishth (5)

Stitching & Textiles 10

Sophia Kowalczyk (1), Audrey Kollett (2)

Digital Scrapbook

Sophia Kowalczyk (4)

Games 10

Brynn Bennett (5)

Games 11-12

Chloe Silbermann (5)

Greeting Cards 6-9

Lana Nguyen (2), Harry Dinh (4)

Greeting Cards 10

Audrey Kollett (5)

Illustrated Quotes 6-8

Johan Coisman (1)

Illustrated Quotes 9

Lana Nguyen (2), Emmanuelle Fung (5)

Ink 6-9

Johan Coisman (4)

Jewelry 6-9

Johan Coisman (2)

Large Models 10

Sophia Kowalczyk (2)

Maps (Constructed) 7-10

Audrey Kollett (3)

Maps (Drawn) 6-9

Johan Coisman (1), Lana Nguyen (4)

Pottery 10-12

Sophia Kowalczyk (1)

Sculpture 6-9

Johan Coisman (1), Leo Margalit (3),
Lana Nguyen (4)

Traditional Photo 6-9

Johan Coisman (5)

Traditional Scrapbook Sm.

Aahil Hasan (1), Nirav Sadavarte (1),
Soyou Choi (1), Zuhaib Syed (1)

Watercolor 6-9

Johan Coisman (1)

Watercolor 10

Sophia Kowalczyk (1)

OVERALL

Lillie B. Hamilton Award

Johan Coisman (1), Harry Dinh (5)

Academics

Johan Coisman (3)

Creative Arts

Aahil Hasan (3), Johan Coisman (4)

Graphic Arts

Johan Coisman (2), Sophia Kowalczyk (5)

Olympika

Brian Xu (3)

Sweepstakes

Johan Coisman (1)

OLYMPIKA

Jr. Boys Backstroke

50M: Brian Xu (1)

100M: Brian Xu (2)

Sr. Boys Backstroke

50M: Joseph Hemr (3)

100M: Joseph Hemr (3)

Jr. Boys Breaststroke

50M: Brian Xu (1)

Sr. Boys Breaststroke

50M: Joseph Hemr (3)

Jr. Boys Butterfly

50M: Brian Xu (1)

Sr. Boys Butterfly

50M: Joseph Hemr (3), Jason Zhang (5)

Jr. Boys Freestyle

50M: Brian Xu (1)

100M: Brian Xu (3)

200M: Brian Xu (3)

Sr. Boys Freestyle

50M: Joseph Hemr (3)

100M: Joseph Hemr (3)

200M: Joseph Hemr (2)

Jr. Boys Medley

100M: Brian Xu (3)

Jr. Girls Medley

100M: Cece Sun (4), Emilee Truong (5)

Sr. Boys Medley

100M: Joseph Hemr (3)

Sr. Girls Track

100M: Sophia Kowalczyk (5)

400M: Sophia Kowalczyk (4)

Ludi Chess

Raymond Pan (4)

Ludi Minecraft

Zuhaib Syed (5)

STATES RESULTS

Overall Large Schools

1st Place	Boston Latin School
2nd Place	Winchester
3rd Place	Rising Tide
4th Place	Noble & Greenough
5th Place	Boston Latin Academy
5th Place	Roxbury Latin

Overall Small Schools

1st Place	Weston Middle
2nd Place	Shrewsbury
3rd Place	Saint Bernard's
4th Place	Duxbury
5th Place	Montrose
5th Place	Woburn

Overall Individual

1st Place	Meilin Sha	Boston Latin School
2nd Place	Johan Coisman	Weston Middle
3rd Place	Audrey Kollett	Boston Latin School
4th Place	Olivia Chen	Boston Latin School
5th Place	Lana Nguyen	Boston Latin School
6th Place	Emmanuelle Fung	Boston Latin School
6th Place	Sarah Fromm	Winchester
6th Place	Chloe Silbermann	Winchester
7th Place	Brynn Bennett	Boston Latin School
8th Place	Sophia Kowalczyk	Boston Latin School
9th Place	Weian Xue	Boston Latin School
10th Place	Elizabeth Baldes	Boston Latin School

STATES RESULTS

CERTAMEN

Novice

#1: Weston Middle

#2: Boston Latin School

#3: Roxbury Latin

Intermediate

#1: Boston Latin School

#2: Roxbury Latin

#3: Andover

Advanced

#1: Roxbury Latin

#2: Boston Latin School

#3: Winchester



STATES RESULTS

ACADEMICS

1st Place	Johan Coisman
2nd Place	Meilin Sha
3rd Place	Nayan Seetharam
4th Place	Tom Pogorelec
5th Place	Avery Winder

GRAPHICS

1st Place	Audrey Kollett
2nd Place	Olivia Chen
3rd Place	Johan Coisman
4th Place	Meilin Sha
5th Place	Lana Nguyen

CREATIVE

1st Place	Meilin Sha
2nd Place	Johan Coisman
3rd Place	Audrey Kollett
4th Place	Olivia Chen
5th Place	Emmanuelle Fung
5th Place	Aahil Hasan
5th Place	Dhruv Jain

OLYMPIKA

1st Place	Ethan Cox
2nd Place	David Ware
3rd Place	Sophia Kowalczyk
4th Place	Sofia House
4th Place	Brian Arffa
5th Place	Josie Wechsler

STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

Art by Sarah Fromm, Winchester High School



"Pyramus and Thisbe," colored pencil (top left); "Thisbe II," pencil (top right); "Oinone with the Arrow that Killed Paris," pencil (bottom left); "Polyxena," colored pencil (bottom right)

THE IN-BETWEEN MONTHS

Sarah Fromm, Winchester High School

The end of a year of JCL is always bittersweet. After a couple of low-key post-convention meetings, things need to be set in place again for the next year. We have to have chapter elections, create a new Latin chat, and plan long-term goals for the next JCL season.

A summer after State Convention is therefore an interesting phenomenon. We tend to look both at the past and the future of our local chapter. We may review our victories and losses at Convention, or perhaps reflect on graduated JCLers' lasting contributions to the local chapter. Maybe one day during the summer, we'll clean our room and find our convention ribbons, tossed haphazardly into some bizarre place that our bone-tired, post-convention selves no doubt thought we would move later. We'll smile at our exam medals and graphic arts submissions, remembering a legendary Certamen question we still can't believe we got right, or a hilarious GA skit, or perhaps the soreness of one's throat after the Toga Parade.

But these memories also help us to move forward into the next year. We'll start studying again—whether it be for summer Certamen, Nationals, exams, or Latin class. We'll make tentative steps into the new year, discussing things like merch and upcoming JCL events. We'll start planning—for our own Certamen, or for the scrapbook, or for school events. We'll look at all the memories we made at last year's State Convention and start readying our tools for the next harvest. The tools are our hard work, determination, and perseverance throughout the school year, and our harvest is what we gain from State Convention: good food, good spirits, and good challenges.

I did not go to Nationals this year, though I plan to next year (it'll be my first time). But I can see why many JCLers love it just by not going. Summer can be lonely sometimes—you're isolated from your routine and your friends—and over four months in the JCL "off season" certainly doesn't help this feeling. NJCL gives you something to look forward to and extends the hype generated by State Convention.

Anyway, the future is rapidly becoming the present. Soon, it'll be Kickoff, and the 2025-2026 JCL season will have started. Sooner than you think, it'll be time for States again.

REFLECTION: MY FIRST NJCL CONVENTION

Evan Yuan, Weston Middle School

I experienced my first NJCL Convention this summer, and I have to say, I can guarantee that I will be attending another one. The convention had many events related to classics and Latin, such as tests, lectures called Colloquia, and my personal favorite, Certamen. I took the Triathlon, Latin Derivatives, and Roman Mythology and History exams. In addition to academic activities, there were a plethora of other fun ones—for instance, creative and graphic arts contests, athletics under the name of Olympika, dances, karaoke, and a talent show.

One of the highlights of the convention was Certamen. Practice was fun and often riddled with jokes and laughs, and every correct answer during matches felt rewarding. Another part of Certamen was befriending new people. Although I already kind of knew who I was practicing with, I knew them mostly as Certamen rivals during the tournaments throughout the year, so it was quite refreshing to acquire their friendship. Despite not making semifinals, it was rewarding placing eleventh among eighteen other teams, especially as the B team and when facing an incredibly tough bracket against some of the best.

I also participated in creative arts, namely the essay contest, and many of my friends did Sight Latin, Olympika, and graphic arts. Not all our time was spent during events or contests, though. There was plenty of free time: moments to practice or watch Certamen, have fun and joke with friends, or eat at the dining hall.

All in all, to say that my first NJCL convention went well would be an understatement. It was truly one of the highlights of my summer, and I am looking forward to Conventions yet to come.

