

# FORUM



# VJCL

VIRGINIA JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE





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# VJCL DIRECTORY

## Officers

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*1st Vice President* - Clara Heath

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*President* - Mackenzie Sanford

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## Co Chairs

*VJCL Convention and Finances:*

Ms. Stephanie Buckler, Stafford High School

*Computer Matters:*

Ms. Bethany Schwartz, Independence High school

*NJCL Convention:*

Ms. Theri Andino, Flint Hill School

*Academics:*

Ms. Nadia Ghosheh, Hayfield Secondary School

*Officer Liaison:*

Ms. Erin Prokopchak, John Champe High School

# ***Letter From Your Editor***



Salvete!

I welcome you to the 2025 Forum! My name is Charles Rogers, and it brings me great pleasure to be your 2025 elected JCL Editor. It also brings me great pleasure to promise my obligation to showing continuation of diversity and communityship throughout the forum. It is my honor to continue the beautiful legacy of the Forum and the great enriches that come with the study of learning Latin and the Classics. This publication relies on the notion that every single Virginian Latin student feels valued and representative, and I hope I have achieved that in every way possible. With that being said, I am proud to introduce the 2025 winter Forum! I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did making it.

Thank You!

# Meet Your Officers

## Mackenzie Sanford - President



Salvete amici and χαιρετε φιλοι! I'm Mackenzie, and I'm so excited to be your president this year. I'm a junior at Flint Hill taking Post-AP Latin and Greek I, and I'm also the president of the Flint Hill Classics Club. I also love playing Certamen (history and lit), and I play on both the Flint Hill and Virginia teams. Outside of Latin, I enjoy rock climbing, reading, and making really bad JCL art projects.

## Clara Heath - 1st Vice President



Salvete! Ego sum Clara, your very enthusiastic 2024-25 VJCL 1VP!! I'm a junior in the math-sci program at Clover Hill High School (Go Cavs!). I take AP Latin and am 2VP for my school's awesome Latin club. Apart from Latin, I also run my school's food pantry, am junior class vice president, lead biology club, host a Bible study, dabble in badminton, avidly act, play soccer, and listen to music way too loud. In this busy schedule of mine, VJCL is one of the things I am most passionate about, and I'm so excited for the wonderful opportunities this office has granted me, and to see what our wonderful team will achieve this year with y'all's support!

# Kaitlyn Tyler - 2nd Vice President

Salvete Amici! I'm Kaitlyn Tyler, your 2024-2025 VJCL 2nd Vice President! I'm a junior at Stafford High School taking AP Latin, and this is actually my 2nd year on the VJCL Board. I'm a co-president for the SHS Latin club, and I absolutely love classics, as well as baking, music, and theater. I've been involved in my school's band, choir, and theater program as well as doing stuff with the math and science national honor societies at my school. I'm super excited for this next year, and I can't wait to see what things we achieve as an organization in this next year!



# Cecil Gregg - Secretary

Salvete Omnes! I'm Cecil, your VJCL Secretary. I am a sophomore at Stephen's and St. Agnes School taking Latin III. I'm so excited for this year! I love Latin, history, and all things Classics. Outside of VJCL, I'm an Eagle Scout, a theater lover, and a big fan of public speaking and leadership. When I'm not studying Latin, you'll probably find me on stage or playing any musical instrument I can get my hands on. I Can't wait for all the great things ahead!

# Arleigh Womack Jr - Parliamentarian



Hey y'all! I am Arleigh, your 2024 to 2025 VJCL parliamentarian! I'm a junior at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School taking Latin IV Honors; and I am also the parliamentarian of the Saints' Latin Club. I love writing and reading constitutions and playing Certamen (history specifically). I enjoy playing game shows, having fun with my two dogs, and singing.

# Isadora Hrabe - Historian



Hi! I'm Isadora, and I'm so excited to serve as your historian! I'm a junior at Western Albemarle High School, and aside from Latin, my favorite class is film studies. I've been doing photography for about three years now which lets me take plenty of pictures for the scrapbook, which I can't wait to get started on. In my free time, I enjoy doing theater at my school (and taking pictures for it!), running my own chapter of the VJCL, writing, reading, and singing.

# ***Presidential Office Update:***



## **Salvete omnes and Χαιρετε παντες!**

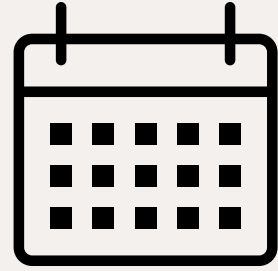
It was great seeing everyone at Convention, and it's been a great first few months as VJCL president! Immediately after being elected, I started my term with some administrative duties; I joined the national presidents' GroupMe, created a Google Drive for the officers to organize proposals and other documents, and distributed the logins to the VJCL social media. I also held an informal online meeting for the officers to get to know one another and discuss our goals for the year. Shortly after that, I attended the intro meeting with the officers and co-chairs, where we discussed policies and procedures for the board.

I officially started the Website Committee by sending out the application to all of our communication channels and have recently begun looking at the applications we received—thank you to everyone who applied! At Flint Hill Certamen, I moderated and made a few announcements about both the website committee and the Google Classroom. I also created a proposal to create an in-depth guide to VJCL Convention, which I will be presenting today after discussing it with the co-chairs over email. Before this meeting, I created an agenda, compiled proposals from the other officers, and worked with some of the other officers on their proposals.

**-Mackenzie Sanford**



# Announcements!



## February 8th

On February 8th, the Officers and the co chairs met over zoom for our annual closed VJCL winter meeting. We accomplished so many great things and got a lot done! Some of the major accomplishments as well as proposals are listed in the following announcements.

## March 1st

Come join other Latin students at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology for the TJ Latin club annually certamen event

## March 8th - Spring Meeting

It would be me, and the rest of the officers honored if you could join us for our spring council meeting which will be hosted on 3/8/2025 at Stafford High School. It is open to all members of the VJCL. Please contact an officer or co-chair if you have a meeting item to add to the agenda. We hope to see you there!

## July 21 - 26

National Convention - See Details on page 13 !

# SPECIAL ISSUE:



*Unlock the secrets of ancient civilizations, enhance your critical thinking skills, and gain a competitive edge in various career paths by majoring in Latin.*

# WHY A LATIN & CLASSICS MAJOR?

BY CHARLES ROGERS

Choosing a Latin major offers a compelling and deep dive into the heart of ancient civilizations, and unlocks thousands of years of Rome's rich cultural heritage and the profound influence it has had on western civilization. Latin opens the doors to understanding all aspects of classical art, literature, philosophy and history, and promotes a lifelong fulfillment of having a classical mindset.



Engaging in Latin allows for students to gain originality and critical learning skills that can help train understanding a unique insight and appreciation for literary and historical documents of all kinds. Furthermore, Latin hones analytical skills. It takes a really dedicated and devoted person to be able to withstand the rigorous nature of Latin syntax and grammar. Latin promotes precision and attention to detail, which can create a better problem-solving individual.

*\*\*Classics are always a cool flex you can use at parties when people ask, "what did you study at university"?*

The skills that one acquires from learning Latin are transferable into numerous different fields of vocation, including law, medicine, and academia, all of which require the analytical and logical approaches that one learns through Latin. Continually, learning Latin can enhance one's language and linguistic proficiency, which not only makes you a better English speaker, but also enhances languages such as French, Spanish, and Italian.



Majoring in Latin provides a competitive edge not only in the study of humanities, but also in a diverse amount of career paths. Employers and graduate schools will easily be able to recognize the intelligence and discipline that comes with mastering the Latin language. It signifies discipline and a strong foundation of academia, research, communication, and critical analysis. If your pursuing careers in education, law, archaeology, medicine, or really anything else, majoring in Latin might be for you!



# NJCL INFORMATION FOR VJCL-ERS

## IMPORTANT:

- NJCL Convention
- July 21-26, 2025
- Miami University, Oxford, OH
- Details at [njcl.org](http://njcl.org)
- Basic costs of convention will be \$790
- Information for the VJCL Bus trip is coming Soon!

VJCL Bus Trip to NJCL leaves early morning from Flint Hill School on July 20 returns late evening July 26

# NJCL Spring Torch submissions: Virginia Needs You!

Felix Chen, Editor of the National Junior Classical League, is looking for pieces to be submitted by VJCL-ers for the national publication, the TORCH.

There are several submission opportunities for students to participate in, and the VJCL officers support and encourage any Virginia Latin students to submit their work. There are entries for the following categories.

- Articles - “Articles can be on any topic pertaining to the ancient Mediterranean or the National Junior Classical League. Articles can be creative, analytical, or opinion-based, and may have been previously published. Explore a classical topic that interests you, and share it with the JCL!”

Articles Submission Form: [bit.ly/torcharticles2425](https://bit.ly/torcharticles2425)



- Testimonials - “these testimonials would be short recaps of your experience at the national convention this past July. They are a fantastic resource for students curious about attending. This issue, see them published alongside more information about the 2025 convention!”

Testimonials Form: [bit.ly/conventiontestimonials24](https://bit.ly/conventiontestimonials24)

- This or that - “This or That” is a fun and low-stakes way to share your opinion on a classical topic! This issue, the theme is classical epics: of the Iliad, the Aeneid, and the Odyssey, which do you prefer?

This-or -that Form: [bit.ly/conventionthisorthat24](https://bit.ly/conventionthisorthat24)



# NJCL SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

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The national Junior Classical League sponsors thousands of dollars every year to be awarded to outstanding and admirable students of the NJCL every single year. Typically, scholarship deadlines are every February and are announced at the NJCL convention in the summer (attendance is not an application requirement). The VJCL encourages Virginia Latin students to apply to the following NJCL scholarships.

- 1.) NJCL Scholarships (ten awards between **\$1200-4000** available),
- 2.) NJCL Latin & Greek Honor society scholarship (one award of **\$2000** is made out to an aspiring classics major and teaching career)
- 3.) National Latin Exam Scholarships (twenty **\$1000** scholarships available to exceling students on National Latin Exams).