



# VJCL CONVENTION 2009

*Non est ad astra mollis e terris via.*

("There is no easy path from the earth to the stars" - Seneca the Younger)

The 2009 Convention of the Virginia Junior Classical League will be held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center on Sunday, November 22 and Monday, November 23 – the weekend before Fall Break.

All students presently enrolled in Latin and who are members in good standing of the Riverbend HS Latin Club are eligible to attend. This is an opportunity for **serious Latin students** to participate in a variety of academic, artistic, and social activities. We are allowed this year to bring up to 50% of our membership; slots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

All delegates are encouraged to participate in as many activities as possible. Take tests! Listen to lectures! Enjoy assemblies! Make and view projects! Make speeches! Dance! Sing! Eat! Learn! Live and love Latin! Cherish the classics! **N. B.** We are attending this convention to enrich our experiences in Latin, not to provide a "free" night away from home. Any students planning otherwise should reconsider their application.

Besides attending ALL assemblies, meetings, and lectures, all delegates from Riverbend HS will be required to participate in at least four academic tests (out of a possible six) AND at least one artistic and/or one oratorical event. Of course delegates are encouraged to do as much as they possibly can. **Delegates MUST meet with Mr. Keith for approval of activities and then meet early and often to prepare and practice for their activities.** Specific activities include:

- **Academic tests - Session I** (max. of 2): Geography, Mythology, Roman Life & Customs, Derivatives; **Session II** (max. of 2): Latin Literature (Latin III+), Latin Vocabulary, Omnibus (combo test) (Latin I), Pentathlon (combo test) (Latin II+), Reading Comprehension; **Session III** (max. of 2): Latin Language (Latin I only), Grammar (Latin II+), Roman History, and the revolving test for this year: Greek Pentathlon.
- **English Oratory and/or Latin Oratory and/or Dramatic Interpretation and/or Latin Storytelling and/or Sight Latin Reading** - Must be memorized and polished. English oratory is on the theme (see above) and Mr. Keith has the Latin passages for Latin oratory and dramatic interpretation.
- **Arts and Crafts** - A wide range of possibilities but must follow rules. A hint for the art projects -- Look at the rules first and create an item specific to the category, not vice versa! See Mr. Keith for rules and guidelines for projects.
- **Modern Myth** - Write an original myth using ancient characters. See Mr. Keith for details. *Pre-convention event! Postmark deadline is October 24!*
- **Audio-Visual Contest/Multimedia Contest** - PowerPoint, Macromedia Flash, etc. *Pre-convention event! Postmark due October 24!*
- **Publications Contest** - A contest for most outstanding club newsletters. *Pre-convention event! Postmark due October 24!*
- **Open Certamen** - for novice members. No experience allowed!
- **Costume Contest** - IMHO, not worth the time you put into it unless you are truly outstanding. If you must participate, see Mr. Keith for specific details.
- **Theme T-Shirt Contest** - must illustrate the convention's theme: *Non est ad astra mollis e terris via.* *Non-convention event! Due February 1!*
- **Impromptu Art** - you have 45 minutes to create classically-inspired art from common craft items.

Awards include:

- **Maureen O'Donnell Award:** To the student with the highest score on the grammar test.
- **Robert Parks Award:** To the student with the highest score on the mythology test.
- **Anne Covington Award:** To the student with the best mosaic.
- **Individual Sweepstakes:** Ten places for each grade level (10 sweepstakes points for a first place, 9 for a second, ... 1 point for a tenth place).
- **Mary Julia Pomfrey Award for Excellence in Graphic Arts:** To the student with the highest total sweepstakes in graphic arts.
- **Hughlings J. Himwich Award for Academic Excellence:** To the student with the highest total sweepstakes points in academics.
- **Susan S. Schearer Award for Excellence in the Creative Arts:** To the student with the highest total sweepstakes in creative arts.
- **Annie Aldridge Award:** To the student with the highest total sweepstakes points overall, with at least one first through fifth place award in each area of competition – academic, graphic, and creative. Graphic awards will be limited to a total of 60 points.

Specific rules and further information are also available at the VJCL Website: <[www.vjcl.org](http://www.vjcl.org)>.

The facts and figures for this event include:

#### Registration and Hotel Costs

The cost of this activity is a flat rate of \$130.00 per delegate. This cost includes the hotel (3-4 to a room), registration fee, Sunday dinner, transportation to and from the convention by school bus, and the costs incurred by the chaperone(s).

#### Optional and Variable Costs

- Meals: Only the banquet on Sunday evening is included in the registration fee for the convention. All other meals (lunch on Sunday and breakfast and lunch on Monday) MUST be purchased at the Convention Center Food Court. NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE CONVENTION CENTER.
- Snacks and Pizza: Any snacks will need to be purchased at the Convention Center (see note above). It is also traditional to order pizza late Sunday night.
- Often chapters bring various items to sell (t-shirts, shorts, frisbees, buttons, etc.).

#### A Word About Coffee

It has come to my attention that students have been abusing coffee, caffeine, and energy drinks. These items are considered stimulants and drinking large amounts of these beverages in a short amount of time can be considered substance abuse. Be smarter than this! Do not do this to your body and your mind! Remember that this is a school-related activity!

#### Convention-Specific Details and Requirements (from the VJCL)

1) There are no refunds for any reason; 2) ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT THE CONVENTION CENTER. No events will be held at the Marriott hotel and students will have NO REASON TO CROSS THE STREET TO THE HOTEL. Students need to bring clipboards for testing sessions; 3) Each chapter should bring (and subsequently remove) a standard or banner to set on the floor during General Assemblies; 4) Sponsors and students must wear Roman or Greek attire for the banquet Sunday evening; 5) Late registrations will not be honored.

#### Ludi Frivoli and Taberna

This year there will be a variety of fun and games called Ludi Frivoli on Sunday night and Monday morning. Each school is asked to contribute some activity to be played by all delegates. This will also be the site and opportunity for selling t-shirts and other items in the Taberna. We will need to discuss these items and let the VJCL know what we'd like to do. We must make a decision very soon if we are going to be participating in the Taberna.

#### Application

If you are interested in participating in the 2009 VJCL Convention, please complete the form below and return it to Mr. Keith with a check made out to Riverbend High School for the amount of \$130.00. Remember, we are allowed to take only 50% of our total JCL membership, therefore, we have a limited number of slots available. These slots will be available on a first-come, first served basis.

#### Chaperone

In order for the students and teacher to participate fully in the activities of the convention, it is required that we enlist the services of at least one mother/chaperone. Duties may include, but are not limited to, watching over our base location table/t-shirt sales table, checking in to the hotel, judging activities, and to help supervise at the convention and in the hotel. Interested parents should contact Mr. Keith at [pallanteum@comcast.net](mailto:pallanteum@comcast.net).

\*\*\*\*\* **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2!** No forms or money can be accepted after this date due to registration deadlines determined by the state convention board. In order to begin preparations for projects and examinations, please let Mr. Keith know as soon as possible that you are actually going.

# Ite Vrsi!



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Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: 12 11 10 9                      Level of Latin (AP is not a level): V IV III II I

Please list below those activities in which you will participate:

Academic Contests (2 per session): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Four required, six suggested) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Artistic Contests and/or Oratorical Contests: \_\_\_\_\_  
(At least one required, more suggested) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Activities: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As many as possible) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments, Questions, Problems:

**\*\*\*\*\* DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2!**  
**\*\*\*\*\* YOU MUST TURN IN APPLICATION**  
**AND CHECK FOR \$130.00 AT THE SAME TIME!**