

The 2024 National Junior Classical League Convention—An Overview

MDJCL MDJCL 🙌🙌

Although summer is typically a time for students to rest, recover, and enjoy time *outside* of the academic realm, thirteen delegates of the Maryland Junior Classical League spent a week doing the exact opposite. From July 21st to the 27th, these students, representing six different schools from across the state, dove headfirst into the chaos and camaraderie that their shared passion for the ancient world had to offer. Chaperoned by MDJCL state chairs Magistra Kunz and Magister Moore, the thirteen spent their week on the University of Tennessee's campus in Knoxville for the 71st National Junior Classical League Convention, alongside hundreds of delegates from across the nation. With about 1,200 people attending the convention in total, the Thompson-Boling Arena overflowed with enthusiasm for the classics.

Over the course of the week, the Marylanders pushed themselves to participate in academic, artistic, and athletic competitions, and of course, Certamen, cheering each other on even during early morning events. Speaking of cheers, Maryland claimed its third consecutive victory in the small-state spirit division, a contest for which states create, choreograph, and perform themed chants. Other convention highlights included top scores in academic testing, writing competitions, and success in the pool and on the track. From victories in the graphic arts to triumphs on the sports fields (and beyond!), the students proved that while Maryland may be small, it is certainly a mighty state.

Not only did they pursue their interest in the classics through competitions, the students also attended events including service sessions, election-related events, colloquia (lectures), and state fellowships. These opportunities enabled delegates to learn about niche aspects of the ancient world as well as foster connections with one another and the wider JCL community.

All in all, the 2024 NJCL Convention was a huge success for the Maryland delegation. The action-packed week revolving around the ancient world brought hilarity, friendship, and cherished memories to each and every attendee. Although there is much sleep to be caught up on, the MDJCL very much looks forward to its next Junior Classical League event.