



# The Torch

---

*Official Publication of the Texas State Junior Classical League*

[www.tsjcl.org](http://www.tsjcl.org)

Salvete!

Nomen mihi est Isaiah Apfel! I am junior at Westlake High School, currently enrolled in Latin IV, and I am running for the position of TSJCL President. I have been in Latin for 5 years. I have attended five Area F conventions, this is my fourth TSJCL convention, and I have attended one NJCL convention.

I have been an officer in my school's Latin club for the past two years. Last year I was the parliamentarian, and this year I am co-President. I am part of Student Council, and National Honor Society. I am very active in band and have been playing the flute for seven years. I am also a member of Student Council, including being part of the Executive Board for next year. I really want to bring a spirit competition to the State Convention. In addition, I would like to help make the National Latin Exam as well as the National Etymology Exam more accessible to everyone in the State. If I were an Olympian, I would be Apollo. Apollo is the god of music, something which I love. Apollo is also the god of medicine, and I want to be a doctor. Lastly, and most importantly, I am such a nerd about archery. I have been doing archery since I was about eleven years old. My favorite comic book character is Green Arrow and my weapon of choice in any video game is a bow.



Isiah Apfel

---

Salvete Omnes,

My name is Mariah Sager, and I'm a junior in Latin V. I am running for TSJCL Historian. I've been taking Latin for six years, and I've been to seven conventions. Last year, I served as the senator for my Latin class, and last spring I was elected my school's Latin Club historian. I consider this the perfect position for me because I've always brought my camera to every Latin event and obsessively photographed everything. I love volunteering at Latin events, such as conventions and Certamen tournaments, . I've also worked at open houses to promote Latin and visited my school's other campus to teach younger students about Certamen. I love the JCL, and all I can do to be a part of it.



In January, I was asked to go to the TSJCL winter board meeting as a proxy for the current editor, Reeves, which was an amazing opportunity to see how those meetings are run. I'd love to see Latin club historians and other Latin students across the state be more involved in things like the TSJCL scrapbook. Lastly, if I were an Olympian, I would be to be Athena. She's the goddess of the arts and of crafts, both of which I love, and both of which are integral to the position of historian. Wisdom is also an important trait of the goddess Athena and anyone on the TSJCL board.

Mariah Sager

Salvete amici et amicae,

I am Ruiqi He, currently a tenth grader in Latin II Pre-AP, and I am running for the position of TSJCL First Vice President. I have been studying the Latin language for two years and have attended two area conventions, two state conventions, and one national convention. Because two of the main duties of the First Vice President are to revise academic contest rules and administer creative arts contests, the position requires an understanding of the various competition categories as well as leadership ability, both of which I possess. As aedile of my local chapter, I organize all JCL study sessions, distribute contest study materials, actively recruit peers to join both the Latin class and club, and constantly post updates for my chapter via social media.



JCL is like a black hole to me: once I stepped my foot in, I fell in love and could never get back out. I have been Class President since beginning of high school, and I play in the top group of my city's youth orchestra and my school's varsity orchestra. I play two instruments, and volunteer at a camp for children with disabilities in the summer.

One of my favorite aspects about JCL is the people themselves; I love communicating with others through social media and because of this fascination, one of my ideas is to start and operate a TSJCL Facebook page to give quick, informative updates about State convention and year-round activities. I also have a few ideas about operating Classical Civilization contests more smoothly.

If I were one of the Twelve Olympians, I would choose to be Apollo. Like Apollo, I like to further expand the influence of the arts, advance medicine for the welfare of others, and promote intellectual inquiry.

Have an unforgettable time at this convention.

Ruiqi He

---

Salvete Omnes,

My name is Gabriela Sagun. I am currently a sophomore at Alamo Heights High School, and I am running for the position of Second Vice President. I am currently in Latin III and this year's 2012-2013 State Convention will be my sixth convention. In the past I have attended the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Area and State Conventions, from all of which I have gained some unforgettable and wonderful memories.

I feel qualified to be Second Vice President because not only do I love and feel very dedicated to the Latin language, but I am also very responsible, experienced, and inspired. Latin and the Ancient Romans inspired me from a young age, so Latin has been my favorite school subject for quite a while now. If I were one of the Twelve Olympians, I would definitely be Athena (Minerva) because ever since I was little, I had always wanted to be she, Goddess of Wisdom and Battle Strategy. TSJCL is an organization that truly amazes me and that I would be honored and thrilled to become a greater part of. New ideas I have for TSJCL include clearer and greater organization and communications to promote larger and more active chapters in TSJCL. All of these various experiences have exposed me to new ideas that I would hope to apply as Second Vice President.

Gabriela Sagun



Salvete Omnes,

My name is Matthew Kerr and I am seeking the office of TSJCL Secretary. I am in my third year of Latin and am currently enrolled in Latin III. I am aiming to take AP Latin next year. I have attended 3 Area Conventions, 3 State Conventions and one National Convention.

I am very excited about the position of TSJCL Secretary. Holding the office of Area A chair this past year has set me up perfectly for fulfilling the duties asked of the TSJCL Secretary. As well as my involvement in the Classics, I am an avid member of the National Honor Society and am also a very involved Ultimate Frisbee player. If elected to this position, I would aim to enact some of the same changes that occurred at my high school. For example, I would try to get the middle schoolers more involved so that TSJCL spirit can be kindled at a younger age.

If I were to be one of the Gods, I would definitely choose Apollo. He is the god of Medicine and I have aspirations to be a doctor. Apart from that, he is simply awesome! Thanks for considering me for TSJCL Secretary.

Matthew Kerr

Salvete Omnes

My name is Nicole Prinz. I'm a sophomore, in Latin IV, and I'm running for Secretary! I've been in Latin for 8 years (yes, a full 8) and this year's state convention is my 10th. I have a very organized personality, so I like to stay on top of things and make sure everything is communicated well. I love the JCL and want others to have the chance to experience all the exciting opportunities the JCL offers. I've also been an officer for my school's club for four years, and really enjoy being a part of making Latin even more enjoyable for the rest of my classmates. Along with JCL, I'm also on my school's varsity volleyball team, track team, and I love playing ultimate frisbee. I have the incredible opportunity to serve my school by being one of our Service Team Coordinators, and have a leadership role in my youth group. Within the JCL, I would love to help develop a stronger relationship between new chapters in TSJCL and old, and make them feel more welcomed into the JCL family. I am also really excited about the opportunity to organize more interesting and exciting seminars and workshops for next year's state convention if I'm elected. On a completely different note, my favorite Olympian (and the one I would choose to be, however typical) is Minerva. I love learning and gaining wisdom from whatever happens in my life, but I also love to apply that wisdom and knowledge, just as she used her wisdom for strategies. I am extremely excited about this possible opportunity, and am so excited to have a chance to add what I've learned through my different "life experiences" to this organization.

Have a great State Convention!!

-Nicole Prinz



Salvete, omnes!

My name is Jeffrey Chang, and I hope to become your TSJCL Treasurer this year. I am currently in Latin III, and this will be my second State convention. I have also attended Area competition three times. If I were one of the Twelve Olympians, I would definitely choose Hermes, the god of inventions and wit. Furthermore, as the patron of commerce (or “Treasurer” of the Gods), I would be perfectly suited for this position. Some of my most important traits that suit this position include accountability, organization, and experience, which I believe would allow me to be able to make next year a very memorable year for all of us.



In Plano, being part of the Latin program hasn't always been easy – with a slew of budget cuts, our funding has dropped significantly, and much of the burden has been placed on students like me. As the Junior President for the Plano Latin Club. last year I was told that we would not receive any funding to attend the conventions, but I would not take no for an answer!

As a TSJCL officer, I would be sure to stay in touch with all of you throughout the year. Aside from Latin, I also devote time to volunteering at environmental clean-ups and constructing homes. These activities have allowed me to experience the benefits that come from giving back to the community. . So when it comes time to vote, remember – Jeffrey “Cha-chang” for Treasurer!

---

Salvete Omnes,

Well, its hard to believe that the State Convention is already right on top us. Just looking at the competitive spirit among you guys warms my heart for the future. It is clear that the TSJCL spirit is potent, and you can't ask for much more than that.

I can't tell you how much of an honor it has been to serve on your board this year. Not only has this job brought me the buzz of being a ranking official in a prestigious organization, but it has also taught me how much work your board truly puts in to make these conventions happen. Day long board meetings aren't exactly exhilarating, but we do it so that we can all enjoy a fun-packed convention.

Although the Torch Editor is not elected by the public, I like to hope that you all enjoy each and every edition. I try to put in as many fun activities as I can while still fulfilling the purpose of each edition. Being an editor has been an honor, and I can't wait to pass onto my successor a voice of experience that will help the Torch to grow leaps and bounds. This is an amazing opportunity for all who partake in it, and I hope everybody takes that to heart, no matter what the sweepstakes may be. Its all for the love of the Latin language! Hope to see you at State, and I hope that all reap every benefit this extraordinary event has to offer. Honestly, don't be afraid to approach a board member, I'm sure it will make their day just to know that they are appreciated for what they do. Curate ut valeatis et bonam fortunam omnibus!

It is an honor to sign off one final time!

Pax omnibus ex imo corde,  
Reeves Smith  
TSJCL Torch Editor

