

Junior Classical League – Memphis homeschool chapter | overview

Quid et Quare?: The **purpose** of the Memphis homeschool JCL is to provide our students with convivial *enrichment* experiences that *motivate* them to deepen their skill and knowledge in Latin language and culture - which in turn promote wisdom, eloquence, and character. This chapter also provides access to the [conventions, tests and competitions](#) offered by the Tennessee and National Junior Classical Leagues (NJCL and TNJCL), by which students can develop and demonstrate their learning.

Qui? children can generally start participating around 5th grade (10 years old), but this varies and is up to parents. State competitions are appropriate starting ~7th grade.

Quando et Ubi? We meet on Fridays from 2:30 at St. Louis Catholic Church. Because the group is small and reliant on interaction, families are requested to attend at least one meeting a month, and to inform others in advance if they cannot attend a meeting. Younger siblings are welcome to read / play nearby with parent supervision (rotating as able).

Nota bene: The group does *not* function as the primary means of learning Latin; each family needs to follow a curriculum independently. Also, everyone should expect to commit some time outside of the meeting each week preparing for the meetings (studying topics to share, etc). Finally, this is not a “drop kids off” activity - every parent commits to helping somehow.

Organization and chapter roles:

- Student leadership roles (president, secretary, chairs for various events, etc): TBD
- Parent roles: Chapter Sponsor: Sara Nardo. Others roles (event coordinators, test admin, chaperones, monitors of younger siblings, etc) as suitable per family

Examples of activities to be scheduled throughout the year include:

- *“Active” Latin*: even those following good curricula for reading Latin rarely get enough practice speaking to master the language or be able to produce it. Some active Latin with “total physical response” will often be included (games, stories, etc); handouts may be provided for children to practice at home.
- *Authentic texts*: because most introductory curricula focus on grammar exercises, we will give children differentiated support to access some authentic Latin texts.
- *Composition / Writers’ workshops*: peer support for drafting / editing
- *Exam and contest practice and administration*: we will schedule and administer the tests, and provide group practice and reflection opportunities for these and for some of the contests.
- *Vocal performance*: traditional music (e.g. chant or polyphony)
- Other parent- or student-led activities such as N/TJCL examples listed [here](#)

2023-24 Calendar

| Date | Topic(s) | Nursery |
|----------------|---|----------------|
| Aug 28- Jan 26 | National Latin Exam registration period | |
| Sept 1- Oct 25 | National Classical Etymology Exam registration period | |
| Sept 1- Oct 25 | National Roman Civilization Exam registration period | |
| Sept 1- Jan 31 | Pegasus Mythology Exam registration period. theme: Hercules | |
| Sept 1- Jan 31 | Medusa Myth Exam reg period theme: What Happens in Tartarus | |
| Sept 1- Feb 10 | Exploratory Latin Exam reg. Ancient Mediterranean Geography | |
| Sept 1- Feb 10 | National Greek Exam registration period | |
| Sept 1- Mar 15 | SCRIBO registration period theme: Roman entertainment | |
| Sept 8 | Inaugural meeting! JCL song / creed, NJCL reports, schedule tests, look over the calendar (Festivus), discuss adoption of bylaws and constitution contest. Preces Latinae | N/A |
| Sept 22 | open Certamen practice: play a round of Certamen to see what it's like - chapter team try-outs if needed in the following weeks | Estrada, Watts |
| Oct 6 | Presentations: Owen I. & Anthony Classics-related games - Card-tamen and/or Verba AP Latin study session | Sharpe, Seidl |
| Oct 27 | Certamen practice | Estrada |
| Nov 3 | AP Essay Writing Verba | Sharpe, Seidl |
| Nov 8 | National Roman Civilization Exam, online from home @ ~2pm | |
| Nov 17 | Festivus prep: Certamen practice | Estrada, Watts |
| Nov 18 | FESTIVUS @ MUS | |
| Nov 29 | National Classical Etymology Exam, online from home @ ~2pm | |

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------|
| Dec 8 | liturgical Latin ludus: "Conditor Alme Siderum" or "Veni Redemptor Gentium" or "Rorate Caeli" or "Alma Redemptoris Mater" | Estrada, Watts |
| Jan 12 | Chapter Officer Elections Vocal Performance Rehearsal | Seidl |
| Jan 26 | CANCELED | Estrada, Watts |
| Feb 7 | National Hellenic Civilization Exam, online from home @ ~2pm | |
| Feb 16 | Pegasus Exam, Friday during regular meeting time | |
| Feb 21 | National Latin Vocabulary Exam, online from home @ ~2pm | |
| Mar 1 | Certamen practice | Estrada, Watts |
| Feb 27- Mar 17 | NGE administration period, proposed date: week of Mar 11 | |
| Mar 4 (MON) | Intermediate NLE in Germantown @ 9am | |
| Mar 5 (TUE) | Advanced NLE in two locations: Advanced Prose - Lost Cove, Advanced Poetry - East Memphis | |
| Mar 6 (WED) | Introduction to Latin NLE in Germantown @ 9:30 am ELE in Germantown @ 11am | |
| Mar 8 | Dramatic Interpretation Vocal Performance? | |
| Mar 18-Apr 25 | Medusa Mythology Exam administration period proposed date: week of Apr 22 | |
| Mar 22 | Certamen practice Mythology spell off | Estrada, Watts |
| Apr 12 | TJCL prep | |
| Apr 14 | SCRIBO submissions due to Magistra Sara | |
| <i>April 19-20</i> | TJCL at the UofM | |
| May 10 | End-of-year meeting | TBD |
| May ?? | AP review session? | |

| | | |
|------------|----------------------|--|
| July 22-27 | NJCL at UT-Knoxville | |
|------------|----------------------|--|