

To the Reader:

The theme of this year's *iliad* is *Astraeus*. Astraeus is the Greek astrological deity of the Dusk, Stars, Planets, and the art of Astronomy. With this magazine, we hope to convey the beauty and mystery of the night sky through the creative works of our school's community. Looking up when it's dark leaves you with the overwhelming sight of stars, planets, the moon, and glimpses of the Milky Way. Each of the elements that comprise the night sky are unique and beautiful in their own way, just like the pieces that we feature in the *iliad*.

We have divided the magazine and its contents into four subsections, The Moon (Fengári), The Planets (Planítes), The Stars (Astéria), and Dark Matter (Ouranós). This order represents the journey that our lives and artists' creative processes often take from the consistent and tangible to the sought-for and unimaginable.

The moon has been watching over us our whole lives so *Fengári* represents consistency and reflection in life. Pieces in this subsection will reflect past experiences, nostalgia, and harmony. Of all the components of our universe, we are the most familiar with planets. *Planítes* represents the tangible, the familiar, and includes work focused on realism. We often hear the phrase "reach for the stars" which means to strive for greatness and subsequently, our subsection *Astéria* represents all that we aim for. These pieces will reflect this idea of desirability and hope. *Ouranós* represents the dark matter which makes up 85% of the universe and will feature creative works that portray the surreal and the wonders of the imagination.

Throughout our lives, we often struggle with navigating our past, our current reality, and our hopes and dreams.

We hope that through reading *Astraeus* and exploring its creative works, you embark on your own journey from the constant tangible things in life to what you dream to achieve, and even beyond that to the incomprehensible.

From,
Luna Reichert and Kaija Gilbertson Hall
Co-Editors-in-Chief