

2009 Octoberfestivus – Information Booklet

Date -- Saturday, October 24, 2009

Location – St. Mary’s Episcopal School, North Campus

Theme -- *His ego nec metas rerum nec tempora pono.*

(Vergil, *Aeneid* 1.278)

The Octoberfestivus is designed to be an enjoyable promotional event, an opportunity for West Tennessee Latin students to come together in celebration of our classical heritage *without* creating oppressive burdens for their teachers.

Purposes of the Octoberfestivus:

1. To promote Latin and generate enthusiasm for classical studies.
2. To offer Memphis-area Latin students the same type of local event available to students in other parts of the state.
3. To continue the revival of the spirit of the old Mid-South Latin Tournament.

We realize that a mid-October language fair creates certain challenges (especially in regards to working with first year students), and we realize that the Mid-State Convention in Nashville – which, incidentally, the Octoberfestivus is *not* attempting to emulate or reproduce – convenes in February, but we like October for several reasons:

1. The weather in October is usually very nice.
2. It is a relatively slow time of the school year (at least compared to the spring semester).
3. A fall event such as this, we hope, will generate enthusiasm for events to come later in the year (National Latin Exam, TJCL State Convention, etc.).

Event Rules and Policies:

1. Poster

- Posters should reflect the Octoberfestivus theme (but need not necessarily incorporate it verbatim).
- Writing on the poster may be in Latin, English, or a combination of the two languages.
- Standard poster size should be used (a maximum of 16 square feet).
- Students may enter the contest as individuals or in pairs.
- Firmly affixed to the lower right back corner of each poster must be a 3x5 card with the following information written LEGIBLY: name of student(s), name of school, name of teacher.
- Judging will be based on appropriateness to theme, clever and accurate use of language (especially correct, standard Latin), and visual impact.
- Awards will be presented to the top three entries.

2. Greeting Card

- The card may be designed for a birthday, holiday (ancient Roman or modern American), or any other appropriate greeting card occasion.
- All writing on the card must be in Latin. All Latin composition must be done by the student(s).
- Students may enter the contest as individuals or in pairs.
- Traditional greeting card format should be used -- standard size, folded, with a design and short greeting on the cover, and on the inside a text of approximately 10-30 words.
- The card may NOT be computer-generated.
- Firmly affixed to the lower right back corner of each entry must be a 3x5 card with the following information written LEGIBLY: name of student(s), name of school, name of teacher.
- Judging will be based on creativity, visual impact, and the accuracy of the Latin.
- Awards will be presented to the top three entries.

3. Cinema Romana

- Students will produce an original video on any classical theme and post the finished product on YouTube.
- Videos should be between 3 and 5 minutes in length and should not include any objectionable content. Sponsors are asked to pre-screen all entries and encouraged to post movies themselves on their personal or school accounts with restricted access.
- A link to the video should be e-mailed to Dr. McFadden (p.mcfadden@stmarysschool.org) by Monday, October 12. Included in the e-mail should be the name of the student(s) involved in the production of the video, the name of the school, and the name of the teacher. (A maximum of five students may collaborate on any one video.)
- Judging will be based on creativity, production values, and interpretation of classical theme.
- Awards will be presented to the top three entries.

4. Academic Testing

- This year there will be two academic tests offered. The format will remain an Academic Pentathlon (grammar, vocabulary, Latin literature, mythology, and Roman history), with most questions revolving around this year's Octoberfestivus theme and two featured authors. This year students in grades 7-9 will take a beginning/intermediate exam and students in grades 10-12 will take an advanced exam.
- This year's featured authors will be Caesar and Vergil in honor of the new AP exam currently under production. Students may simply try their luck with these authors or seek out trivia in a history of Roman literature. Each test will have a couple of zingers to avoid too many ties.
- Awards will be presented to the top three students in these three categories: Latin ½-1, Latin 2-3, and Upper Level Latin (4-5).

5. Certamen

- We will NOT employ the traditional TJCL format (pre-qualifying testing, semis, finals). Instead, we will employ a round-robin format to maximize participation opportunities. A kinder, gentler Certamen, if you will.
- Teams will be randomly seeded before the tournament.
- Each team will play three preliminary round matches. The top three scoring teams (i.e., teams scoring the most cumulative points in the preliminary matches) will then advance to the finals.

Most typical Certamen rules and policies will apply, with a few notable exceptions:

1. There will only be two levels of competition – Lower Level (Latin One and Two) and Upper Level (Latin Three, Four, and Five).
2. A team consists of four students, but teams may play short with just two or three students.
3. There will be 12 toss-up questions in the preliminary rounds and 15 in the finals.

4. Substitutions are not allowed *during* a match, but players may be substituted *between* matches. So, for example, if you want to have 12 players on a team, with players 1-4 playing Round One, 5-8 playing Round Two, and 9-12 playing Round Three, that would be perfectly fine.

You may access a more comprehensive set of Certamen rules and policies at the following location:
<http://www.vroma.org/~rsellers/certamen.pdf>.

This year schools will not be asked to submit questions for Certamen.

Nota Bene: Due to the increased number of matches in the round-robin format, it may be an administrative necessity to have upper-level SMS students serve as moderators. If so, they will be thoroughly trained, and they will moderate the matches with the highest degree of professionalism.

6. Mythology Spelling Bee

- All spellings and pronunciations will be based on the index of Morford's *Classical Mythology*.
- The moderator will pronounce the character's name and give a brief description of the character. The speller may request for this information to be repeated, but word etymology and contextual examples will NOT be provided. (This is NOT the National Spelling Bee!)
- The speller must complete the word within 30 seconds. If a speller stops, he / she may start over from the beginning, but verbal blunders may NOT be corrected. (For example, "Aphrodite. A-P-R - I mean, A-P-H-R . . ." would NOT be acceptable.)
- Spellers may not use pencil, paper, or electronic devices.
- Spellers will be lined up in random order, and words will be called out according to a predetermined random sequence. If a student spells the word correctly, he / she advances to the next round. If a student spells the word incorrectly, he / she is eliminated from the competition.
- In general, words will be arranged according to both familiarity and difficulty. (For example, *Aphrodite* is certainly more difficult to spell than *Hera*, but both words would exist in the same range of typical familiarity. Hera would occur earlier than Aphrodite, but they would both be in the initial grouping.) The moderator will go through all of the "easy" words first, then the "medium" ones, and then if any competitors still remain, the "difficult" ones.
- Awards will be granted to the final three competitors left standing.

7. Chariot Race

- There will be both a girls' and a boys' race.
- Girls' and boys' races will be sequential, so schools need only have one chariot.
- The race will be a straight run down the soccer field for approximately 100 yards.
- As at TJCL, a chariot team will consist of four pullers and one chariot driver (rider).
- No permission slips or insurance forms will be required, but sponsors may wish to do so at their discretion.
- Chariots must be a reasonable interpretation of the ancient vehicle. As at TJCL, wheelbarrows and the like do not qualify.
- Any athletic competition involves some inherent risk. The participants assume this risk. Sponsors are expected to control the quality and safety of their equipment. SMS reserves the right to disqualify any equipment that appears to pose a risk to its own team or other teams. We will also insist that every rider wears a legitimate bicycle helmet.

8. Skit

- Each school may present only one skit.
- Skits must be in English and must adhere to a classical theme.
- Skits should be written, produced, and staged entirely by students, should contain no objectionable language or content, and must not involve any hazardous materials or open flames.
- Each group will have 10 minutes to set up, perform, and remove all scenery and props.
- Awards will be presented to the top three skits.