UPDATE ON MON March 9, 2020

At this point, convention is still on. If parents do not feel comfortable attending, we understand, but due to our contract we cannot offer any refunds. We have reached out to the hotel about if there is any discussion regarding this since the situation is so unique. We have just under 600 participants this year, which is smaller than most all of the schools involved. The CDC is suggesting canceling very large events (in the tens of thousands, but not smaller events) or events with individuals from multiple countries. We will continue to pay close attention to the situation in particular the CDC, WHO, and Ohio Department of Health. Additionally, I’ve been keeping an eye on if HS sports have been canceling (they have not) since many of our schools are sharing germs through inter-school activities already.

STATEMENT BY OJCL ON COVID-19 March 1, 2020  
We write today to update you on measures we are taking in response to the increasing spread of COVID-19.**We continue to monitor the guidance from local, state, and federal public health officials. At this time, there is no need to change any event associated with the Ohio Junior Classical League Convention next week.** As of today, there are currently no known cases in Ohio.   
  
The health and safety of all of our students and the school communities involved is our top priority. Please be advised as to how the Ohio Junior Classical League is taking a proactive approach to COVID-19 preparedness:

·      OJCL requests that all teachers attending please be prepared with extra tissues, hand sanitizer, and to bring thermometer/s.

·      OJCL requests that all sponsors communicate with parents that any student attending the event who develops a fever above 100.0 must be picked up in as timely a fashion as possible.

·      Any event attendee who is sick (fever of 100.0  or greater and/or cough/difficulty breathing) may not attend the event until they are 24 hours fever free without medication.

·      OJCL is a global and inclusive community, with students and community members from around the world. We ask that members of our community take care to avoid assumptions about others based on perceived symptoms or identities (for example, ethnicity and/or national origin).

·      In general, we encourage all OJCL attendees to practice routine hygiene etiquette and self-care as the best way to prevent the spread of infection:

o   Cough/sneeze into your elbow.

o   Avoid touching your hands to your face or eyes.

o   Wash your hands or use alcohol hand rub after coughing or sneezing.

We understand that the uncertainty of this evolving health situation may cause a certain level of concern in both students and their caregivers. Please [click here to gain insight](http://email.mail4.veracross.com/c/eJw9jkGLwyAUhH9NPMp7z5jUg4d02f0DC70GNbaRNRpUWvbfN7kU5jADw8y3aCmMkezp5t2XmtPsNxPivP9pHEclAdmq7WKFNGD6xXglLRAObpR4EcZaS4gs6rW1vXZi6ujnUPpvgW_1cELdv26_hQVNQAACiAhHAI5cDeo6gboMNAHS97Xr4bzu-dMX40qulbu8saJDWnxZva9H4-VjDOnRcuK5PE5sF4NPTbdXPdOHvpfH8BsmB0Uc) on talking with teens and tweens about COVID-19.

P.S. Additionally, for those concerned regarding the Arnold Festival the previous weekend in Columbus. Local news has reported that Gov. DeWine announced that the athletic competitions will continue however, no spectators are permitted (which is not typical of the event). All competing athletes are required to undergo a health check. All area hotels are taking extra precautions and having additional staff on hand to increase their cleaning and sanitizing. The Arnold Expo which typically has 200,000 in attendance and is held concurrently with the Arnold Festival has been cancelled this year. Annually, the Crowne Plaza Columbus North has some clients due to the Arnold Expo, but rarely host athletes due to the distance to the Convention Center.