

# "Rising to the Peak of Leadership: MASC to Olympus"

September 2025

Welcome To Your Monthly MASC Newsletter!

## A Message From Our State President

It is with great excitement that I welcome you all to another incredible year ahead! For those who have yet to meet me, my name is Kate Carnahan, I am from Longmeadow High School, and I am honored to serve as your 49th Massachusetts Association of Student Councils State President.

I want to welcome you all back and fill you in on some things to keep in mind for the coming year. Over the late spring and summer, the MASC board and I have been hard at work shaping a theme that captures the spirit of leadership, community, and growth. I am proud to introduce our theme: "Rising to the Peak of Leadership: MASC to Olympus." Together, we will explore the wisdom, strength, and creativity of the ancient gods and goddesses, connecting their timeless characteristics to the qualities that make us great leaders today.

Just like the gods ruled Mount Olympus, student leaders rise to their own peak through courage, collaboration, and service. Each month, we will highlight a different figure from Greek mythology and tie their traits to lessons in leadership. From the wisdom of Athena to the strength of Zeus to the creativity of Apollo, we'll uncover how their stories inspire our own journey as leaders and help us on our climb to the top of Mount Olympus.

In addition to this exciting theme, the board and I are committed to strengthening communication and outreach across the state. Expect to see updates through our newsletter, and engaging videos & focused content on our social media (@MASCPresident).

As we begin the school year, Olympus reminds us that leadership is a journey of growth. With every step we take, we rise higher, pushing ourselves to be better leaders, teammates, and friends. I cannot wait to see everything this year has in store for MASC!

I encourage each and every one of you to seize opportunities, step into leadership roles, and share your voice. We've planned an amazing year together, so let's climb and "Rise to the Peak of Leadership." Once again, welcome to MASC 2025–2026! Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions or ideas through our Instagram @MASCpresident.

All the best,

Kate Carnahan  
MASC President

## Our God of the Month: Hermes

Hello MASC!! September's Deity of the Month is Hermes, the God of messages, luck and journey. Across Greek Mythology, Hermes is acclaimed for thinking on his feet and being able to come up with innovative solutions in times of distress. The very day he was born, Hermes upset Apollo by stealing his cattle but was able to make amends with the Sun God by gifting him the lyre, which he had invented from a tortoise shell. Hermes's adaptability and swift communication is also often seen in his aiding of other deities, such as him giving Perseus winged sandals which allowed him to defeat Medusa and through his protection of the heroine Odysseus when he gifted him an herb which allowed him to resist spells from Circe. Hermes demonstrates that leadership also means supporting others through challenges as he leads not through force, but with creativity, flexibility, and resourcefulness!!

## Who is like Hermes?

For the month of September, we have chosen to highlight several leaders across the state who embody the leadership traits of Hermes. Congratulations to:

**Mason Daly**

Longmeadow High School

**Sofia Saldanha**

North Reading High School

**Kazmiryr Lagimoniere**

Ware High School

**Lola Schabert**

Duxbury High School

**Paige Henebry**

Medfield High School

**Avi Singh**

Westborough High School

**Gwen Murphy**

Amesbury High School

**Julie Anne Petersen**

Tantasqua Regional  
High School

**Clover Maloney**

Blackstone-Millville Regional  
High School

**Caroline Brown**

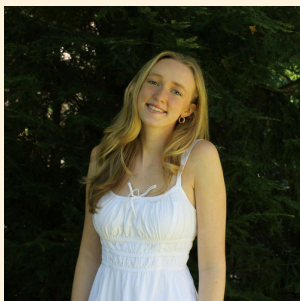
Nauset Regional  
High School

Want to nominate someone for our next "Deity of the Month?" Please use the form below!

[Deity of the Month Nomination Form](#)



# Let's Meet the Olympians!



**Kate Carnahan: President**  
Longmeadow High School

As my leadership style has grown and evolved over the years, I have discovered that it is rooted in ensuring every voice, both loud and quiet, is recognized and valued. This connects most with Demeter, the goddess of agriculture and nurture. Just as she provided growth and nourishment for all, I see leadership as creating an environment where everyone can thrive. By celebrating the unique ways each person leads and contributes, we cultivate a stronger, more supportive community, much like the life and abundance Demeter brought to those around her.



**Ben Bachand: Vice President**  
Tantasqua Regional High School

Throughout my time in Student Council, I have seen myself grow more than I ever would have imagined. I have been able to surpass my own expectations and become the strong leader I am today, similar to the Greek God Hephaestus. Though often misjudged due to his disfigurement, Hephaestus was able to surpass his mother's expectations and become the powerful and resilient craftsman he is known as today. I think this ideology is very important to follow as a leader- we can be so much more than how others perceive us, and do anything if we put our mind to it.



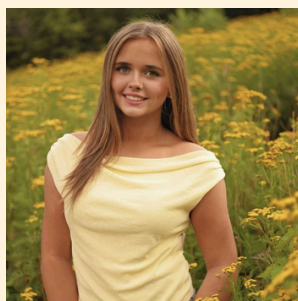
**Miya Gagne: Secretary**  
Blackstone-Millville Regional High School

I have always seen being a leader as an opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of others. My leadership style is best represented by Apollo, the God of the Sun, light, healing, and vision. I am always open to new and innovative ideas while striving to create environments where everyone feels not only accepted, but truly valued. To me, being a leader means shining a light on the path ahead just as Apollo did as he illuminated the Earth. With that I am dedicated to inspiring growth, confidence, and creativity in those around me with clarity, balance, and vision toward achieving their fullest potential.



**Natalia Panousos: Delegate**  
North Reading High School

As a leader, I often find myself resonating most with Goddess (or Titaness) Themis- who symbolizes justice. She spent her time establishing order in Olympus, and unlike other Gods, prioritized consent over coercion. Themis overall worked to uphold the divine law. In a leadership setting, I strengthen in acting as an impartial balance to a group setting, making sure all sides are thoroughly represented, while Themis does so by wearing her blindfold and mediating between Gods. Today, the scale of balance represents Themis, but her story can be translated into something larger than that. By working to resolve issues peacefully, take care of others, and promote fairness, I have created a leadership balance for myself that has helped others around me grow comfortably, so it is safe to say I resonate most with Themis!



**Kathleen O'Reilly: Delegate**  
Westborough High School

Hera, the queen of the gods in Greek mythology, embodies strength, authority, and the power of women in leadership. As the goddess of women and marriage, she symbolizes the ability to lead with confidence and care. I resonate with Hera because, like her, I believe strong female leaders can inspire and uplift each other while staying true to their values. She reminds me that women in leadership can be powerful, yet thoughtful and compassionate, using their influence to create lasting change.



**Allie Roberts: Delegate**  
North Andover High School

Poseidon, the god of the sea, embodies perseverance and strength in leadership. As ruler of the oceans, he commanded the waves and safeguarded those who traveled upon them. I connect with Poseidon because, like him, I believe in enduring challenges and pushing forward through any storm. Poseidon valued working as a team, reminding me of the not only finding leadership within a team, but making sure everyone is included. Poseidon reminds me that even on the hardest days, as long as we lean on those around us, we can just keep swimming.



## Let's Meet the Olympians!



**Bryce Egeli: Delegate**  
**Nauset Regional High School**

The best leader is the one who works to lead themselves, before they lead others. How can one face the struggles and concepts of life to become the best version of themselves they can be. You can't help the world around you if you can't even help yourself. Psyche, the goddess I chose, in order to gain the love of Eros, must face the trials put together by Aphrodite, her family, and Eros, transforming her from living in a state of naiveness and unawareness, to a state of full clarity and wisdom. One cannot be the best version of themselves overnight, and must constantly figure out how they can improve on whom they already are. Whether this is going to the gym every day, practicing giving speeches, storytelling to others, or trying to work with your friends on a school project. Psyche wasn't a symbol of leadership, until she worked to make herself one.



**Connor Calderwood:**  
**NEMASC President**  
**Amesbury High School**

Although each greek god and goddess can represent one aspect of a great leader the one I resonate with the most is Hermes the god of communication. Conveying important information to everyone is essential for me to feel fulfilled as a leader and a person. Whether it be through a social media post or relaying everyone's ideas to the regional level/state level your voice will be heard just as the messenger Hermes would have wanted.



**Jackson Taylor:**  
**SEMASC President**  
**Duxbury High School**

To me, being a leader is about helping to guide people through life's times, both rough and calm. Because of this, out of the Greek Gods, I resonate most with Poseidon, the God of the Sea. Poseidon demonstrates his power through the shifting waters, and is strong whether it's stormy or still. I think that as leaders, we should aim to be like him in that we should be reliable and steady, but also adaptable when the tides change. True leadership, in my opinion, to be able to be a powerful force that propels others forward and also be able to calm down and act as a current that provides security and assurance. Above all, I think that as leaders we should work to help the people around us become more resilient, adaptable, and united so that we can overcome obstacles and go further than any one of us could alone.



**Madisyn Slattery:**  
**WMASC President**  
**Ware High School**

I have always viewed leadership as a chance to bring people together and help them achieve more than they thought possible. My leadership style is best represented by Athena, the Goddess of wisdom, strategy, and courage. I believe in making thoughtful decisions, listening deeply, and guiding others with fairness and understanding. To me, being a leader means offering both strength and wisdom, much like Athena who combined intellect with bravery. With that, I strive to create an atmosphere where challenges are met with creativity, collaboration, and resilience. Encouraging others to face obstacles with confidence and to grow not just as individuals, but as a united community.



**Rocco Sharma:**  
**CDMASC President**  
**Medfield High School**

My leadership style is about making sure that everyone gets a say and that every voice counts because I believe that a team is at its strongest when everybody feels that they are important. I compare this to Hestia, the Greek goddess of the hearth, who symbolized warmth, togetherness, and unity. In the same way that Hestia created a space where all could gather together equally around the fire, I strive to create an environment of cooperation and inclusion where people can relax and feel comfortable sharing their input and contributing to the group's success.

## Important Dates For MASC

### September

- President's Dinner Registration Deadline – September 19, 2025
- President's Dinner at MSAA, Franklin, MA – September 25, 2025

### October

- Officershop Registration Deadline – October 17, 2025
- Officershop at Worcester Technical High School – October 25, 2025

### November

- Executive Board Nomination Portal Opens – November 3, 2025
- MASC Award Portal Opens – November 17, 2025
- State Workshop Portal Opens – November 17, 2025

### December

- Student Election Nominations Due – December 12, 2025

## Regional Updates



Hi WMASC! If you don't know me already, my name is Madisyn Slattery, and I am so excited to spend this year boogieing to the beat of leadership as your president! Here are some important dates to mark on your calendars!

- Fall conference: 11/6 at Easthampton High School (Advisors, check your emails for more information!)

Hello CDMASC, my name is Rocco Sharma, and I am thrilled to be your president this year. Look out for these dates!

- Fall conference: At Grafton High School (Date TBD) (Advisors, check your emails for more information!)



Hello SEMASC! My name is Jackson Taylor, and I am so excited for the year ahead of us. Keep your eye out for these upcoming dates!

- Fall conference: 10/10 at Nauset Regional High School (Advisors, check your emails for more information!)

Hello NEMASC! I hope everyone enjoyed a long relaxing summer before the eventful year ahead. Here are some important dates to be aware of.

- Fall conference: At North Andover High School (Date TBD) (Advisors, check your emails for more information!)

