

# 2021 POWER OF THE PEN STATE FINALS



# 2021 POWER OF THE PEN STATE TOURNAMENT

Hosted Virtually  
by Otterbein University

## Friday, May 14

7 p.m.  
Guest Author Jack Gantos  
Via Zoom Webinar

## Saturday, May 15

9 a.m. Writing Round 1  
9:55 a.m. Writing Round 2  
10:50 a.m. Writing Round 3

## Awards Ceremony

The virtual awards  
ceremony will be posted  
on Facebook and YouTube  
at a date and time to be  
announced.

Extraordinary Year,  
Extraordinary Stories

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WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THOSE  
WHO SHARE OUR VISION OF EXCELLENCE  
AND WHOSE BELIEF IN OUR MISSION HAS  
MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE,  
WE WELCOME YOU TO THE

# 2021

# POWER OF THE PEN

# STATE FINALS

~  
HOSTED VIRTUALLY BY  
**OTTERBEIN**  
**UNIVERSITY**



# POWER OF THE PEN REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Regional directors have formed the backbone of Power of the Pen's program since the 2018-2019 season. As coaches' primary contact with the program, regional directors work behind the scenes to ensure that students, coaches, families, and volunteers have a wonderful tournament experience. Their responsibilities range from recruiting participating schools to supervising the tab room.

When the pandemic compelled us to move tournaments online, regional directors jumped into what turned out to be a monumental task. We needed to recreate every aspect of a tournament online. Regional directors took on many roles that had formerly been handled by volunteers, including monitoring students online, sorting the writing to email to judges, reviewing ballots, and delivering awards.

Power of the Pen's online season would not have been possible without the regional directors' extraordinary efforts and their willingness to go far above and beyond what had been expected of them prior to the pandemic. We extend our deepest gratitude to them for ensuring that Power of the Pen writers have a place to shine, even during the pandemic.



**Mary Anderson,  
Northeast Region**

Power of the Pen is the best middle school writing program because it provides opportunities for teachers to access splendid models for instruction in the

*Book of Winners* and to access best practices used by fellow teachers.



**Jenn Sauvey,  
Southwest Region**

Power of the Pen is a wonderful opportunity for students because it allows creative writers – who often write on their own, in solitude – to find

a community of other writers who share their love of words and storytelling.



**Robin Langlais,  
South-Central Region**

Power of the Pen is a safe place for students to develop and share their unique voice and belong to a group of people who love language

and stories. The bond is truly magical and enduring.



**Barb Tschantz,  
Lake Erie Region**

The most difficult aspect of having to cancel the 2020 state tournament was the loss of the writing – all of the creative responses that we would never see. We were

determined to do whatever it took to give students a chance to compete this year, online.



**Julie Lyberger,  
Eastern Region**

Power of the Pen has been a labor of love for me for 23 years. I love meeting all of the dedicated coaches and the extremely talented writers from across the

state. Seeing the talented students create engaging, emotional stories in 40 minutes boggles my mind.



**Polly Walters,  
Northwest Region**

Here we are after over a year of virtual tournaments. With every additional task, every additional hour of work invested,

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Northwest schools and coaches in their efforts to provide a creative writing experience for their eager students.



**Paula McWilliams,  
Western Region**

I love Power of the Pen because even though it is a competition, the writers constantly support and cheer on their competitors. It

takes special coaches to guide creative souls to new levels of communication, and dedicated writers to accept the challenge of producing well-written and unique narratives in a short period of time.



**Cheryl Yates-Bledsoe,  
Northern Region**

I love Power of the Pen because of its encouragement of creative writing and writers. I admire the persistence and dedication of learners and

coaches all the time, but especially during this challenging year.

# GUEST AUTHOR JACK GANTOS

Jack has written books for readers of all ages, from picture books and middle-grade fiction to novels for young adults and adults. His works include *Hole in My Life*, a memoir that won the Michael L. Printz and Robert F. Sibert honors; *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, a National Book Award Finalist, *Joey Pigza Loses Control*, a Newbery Honor book, and *Dead End in Norvelt*, the 2012 Newbery Medal Winner, and the Scott O'Dell Award Winner for Best Historic Fiction.

As recounted in *Heads or Tails*, his first book of “Jack Henry” stories inspired by his own childhood journals, the seeds for Jack’s writing career were planted in sixth grade, when he read his sister’s diary and decided he could write better than she could. He begged his mother for a diary and began to collect anecdotes he overheard at school, mostly from standing outside the teachers’ lounge and listening to their lunchtime conversations. Later, he incorporated many of these anecdotes into stories.

In junior high he went to a school that had been converted from a former state prison. He thinks the inmates probably fled for their lives once the students showed up. Again, he spent most of his time reading on his own and, like “Harriet” in *Harriet the Spy*, he spied on all his “low supervision” neighbors and wrote down their lunatic activities (a lot of gore and broken bones and bizarre games).

Jack decided to become a writer when he was in high school. But he would have to wait another three years, until he went to college, before he could actually meet other writers and study with teachers who thought writing amounted to more than just cribbing book reports and composing sympathy notes.

While in college, he and an illustrator friend, Nicole Rubel, began working on picture books. After a series of rejections, they published their first book, *Rotten Ralph*, in 1976. It was a success and the beginning of Jack’s career as a professional writer.

Jack continued to write children’s books and began to teach courses in children’s book writing and children’s literature. He developed the master’s degree program in children’s book writing at Emerson College and the Vermont College M.F.A. program for children’s book writers. He now devotes his time to writing books and educational speaking.

A longtime supporter of Power of the Pen, Jack Gantos has appeared at several Power of the Pen state tournaments. With his quick wit and gift for storytelling, Jack’s presentations feature a powerful mix of amusing anecdotes and advice for writers.

As you can tell from the picture, Jack has become quite adept at Zoom presentations over the course of the pandemic. However, he is available for school visits in fall 2021.

Visit <https://jackgantos.com>.





# THE PROMISING YOUNG TALENT AWARD: EDWARD LI

This year's Promising Young Talent Award winner, Edward Li, has multiple stories published in the 2019 and 2020 editions of the *Book of Winners*. Guest author Jack Gantos selected "Faulty Tear Ducts" for capturing both the physical and the emotional range of the narrator's experience.



## Meet Edward Li

I am currently a freshman at the Seven Hills Upper School, with one-and-two-thirds Power of the Pen seasons under my belt. I was on the Mason Middle School writing team, qualifying for state level (and several fancy awards) in

both seasons.

I also play piano and violin, enjoy making videos and music compositions, have participated in Lego STEM competitions, and am an avid Minecraft player.

I first became involved with Power of the Pen when I tried out for the school writing team. I don't remember why, exactly, but I do remember that my first practice stories were quite bad! As time went on, though, story writing started to grow on me and I found my ideas easier to put on paper, more passionate to write, and more enjoyable to reread.

Power of the Pen has introduced me to story writing as well as sparked my interest in fields beyond it. Power of the Pen gave me 40 dedicated, competitive minutes of time every week to let the writer's fire ignite inside. Without Power of the Pen keeping the distractions away for those 40 minutes, I might never have developed the beginnings of a new passion and expanded my writing prowess past the occasional English final essay.

Some people say passions are things to be found; other people say you have to make them. I think passions are both – like jewelry. You dig the rough gem out of the earth and painstakingly chisel it to your liking. And for me, writing was and is no exception to that rule.

## Faulty Tear Ducts

by Edward Li

My legs shudder involuntarily, with greater and greater intensity as my name on the handout approaches. The violist, named Noah, a good friend of mine, is up on stage playing Bach's Cello Suite 1. I turn my palms upward to let out my perspiration, to let it drift away as cirrus clouds, but instead it rains back down again into the rivers of my creases.

Noah finishes with a flourish and the audience applauds. He poses with his viola under the crook of his arm and faces the blinding flash of the camera – without blinking! Whenever I take a picture with any sort of flash, my eyelids seem to want to race toward each other like the cover of a camera shutter. As a result, my pictures come out with my eyes closed half the time.

The academy director, Mr. Lute (I'm not kidding, that's his real name. Heck, he runs a music academy.) calls my name. Already, I'm fighting to keep my eyes open against the stage lights; I look down at the comforting black of the music stand as I set up my score.

Turning toward the pianist, I see that he loyally awaits my cue to begin. I give him a nod once the audience quiets, and his fingers spring into action.

The accompanying part of Mozart's Concerto in G swells up, falls, and races along. I don't so much as let my eyelashes brush each other as I squint at my sheet music, counting silently until my entrance, blood roaring in my ears. Just barely, I manage the triple-chord and beginning passage with sweating fingers and uncooperative violin. As I continue, the vibrating strings glare at me like the edge of a guillotine blade, my bow sliding about from note to note like a defective seesaw.

I shift up, land too high, wince, and readjust my other fingers for the sixteenth notes that follow. I can't continue like this. I still haven't blinked in nearly thirty seconds, and moisture starts building up. *Not helping!* I scold my tear ducts.

A scratching noise emits from my instrument as I stumble along the staccato section: even it is protesting now. Still, I hobble along, trying to keep up with my accomplice like a wounded infantryman. The printed notes blur in and out of existence. When will this end?

I let myself blink. Once. The stage stops spinning.

My fingers take this as an excuse to falter, but I urge them on. Mozart's score rises back out of my tears, the full moon over a calming ocean. My mind makes sense of it now. I glance back again at my accompanying pianist and continue the piece. As we conclude, and I complete the cadenza with newfound confidence, I finish with a genuine smile for once. I'm actually disappointed it's over but relieved all the same.

# PAST WINNERS OF THE PROMISING YOUNG TALENT AWARD

**The Norma Fox Mazer Award**

1989 Carol Sinko, Taft MS, Canton  
Coached by Beth Shoemaker

**The Jan Greenberg Award**

1990 Renee Hairston, Shaker Heights MS,  
Shaker Heights  
Coached by Shanna Spalding

**The Bruce Clements Award**

1991 Rae Sikula, Center JHS, Strongsville  
Coached by M. Mittler and P. Scriven

**The Norma Fox Mazer Award**

1992 Jennifer Mayer, Nord JHS, Amherst,  
Coached by Barbara Brown

**The Richard Peck Award**

1993 Tyler McIlvaine, Central MS,  
Wadsworth, Coached by Linda King

**The Chris Crutcher Award**

1994 Lisa Williams, Milkovich MS, Maple  
Heights, Coached by Scott Stephen

**The Gordon Korman Award**

1995 Tim Bugansky, Marlinton MS,  
Alliance, Coached by Mary Staib

**The Richard Peck Award**

1996 Josh Grimm, Fredericktown JHS,  
Fredericktown, Coached by Carolyn Grimm

**The Joan Bauer Award**

1997 Bryn Grey, Roxboro MS, Cleveland  
Heights, Coached by Mary Gibson

**The Lois Lowry Award**

1998 Katrina Phillips, Davey MS, Kent,  
Coached by Lynne Penix and Jeff Haar

**The Lois Duncan Award**

1999 Christopher Russell, Gahanna MS  
East, Gahanna, Coached by Lane Wood

**The Paul Zindel Award**

2000 Ruth McDowell, St. Sebastian,  
Akron, Coached by Mary Anderson

**The Lois Lowry Award**

2001 Brett Okamoto, Avon MS, Avon,  
Coached by Janel Folland

**The Richard Peck Award**

2002 Elizabeth LaCroix, Laurel School,  
Shaker Heights, Coached by Rebecca  
Chandler

**The Margaret Peterson Haddix Award**

2003 Alyssa Eckles, Evergreen MS,  
Matamoras, Coached by Jamie Wesolowski

**The Stephanie Tolan Award**

2004 Stephanie Goldfarb, Shaker Heights  
MS, Shaker Heights, Coached by  
Jane Troha

**The Gordon Korman Award**

2005 Justin McAtee, Little Hocking MS,  
Little Hocking, Coached by Connie Dobbs

**The Chris Crutcher Award**

2006 Siobhan Tellez, Oakwood JHS,  
Dayton, Coached by John Holland

**The Kimberly Holt Award**

2007 Maggie Sivit, Laurel School, Shaker  
Heights, Coached by Kathleen Shields

**The Jaime Adoff Award**

2008 Louisa Rich, McKinney MS, Yellow  
Springs, Coached by Aurelia Blake

**The Suzanne Fisher Staples Award**

2009 Zyna Bakari, McKinney MS, Yellow  
Springs, Coached by Aurelia Blake

**The Margaret Peterson Haddix Award**

2010 Mikale Thomas, Roxboro MS,  
Cleveland Heights, Coached by  
Caitlin McGrath

**The Chris Crutcher Award**

2011 Alix Prybyla, Old Trail School, Bath,  
Coached by Erik Korvne

**The Jack Gantos Award**

2012 Abby Studebaker, Tecumseh MS,  
New Carlisle, Coached by Lahela Snyder

**The Katherine Applegate Award**

2013 Olivia Petryszyn, Chardon MS,  
Chardon, Coached by Cher Culliton

**The Sharon M. Draper Award**

2014 Jake Van de Walle, Brady MS, Pepper  
Pike, Coached by Jeff Kapostasy

**The Michael Grant Award**

2015 Claire Malec, Westpark  
Community School, Cleveland,  
Coached by Jennifer Clark

**The Jack Gantos Award**

2016 Alexandra Xuan, Lake MS, Hartville,  
Coached by Barb Tschantz

**The Chris Crutcher Award**

2017 Johnna Blystone, Austintown MS,  
Youngstown, Coached by  
Jason Freudenberg

**The Jason Reynolds Award**

2019 Berkley Pelletier, Hudson MS,  
Hudson, Coached by Mike Fejes

**The Margaret Peterson Haddix Award**

2020 Paige Galperin, Kimpton MS,  
Munroe Falls, Coached by Leslie Haynam

# INTRODUCING: POWER OF THE PEN FOUNDERS' AWARD

In 1985, writer and educator Lorraine B. Merrill had a vision: how wonderful it would be if schools recognized and celebrated writing as much as they recognized and celebrated team sports. Lorraine envisioned a series of interscholastic writing tournaments across Ohio, with schools forming creative writing clubs to prepare students for these events. Young authors not only would enjoy the thrill of competition, but they also would experience the same camaraderie, skills development, and support afforded to school athletes.



## In Memory of Frank and Lorraine Merrill

Lorraine and Frank poured more than 30 years of their lives into Power of the Pen as they worked tirelessly to expand the program throughout the entire state of Ohio. Lorraine provided the creative inspiration; raised funds; built a board of trustees, state committee, and network of volunteers and staff; implemented professional development; and communicated closely with coaches. She developed the holistic training and criteria used by writing coaches and judges. Frank worked behind the scenes to support each of these endeavors, as well as manage registration, scoring, the website, and the business aspects of running a nonprofit organization.

Lorraine's belief in the power of middle school students' voices was unwavering. Reflecting in 2016 on Power of the Pen's connection with Christa McAuliffe, Lorraine noted the similarities between the program's young writers and astronauts: "They have donned the wings of imagination with which to dream, the audacity to believe. And the courage to soar." Thanks to Frank and Lorraine, tens of thousands of Ohio's young writers have been given the opportunity to soar.

Family members have established the Founders' Award in Memory of Frank and Lorraine Merrill with the Springfield Foundation to honor annually an exceptional writer. Few things would give Frank and Lorraine greater happiness than to know that, long after they are gone, Power of the Pen will continue to nurture young voices.

Lorraine made her vision a reality with the first interscholastic tournament for middle school students at Nordon Junior High School in the 1985-1986 school year. The Nordon tournament helped her earn recognition as a Christa McAuliffe Fellow by the U.S. and State Departments of Education in 1988. The grant she received was designed to foster educational programs exemplifying Christa McAuliffe's pioneering spirit.

The grant provided Lorraine with a year's sabbatical to bring to life her vision of blending innovative teacher training with interscholastic writing competitions as a means of strengthening academic achievement among students at the middle school level. This was accomplished in 1988-1989 with substantial funding support from the Gund, Knight, and Cleveland Foundations.

The challenge then became how to take this fledgling program in a little corner of Ohio and expand it into a groundbreaking statewide operation. This was where Frank's talent and skill proved pivotal. When the program began, the term 'World Wide Web' didn't even exist. Classrooms had no computers or smartboards. Frank was never intimidated by the transformational birth of the digital age; rather, he embraced it. He was an early leader in creating computer programming, including the elaborate scoring system that is used in tournaments.



# POWER OF THE PEN FOUNDERS' AWARD: LILY VALERIUS

## A Promise Lost

by Lily Valerius, Wyoming Middle School, Wyoming

A promise is a fickle thing. It seems so clear when new, but tarnishes and fades over time. What once was a guarantee can quickly shift to a desperate struggle to make ends meet. A promise that was once the only truth you knew can become a lie that weighs heavily on your heart.

That's why, when I first brought her home, I should never have made her this promise. Never should have hugged her, stroked her fur, let her lick my cheek. I shouldn't have taken one look at the long golden fur, shining in the dusky evening light coming from the stained-glass window, and decided she was mine to protect.

At all costs.

And now, as I stroke her muzzle, with its bristly silver hairs and short, white whiskers, I'm crying, and my tears drip onto her tired head, but she doesn't have the strength to lick them away as she once would have.

As she would have done when we still played fetch for hours in the backyard, and she sprinted back and forth, her lean body in perpetual motion, and we were happy, and she was young. When she ate ravenously and the only pill bottle for her on the bathroom counter was her flea medication. And now the vet is telling me that I can go out or stay in for this part; and she's looking at me with those big, dark, golden-brown eyes, and I'm shaking my head, because I don't want to leave her.

I can't leave her.

And as the needle enters her side and her eyes begin to close, I close mine, too, and think of the days when we played and were young, and she could still run and jump, and we danced together to Christmas music, her paws on my waist while Mom and Dad put up the ornaments.

I think of the long walks in the woods, and the way she seemed to smile at the world, tongue out and eyes bright.

And when I open my eyes, hers are closed. I take a shuddering breath, and I feel Mom's hand on my shoulder, but it doesn't help because I know what no one else knows.

I know that years ago, on a bright and golden evening, I met a puppy and I loved her, and I made a promise.

I promised her I would always keep her safe.

And now I stand here, hand buried in her thick fur. I stand here and I feel the warmth of life, of light, of love, begin to leave her body.

## Meet Lily Valerius

I am a ninth grader at Wyoming High School. I play hockey and run track, and I like to roller skate and paint whenever I get a chance.

I write because there's no shortage of words to arrange in different ways, and I write so I can see something more clearly, so that the same image springs up every time the page is read.

I joined Power of the Pen after I heard about it from my language arts teacher because I wanted to get better at expressing ideas, and because writing feels like reading to me. You can see the story in your head, much like with reading, but you get to create and edit it.

I'll always be grateful to Power of the Pen for giving me the opportunity to become a more creative and confident writer and for helping me receive constructive criticism on my work.



# THE ANNUAL HUMOR AWARD: SHALIZ BAZLDJOO

The 2021 Humor Award winner is the author of a story featuring shady dealings on an elementary school playground. Readers will enjoy this lighthearted look at a model student flirting with danger. Shaliz Bazldjoo was selected as this year's winner by Sage Boggs, a Power of the Pen alum and writer for television, whose credits include *The Tonight Show* and *Saturday Night Live*.



## Meet Shaliz Bazldjoo

Shaliz Bazldjoo is currently in ninth grade at Laurel School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. She enjoys reading, joking, fencing, language-learning, and criticizing spy movies, and she participates frequently in

debate and political activism.

Writing has been an integral part of Shaliz's life ever since her first hand-scribbled picture books, and she continues to work on both short stories and novel drafts every day. In her mind, writing is like sleeping: difficult, but natural. She entered Power of the Pen in seventh and eighth grade with other students from her school, and being on the Power of the Pen team has helped her gain more focus and confidence in her work and prompted her to pursue more writing opportunities today.

## The Dark Side of the Playground

by Shaliz Bazldjoo, Laurel School, Shaker Heights

The day at the playground felt like any other. My classmates played, teachers watched and talked to one another, the sun was bright and beaming and joyful. Kids laughed and squealed on the swing set, hid under the playground steps, swept through the monkey bars in skillful competitions. Most of the second grade – myself included – spent their recess time here, in the nice, bright, happy part of the playground.

But there was another side. A dark side. A shady side. Past the seesaw, through the sandpit, under a plastic tunnel. If you could then survive the searing heat of the metal slide, and then took an artfully crafted tumble through a grove of trees, you found yourself on the dark side.

Few ventured here. Most of the kids my age barely knew it existed. Some of the older kids braved it in order to take the banned substance – bubble gum – others to use their phones or trade packets of chips.

There were different territories in this area, each one more dangerous than the last; the Fourth Grade Gathering, just off the middle school playground; the Gamer's Grotto, in a group of logs where kids snuck in playing devices. There was also the Climber's Association, and no one knew when they were watching from their perches in the trees. And many more clans hid between the wood chips.

There was a pathway between the tire swing and the swinging pole that belonged to no clan. It was the no-man's-land of the Dark Side, where newcomers approached if they wanted a glimpse of the shady life but didn't have the courage to swear fealty to a clan. It was also where trades were made and bargains struck, where kids of all grades came to make deals on seeing test scores and exchanging glitter pens. It was where I was going now.

I was usually a nice girl. My mom did my hair in braids every morning. I went to school immaculately dressed, got good grades and won ribbon stickers to showcase my excellence. Today I was venturing into the Dark Side of the playground for a very special cause.

Leaves and wood chips crunched under my shoes. Birds chirped in the trees nearby. The squealing of children echoed behind me, and I longed to return to the good, safe life. But I could not. Not yet. I had a mission to complete.

The pathway was dangerous. Dark-siders more skilled than I might trick me into giving them a yogurt squeeze at lunch. And there was always the possibility of a teacher catching us and giving us time-outs if they saw us misbehaving. But I had to be brave.

I found him leaning against a rock wall. Kenny Foster of the second grade was more used to the Dark Side of the playground than I was, but I was smarter. I was the smartest kid in my whole grade.

His ebony muss of hair turned my way. He pocketed the fidget spinner he had been playing with and stood up straighter.

"You wanted to meet with me?" he said. It was clear from the disdain in his eyes that he thought I was new to the Dark Side and was only wasting his time. "Yes." I leaned in. "I know you took a second candy, Kenny," I whispered, and almost grinned when he turned sheet pale.

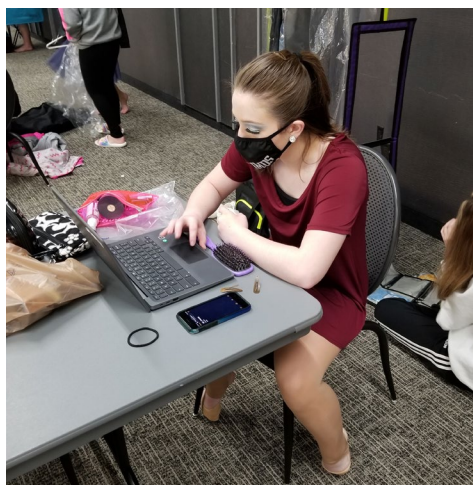
Kenny goggled at me, astonished. "How did you —"

"Don't think I'll reveal my secrets. You took a second candy from the jar this morning after winning the trivia question. You're only allowed to take one."

The disdain was gone from Kenny's face, replaced with panic. "Please don't tell Miss Davis! I really thought no one saw! Please don't tell her!"

"I won't ..." A sly look edged onto my face. "Under one condition."

“Anything! Name it!”  
 “You give me one of your candies.”  
 Poor Kenny looked torn. I felt bad to pressure him so, but it was the way business worked. “Why? You can have anything else, anything.”  
 “I want the candy, Kenny.”  
 Kenny still looked reluctant. “Come on, Kenny,” I pressed, “the candy, or I tell Miss Davis. And you won’t last a minute in time-out.”  
 I held out my hand. Finally Kenny relented and placed a Jolly Rancher in my palm. I then ran away, back into the safe, happy side of the playground.  
 I closed my fist and grinned, quickly slipping the candy into my pocket and skipping back out to the monkey bars. I was quite a good bargainer. Who ever said nice girls couldn’t handle the Dark Side?



## Past Winners of the Humor Award

**2007**

Laura Gates, Hathaway Brown School, Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga County

**2008**

Kevin O'Donnell, Bellbrook MS, Bellbrook, Greene County

**2009**

Tyler Detrick, Rockway MS, Springfield, Clark County

**2010**

Lauren Wheeler, Lake MS, Hartville, Stark County  
 Alex Pfeiffer, Dominion MS, Columbus, Franklin County

**2011**

Sabrina Djemil, Brecksville Broadview Heights, Broadview Heights, Cuyahoga County

**2012**

Isabella Nilsson, Hathaway Brown, Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga County

**2013**

Hope Anderson, Huntington MS, Chillicothe, Ross County

**2014**

Moir Armstrong, Howland MS, Warren, Trumbull County

**2015**

Lauren Durham, Versailles MS, Versailles, Darke County

**2016**

Ellie Frato-Sweeney, James A Garfield MS, Garrettsville, Portage County

**2017**

Berkley Pelletier, Hudson MS, Summit County

**2019**

Natalie Glover, Wyoming MS, Wyoming, Hamilton County

**2020**

Sun-Hee Smith, St. Bernadette School, Westlake, Cuyahoga County



# POWERFUL PEN AWARD: LAUREL BUESCHER

More than 10,000 stories are produced during a single Power of the Pen season, and fewer than 100 of these are selected for publication in the annual *Book of Winners*. The Powerful Pen Award is reserved for the rare writers who have had at least four pieces published in the *Book of Winners* over a two-year time span. This year's winner, Laurel Buescher, uses vivid description and subtle humor to craft relatable stories that range from the dramatic tale of a mosquito bite gone bad to the thrill of a crisp autumn day. In her piece "The Gift," the narrator makes an unexpected discovery.



**Meet  
Laurel  
Buescher**

Laurel Buescher is finishing her freshman year at Cleveland Heights High School, where she is a member of the soccer and track teams. Outside of school, she enjoys playing violin, baking,

throwing knives, and reading, along with taking care of her pet mice. She's looking forward to summer, and a more normal school year soon!

Laurel writes because she enjoys the challenge of bringing a story to life and exploring scenarios that might not be feasible in our own world. She learned about Power of the Pen through her older sister who had participated, which inspired her to join the team as well. Power of the Pen has helped Laurel make new friends and develop her love of writing and reading.

## The Gift

*by Laurel Buescher, Monticello Middle School, Cleveland Heights*

Bleep! Bleep! Bleep! The jarring sound of my alarm pulls me from a deep slumber, wrapped in a cocoon of blankets.

I'm tired. Too tired. Of the same day, the same routine, the same life. Wake up, go to school, try not to fail.

As I sit in Mr. Burns's third period class, watching his old clock tick along like a snail, I wonder, "Is there anything new in life?"

"Attention, third period, I have a special announcement for you." My teacher's voice penetrates my lonely daydreams. "Today you have the honor of meeting a live musician, who is a member of our very own Tulsa Orchestra."

I sigh. I don't know what I was expecting, really. Me, Ally, a regular girl, to get life-changing news?

As the musician, carrying a case made of leather, marches into the room, announces himself as Mr. Rines and unzips the case, a murmur of interest passes through the room. The case holds a beautifully crafted instrument. "A violin," he says, as he holds the instrument with strings stretched tightly over exquisitely varnished wood. "Now class, who knows the four strings of the violin?" he questions the crowd at random.

I hear mutters of "A", "E", "D", and "G."

"That's right," he encourages. Then, he lifts the golden work of art out of its box and begins to play. Plays a mesmerizing, incredibly lovely song that fills the cramped room with wonder and life. As the music swells, I feel the urge to get up and move. Move to the music, the sound, the life. I'm actually out of my seat before I realize what I am doing. In the middle of class in front of a stranger!

"Ally, sit down. What are you doing?" Again, Mr. Burns's voice pulls me back to reality, where a now-silent musical instrument is carried and gently nestled into the soft cloth that makes up its home.

Distantly, I hear the bell ring, dismissing the class. But I'm not caught up in the frenzy of movement of my classmates, their only goal to get to the next class on time. I still feel drawn to the instrument, its spectacular music singing in my ears.

"Ah, Ally, right?" Mr. Rines seems to recognize me as the fool who stood up in the middle of the piece.

"That's right," I respond, embarrassed by the memory. "I'm sorry I stood and if I distracted you or anything," I blurt out. "The music was just so..." I search for the right word, "compelling."

But Mr. Rines, the maker of such wonderful music, is just nodding, a slight smile on his face.

"No," he contradicts. "I know what you mean. I'm actually very happy that you stood. It means you have a gift."

"A gift?" I echo. "How? I'm just a regular girl, trying to keep from failing school."

"You have it, Ally. It's there. Would you like to take a closer look at my violin?"

"Yes," I breathe, hoping to catch one last glimpse of the amazing instrument.

The wooden box – handcrafted in Germany, Mr. Rines tells me – sits on the desk, gleaming like all the sun in the world is shining on it.

"May I pick it up?"

He nods.

As I gently lift the majestic instrument from its velvety home, I feel a sense of belonging, and a longing to hear the beautiful music it makes. I pluck a string and it makes a deep, rich sound, reverberating around the room. My heart swells at the sound I had made with this amazing creation, knowing that at last I had found my gift.

# THE ANNUAL POETRY AWARD: ANAH KHAN

*In honor of Renee Hairston, a former poet and writer from Shaker Heights, Ohio*

## My brother's eyes

*by Anah Khan, Beachwood MS,  
Beachwood*

what color are your eyes, sunny?  
looking into them i can't tell  
yet on your first minute earthside  
into them i fell

what color are your eyes, sunny?  
are they deep and brown like us?  
mom says to leave you alone,  
not to make such a fuss.

but oh i need to know, sunny,  
what color are your eyes?  
you smile at me for the first time ever,  
and i feel my heart rise

your eyes might be bright and blue  
a mutation, unique, and new  
none of our eyes are blue  
but we need a change, it could be you

or your eyes could be green  
light, dark, or in-between  
whatever the color, i'll love you the same  
like i always have, ever since you came

your eyes are hazel, sunny  
with fascination i watch you watching  
the world  
through hazel-colored windows  
brown and green and blue swirled  
into your eyes, sunny  
i look for the hundredth time  
And find myself falling  
into you, sweet brother of mine.

First established in 1991, the statewide poetry contest is open to state qualifiers, and we received 70 entries this year. George Bilgere, a distinguished poet and professor of English and Creative Writing at John Carroll University, has selected the winning poetry.



## Meet Anah Khan

I am an eighth grader at Beachwood Middle School. When I'm not writing, I enjoy spending quality time with family and friends, reading, drawing, and pursuing my interests in whatever new hobby I take up!

When my sister encouraged me to enter Power of the Pen, I was hesitant. Entering in state-wide contests seemed intimidating. However, I found that I was not alone.

As the years progressed, I wrote continuously, pouring my thoughts onto paper one after one. Through this, I found that Power of the Pen isn't just a writing contest. It's a place to foster creativity and promote individuality. The liberation that I would experience when I maneuvered a prompt to view through my own lens was exhilarating, and I am forever grateful for the opportunities I have received.

Power of the Pen has changed my perspective on writing forever, and seeing fellow writers endeavoring to make their mark as I have makes it all the more fulfilling.

## Special Commendation

George Bilgere selected "Cheers" by Nina Van Zandweghe for Honorable Mention.

## Recent Winners of the Poetry Award

### 2008

Molly Harian (8th), Karrer MS, Dublin  
Emily Anderson (7th), Bellbrook MS,  
Bellbrook

### 2009

Amanda Fosnight (7th), Creston MS,  
Mantua

### 2010

Gina Clepper (7th), Gahanna MS East,  
Gahanna

### 2011

Brianna Long (7th), West Branch MS,  
Beloit  
Abbi Cox (7th), Claymont MS, Dennison

### 2012

Max Berry (7th), Northridge MS,  
Johnstown

### 2013

Cheyenne Brown (8th), Indian Valley MS,  
Tuscarawas

### 2014

Zoe Dudack (8th), Miller South, Akron

### 2015

Kaavya Ramachandran (8th), Mason MS,  
Mason  
Alexandra Xuan (8th), Lake MS, Hartville

### 2016

Amy Xuan (8th), Grizzell MS, Dublin

### 2017

Delaney Barga (7th), Versailles MS,  
Versailles  
Ashley Tate (7th), West Holmes MS,  
Millersburg

### 2019

Zola Hoffmeister (8th), Wyoming MS,  
Wyoming  
Marie Kanzinger (8th), Chagrin Falls MS,  
Chagrin Falls

### 2020

Anna Blasinski (8th), Karrer MS, Dublin  
Zoe Stiefel (7th), Shaker Heights MS,  
Shaker Heights



## 2020-21 SEASON CHART

### Northwest District 1

St. Marys Middle School  
Saturday, January 23, 2021

### Northwest District 2

Tiffin Middle School  
Saturday, February 6, 2021

### Northwest Regional

Lourdes University  
Saturday, March 20, 2021

### Western District 1

West Carrollton Middle School  
Saturday, January 30, 2021

### Western District 2

Shawnee Middle School  
Saturday, February 6, 2021

### Western Regional

Wittenberg University  
Saturday, March 13, 2021

### Southwest District 1

The Seven Hills School  
Saturday, January 23, 2021

### Southwest District 2

Little Miami Junior High School  
Saturday, January 30, 2021

### Southwest Regional

Wyoming Middle School  
Saturday, February 27, 2021

### South-Central District 1

Circleville High School  
Saturday, January 23, 2021

### South-Central District 2

Gahanna Middle School South  
Saturday, February 20, 2021

### South-Central Regional

Ann Simpson Davis Middle School  
Saturday, March 20, 2021

### State Tournament

Otterbein University  
Online May 15, 2021

### Eastern District 1

University of Mount Union  
Saturday, January 9, 2021

### Eastern District 2

Northeast Ohio IMPACT Academy  
Saturday, January 30, 2021

### Eastern Regional

Malone University  
Saturday, March 13, 2021

### Northeast District 1

St. Vincent-St. Mary High School  
Saturday, January 9, 2021

### Northeast District 2

Ashland Middle School  
Saturday, January 23, 2021

### Northeast Regional

Kent State University  
Saturday, February 27, 2021

### Lake Erie District 1

Lake Erie College  
Saturday, January 9, 2021

### Lake Erie District 2

University School  
Saturday, January 30, 2021

### Lake Erie Regional

Hudson Middle School  
Saturday, March 13, 2021

### Northern District 2

Columbia Middle School  
Saturday, February 6, 2021

### Northern Regional

Baldwin Wallace University  
Saturday, March 13, 2021



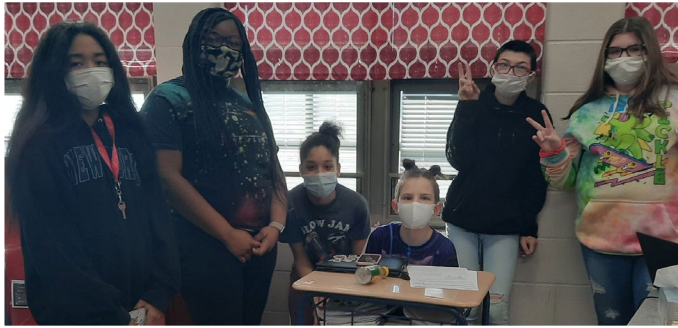
# EXTRAORDINARY YEAR, EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

I thought today's competition went very smoothly. Please pass my thanks along to all who helped make it possible. I know an event like this doesn't come together without an incredible amount of planning, work, and effort!

~ Carol Brown, Coach, Ankeney MS

That was my goal, really, to just get to state. I'm also excited just to get the experience of competing in it, even if I'm not able to go in person.

~ Isabel Siegel, 7th Grade Writer, Shaker Heights MS



Wow! What a weekend we had for Power of the Pen. I have to say that I was so impressed with the online portion this year. Very user friendly and easy for the students to adapt to.

~ Ida Gorman, Coach, East Canton MS

I'm so glad that students have Power of the Pen to turn to during these difficult times. I know our students are super happy to be doing the club, not only because they love writing but because it helps them feel like things are at least a little bit normal.

~ Amy Merrill-Wyatt, Coach, Springfield MS

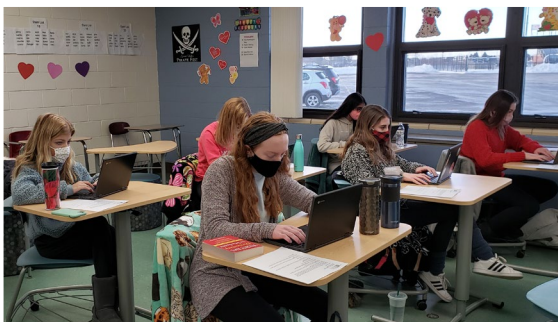


Competing in Power of the Pen has been such a great opportunity to improve my skills as a writer, and to have some fun in the middle of this pandemic. Thank you so much for this opportunity!

~Mandi Lu, 8th Grade Writer, Solon MS

I love that with all the issues surrounding COVID and so many things cancelled, Power of the Pen stayed true and put together a wonderful opportunity for the students.

~ Barb Stasiuk, Coach, St. Mary Avon



# 2021 POWER OF THE PEN DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

## Lake Erie College

January 9, 2021

Host School Coordinator:

Dr. Elizabeth Walsh-Moorman

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Marie Cain Chagrin Falls MS	Emma Tucker Cornerstone Christian Academy
2nd	Patrick Davidson Chagrin Falls MS	Anna Gracon Notre Dame ES
3rd	Aurora Young Kenston MS	Emily Ludwig Shore MS
1st	St. Joan of Arc Catholic School	Notre Dame Elementary School
	<i>Coached by</i> Michelle Chiacchiari	<i>Coached by</i> Kelly Stefanek

## University of Mount Union

January 9, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Julie Lyberger

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Madelyn Faltay St. Michael School	Kiera Sweeney Oakwood MS
2nd	Isabella Biedenbach St. Michael School	Addelina Carroll Tuscarawas Valley MS
3rd	Zachary Ledoux Jackson Memorial MS	Lexi Kerr St. Michael School
1st	St. Michael School	Jackson Memorial MS
	<i>Coached by</i> Kara Stuhlmiller	<i>Coached by</i> Victoria Kerr

## St. Vincent-St. Mary High School

January 9, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Mary Anderson

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Lila Morley Seton Catholic School	Rhea Ballani R.B. Chamberlin MS
2nd	Kinsey Nussbaum Wadsworth MS	Addie Good Chippewa Junior/Senior HS
3rd	Susie Thomas St. Sebastian Parish School	Will Gee Kimpton MS
1st	St. Sebastian Parish School	R.B. Chamberlin MS
	<i>Coached by</i> Maggi Blischak	<i>Coached by</i> Jason Pietrasz

## Circleville High School

January 23, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Brooke Paxton

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Aseel Musa Ann Simpson Davis MS	Sapna Rajesh John Sells MS
2nd	Shivani Tennety Dempsey MS	Olivia Lu Willard Grizzell MS
3rd	Ayden Albrecht Sciotovalle Community School	Parama Ghosh Willard Grizzell MS
1st	Gahanna MS East	Willard Grizzell MS
	<i>Coached by</i> Paityn Caudill	<i>Coached by</i> Mitzi Moshiri

## Ashland Middle School

January 23, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Carolyn Hrinda

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Sylvia Parada A.I. Root	Maggie Romano Brunswick MS
2nd	Felicity Krieger Ashland MS	Maddie Beck A.I. Root
3rd	Ashley Smail Ashland MS	Sasha Dorn Green MS
1st	Ashland MS	Brunswick MS
	<i>Coached by</i> Carolyn Hrinda	<i>Coached by</i> Dana Delnay

## The Seven Hills School

January 23, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Chris Caldemeyer

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Haley Baker The Summit Country Day School	Lillie Waltz Indian Hill MS
2nd	Kaavya Tatavarty The Seven Hills School	Grace Zhou Indian Hill MS
3rd	Emily Bolan The Summit Country Day School	Claire Evans John Paul II Catholic School
1st	The Seven Hills School	John Paul II Catholic School
	<i>Coached by</i> Chris Caldemeyer	<i>Coached by</i> Jeffrey Karpanty

## St. Marys Middle School

January 23, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Angie Woods

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Ben Gehret Anna MS	Marie Ballas Fort Loramie Jr. High
2nd	Nora Aiken Anna MS	Martha Chrisman Fairlawn Local Schools
3rd	Valerie York Anna MS	Emily Eyink New Bremen MS
1st	St. Marys MS <i>Coached by Angie Woods</i>	Wapakoneta <i>Coached by Erika Eley</i>

## Little Miami Junior High School

January 30, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Erin Dipzinski

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Lorelei Wise Wyoming MS	Laasya Acharya Mason MS
2nd	Ella Fernandez Wyoming MS	Sara Cope Lebanon JHS
3rd	Kendall Hoeffel Lebanon JHS	Layla Klotz White Oak MS
1st	Wyoming MS <i>Coached by Elizabeth Toerner</i>	Mason MS <i>Coached by Jillian Denman</i>

## West Carrollton Middle School

January 30, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Lesley Mosher

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Teagan Williams Oakwood JHS	Rylee Boyer Miami Valley School
2nd	Inara Arnett Valley View JHS	Meagan Shaw Ankeney MS
3rd	Tabitha Irwin St. Charles Borromeo	Mia Crinion St. Charles Borromeo
1st	St. Charles Borromeo <i>Coached by Chris Bigelow</i>	St. Charles Borromeo <i>Coached by Emily Issenmann</i>

## Northeast Ohio IMPACT Academy

January 30, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Kent Polen

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Tessa Palmer Claymont MS	Lauren Cameron West Branch MS
2nd	Khloe Wedberg Lisbon David Anderson HS	Jilian Patterson Claymont MS
3rd	Sophia Kadilak Canfield Village MS	Joan McNally Holy Family School
1st	Lisbon David Anderson HS <i>Coached by Teresa Crawford</i>	South Range MS <i>Coached by Debbie Staffeld</i>

## University School

January 30, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Charlie Oberndorf

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Isabel Siegel Shaker Heights MS	Olivia Liu Solon MS
2nd	Charles Gilson University School	Mandi Lu Solon MS
3rd	Vivian Qi Ballard Brady MS	Sana Adi Ballard Brady MS
1st	Ballard Brady MS <i>Coached by Jenna Drozd</i>	Solon MS <i>Coached by Emilie Macek</i>

## Shawnee Middle School

February 6, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Darcy Leis

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Annika Linquist Jacob Coy MS	Tiffany Moore Bethel MS
2nd	Addy Erdman Shawnee MS	Katie Quigley McKinney MS
3rd	Mila Trulock Northridge MS	Victoria Layton Bethel MS
1st	Versailles MS <i>Coached by Megan Keiser</i>	Global Impact STEM Academy <i>Coached by Lauri McCutcheon</i>



## Tiffin Middle School

February 6, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Sara Conner

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Ava Goodnough Timberstone JHS	Paulina Babula Timberstone JHS
2nd	Isabelle Forquer McCord JHS	Elizabeth Thomas Arbor Hills JHS
3rd	Emily Timmerman Ottawa Hills	Alyssa Perry Arbor Hills JHS
1st	Timberstone JHS <i>Coached by Sara Nelson</i>	Perrysburg JHS <i>Coached by Jamie Avery</i>

## Columbia Middle School

February 6, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Kyleen Wilson

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Violet Kubiak Bay MS	Audrey Malcuit St. Michael School
2nd	Olivia Podlogar North Royalton MS	Zachary McChristy Ontario MS
3rd	Piper Erman Columbia MS	Kaiya Mayich Rocky River MS
1st	St. Raphael School <i>Coached by Kimberly Hirsch</i>	Birchwood School <i>Coached by Chuck Debelak</i>

## Gahanna Middle School South

February 20, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Libby Grubb

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Sreshta Erravelli New Albany MS	Saige Lyvers Gahanna MS South
2nd	Emelia Ortlieb Immaculate Conception	Rebecca Davis Mount Vernon MS
3rd	Rebecca Gebhart St. Matthew School	Eve Worley St. Brigid of Kildare
1st	St. Brigid of Kildare <i>Coached by Shelley Regrut</i>	St. Brigid of Kildare <i>Coached by Sara Hardin</i>



# 2021 POWER OF THE PEN REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

## Kent State Regional Tournament

February 27, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Mary Anderson

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Ashley Smail Ashland MS	Callie Miller Chippewa Junior/Senior HS
2nd	Suzana Borges St. Sebastian Parish School	Meah Cerne Black River MS
3rd	Susie Thomas St. Sebastian Parish School	Alba Mastromatteo Holy Family Catholic School
1st	Ashland MS <i>Coached by</i> Carolyn Hrinda	Seton Catholic School <i>Coached by</i> Sarah Jackson

Winner of Sweepstakes Trophy: Wadsworth Middle School, Wadsworth, Medina County

## Wyoming Middle School Regional Tournament

February 27, 2021

Host School Coordinators: Jenn Sauvey and Beth Toerner

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Denny Haley John Paul II Catholic School	Lucy Zhang Mason MS
2nd	Elle Riva Mason MS	Cecilia Jones Mason MS
3rd	Angel Lynch Mason MS	Laasya Acharya Mason MS
1st	Wyoming MS <i>Coached by</i> Elizabeth Toerner	Mason MS <i>Coached by</i> Jillian Denman

Winner of Sweepstakes Trophy: Wyoming Middle School, Wyoming, Hamilton County

## Hudson Middle School Regional Tournament

March 13, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Mike Fejes

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Isabel Siegel Shaker Heights MS	Mandi Lu Solon MS
2nd	Adonis Wazni University School	Zoe Stiefel Shaker Heights MS
3rd	Ian Broihier University School	Nina Van Zandweghe Solon MS
1st	University School <i>Coached by</i> Charles Oberndorf	Solon MS <i>Coached by</i> Emilie Macek

Winner of Sweepstakes Trophy: Solon Middle School, Solon, Cuyahoga County

## Malone University Regional Tournament

March 13, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Julie Lyberger

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Laurel Balcom Jackson Memorial MS	Shakthi Prabhakaran Jackson Memorial MS
2nd	Pressley Grzbowski Oakwood MS	Zachary Palumbo Jackson Memorial MS
3rd	Madelyn Faltay St. Michael School	Lauren Cameron West Branch MS
1st	Claymont MS <i>Coached by</i> Alisha Mahaffey	Jackson Memorial MS <i>Coached by</i> Victoria Kerr

Winner of Sweepstakes Trophy: Jackson Memorial Middle School, Massillon, Stark County

## Baldwin Wallace University Regional Tournament

March 13, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Cheryl Yates-Bledsoe

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Areasha Nouman Birchwood School	Audrey Malcuit St. Michael School
2nd	Samantha Wu Olmsted Falls MS	Alyse Young Columbia MS
3rd	Katie Hren St. Mary of the Falls School	Beatrice Stickney Rocky River MS
1st	Menlo Park Academy <i>Coached by</i> Amanda Conti	Birchwood School <i>Coached by</i> Chuck Debelak

Winner of Sweepstakes Trophy: Birchwood School, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County

## Wittenberg University Regional Tournament

March 13, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Paula McWilliams

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Inara Arnett Valley View JHS	Ellie Johnson Triad MS
2nd	Bailey Boude Van Buren MS	Rose Wentz St. Charles Borromeo
3rd	Julia Ludwig Oakwood JHS	Arianna Ramdatt Jacob Coy MS
1st	Tippecanoe MS <i>Coached by</i> Brittasha Thompson	Tippecanoe MS <i>Coached by</i> Bridget Hughes

Winner of Sweepstakes Trophy: Tippecanoe Middle School, Tipp City, Miami County



## Lourdes University Regional Tournament

March 20, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Anna-Marie Adamson

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Annaliese Rogers Perkins Briar MS	Charlie Quick McCord JHS
2nd	Lailah Byrd Toledo School for the Arts	Juliannah Haudenschild Tiffin MS
3rd	Maddie Hudok Van Buren MS	Margaret Cox Perrysburg JHS
1st	Kenton MS <i>Coached by Tina Hiller</i>	Edison MS <i>Coached by Amy Ehrhardt</i>

Winner of Sweepstakes Trophy: Perrysburg Junior High School, Perrysburg, Wood County

## Ann Simpson Davis MS Regional Tournament

March 20, 2021

Host School Coordinator: Disa Banker

Place	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1st	Raghava Deivanaathan Willard Grizzell MS	Olivia Lu Willard Grizzell MS
2nd	Madelyn Ohl Gahanna MS East	Cordelia Watkins Pleasant View MS
3rd	Sreshta Erravelli New Albany MS	Preethi Mereddi Dr. Henry Karrer MS
1st	St. Matthew School <i>Coached by Melissa Mengos</i>	St. Brigid of Kildare <i>Coached by Sara Hardin</i>

Winner of Sweepstakes Trophy: St. Brigid of Kildare, Dublin, Franklin County





# SEVENTH GRADE CONTESTANTS

## A

Agarwal, Anushka, Ottawa Hills,  
Ottawa Hills, Karen Fischer, Coach  
Aiken, Nora, Anna MS, Anna, Missy  
Rivera, Coach  
Albrecht, Ayden, Sciotoville  
Community School, Sciotoville, Kristen  
Wawro, Coach  
Alcorn, Megan, Lake MS, Hartville,  
Cheryl Yates-Bledsoe, Coach  
Anderson, Avery, Tippecanoe MS,  
Tipp City, Brittasha Thompson, Coach  
Andreassen, Sophie, Wyoming MS,  
Wyoming, Elizabeth Toerner, Coach  
Arnett, Inara, Valley View JHS,  
Farmersville, Jennifer Harshberger,  
Coach  
Ayers, Emily, St. Marys MS, St. Marys,  
Angie Woods, Coach

## B

Baker, Haley, The Summit Country  
Day School, Cincinnati, Brendan  
McEachern, Coach  
Balcom, Laurel, Jackson Memorial MS,  
Massillon, Victoria Kerr, Coach  
Barron, Finley, Solon MS, Solon,  
Valerie Parillo, Coach  
Bartal, Mira, Mount Vernon MS, Mount  
Vernon, Esther Sadoff, Coach  
Belcastro, Ella, South Range MS,  
Canfield, Jacklyn Racketta, Coach  
Berman, Elana, Wyoming MS,  
Wyoming, Elizabeth Toerner, Coach  
Biedenbach, Isabella, St. Michael  
School, Canton, Canton, Kara  
Stuhlmiller, Coach  
Bixler, Isabella, Birchwood School,  
Cleveland, Lorraine Tzeng, Coach  
Blankenship, Faith, Kirtland MS,  
Kirtland, Sue Summerhill, Coach  
Blanton, Courtney, St. Clement School,  
St. Bernard, Sr. Carol Louise Inderhees,  
Coach  
Bohman, Kate, New Albany MS, New  
Albany, Michele Oldenquist, Coach

Bordenkircher, Catie, St. Sebastian  
Parish School, Akron, Maggi Blischak,  
Coach  
Borges, Suzana, St. Sebastian Parish  
School, Akron, Maggi Blischak, Coach  
Boude, Bailey, Van Buren MS,  
Kettering, Kyle Kennedy, Coach  
Bozan, Ella, Nordonias MS, Northfield,  
Abigail Shoop, Coach  
Brady, Ella, Lebanon JHS, Lebanon,  
Kathy Robinson, Coach  
Brohier, Ian, University School, Shaker  
Heights, Charles Oberndorf, Coach  
Bucher, Brianne, Perkins Briar MS,  
Sandusky, Mary Darr, Coach  
Burgert, Nicole, Shawnee MS,  
Springfield, Darcy Leis, Coach  
Burgoyne, Sophia, St. Sebastian Parish  
School, Akron, Maggi Blischak, Coach  
Burkett, Leah, John Sells MS, Dublin,  
Melissa Voss, Coach  
Butcher, Joshua, Highland MS,  
Medina, Shelby Parker, Coach  
Butkowski, Isabel, Avon MS, Avon,  
Brittany Steiger, Coach  
Byrd, Lailah, Toledo School for the  
Arts, Toledo, Anna-Marie Adamson,  
Coach

## C

Cahill, Evelyn, Gahanna MS East,  
Gahanna, Paityn Caudill, Coach  
Cain, Marie, Chagrin Falls MS, Chagrin  
Falls, Marisa Conte, Coach  
Carlisle, Avery, Kirtland MS, Kirtland,  
Sue Summerhill, Coach  
Carpenter, Alexa, Shaker Heights MS,  
Shaker Heights, Sara Lambert, Coach  
Carroll, Daniel, Shaker Heights MS,  
Shaker Heights, Sara Lambert, Coach  
Carter, Rebecca, Hudson MS, Hudson,  
Mike Fejes, Coach  
Chafki, Malak, Brooklyn School  
District, Brooklyn, Kathy Mack, Coach  
Clark, Nina, Ottawa Hills, Ottawa Hills,  
Karen Fischer, Coach

Cooper, Mason, Claggett MS, Medina,  
Kelly McLaren-Olin, Coach  
Creutz, Caroline, Bethany Lutheran  
School, Parma, Suzanne Eggelmeyer,  
Coach  
Croston, Lacy, Bellevue MS, Bellevue,  
Catharine Downing, Coach  
Cruz, Anna, Edison MS, Massillon,  
Meagan Patron, Coach

## D

D'Astolfo, Talia, Mayfield MS, Mayfield,  
Shannon Saunders, Coach  
Dana, Dotan, Beachwood MS,  
Beachwood, Suzanne Tucker, Coach  
Das Sarma, Indrani, R.B. Chamberlin  
MS, Twinsburg, Jason Pietrasz, Coach  
Davidson, Patrick, Chagrin Falls MS,  
Chagrin Falls, Marisa Conte, Coach  
Deivanaathan, Raghava, Willard  
Grizzell MS, Dublin, Meaghan Miller,  
Coach  
Demczyk, Abigail, Black River MS,  
Sullivan, Susan Polly, Coach  
Derr, Davy, Wadsworth MS,  
Wadsworth, Briana Lowdermilk, Coach  
Desai, Reava, New Albany MS, New  
Albany, Michele Oldenquist, Coach  
Devassy, Mike, Mason MS, Mason,  
Rachel Young, Coach  
Dewerth, Arwen, Columbia MS,  
Columbia Station, Kyleen Wilson,  
Coach  
Dixon, Chloe, Ankeney MS,  
Beavercreek, Carol Brown, Coach  
Dobmeyer, Cassandra, Bethel MS, Tipp  
City, Barb Seebach, Coach  
Dotts, Cora, Claymont MS, Uhrichsville,  
Alisha Mahaffey, Coach  
Dryden, Magnolia, Hudson MS,  
Hudson, Mike Fejes, Coach  
Duran, Lillian, McCord JHS, Sylvania,  
Diane Long, Coach

## E

Eichner, Elaina, West Branch MS,  
Beloit, Heidi Wilhelm, Coach

Elbadawy, Omar, Birchwood School,  
Cleveland, Lorraine Tzeng, Coach

Emery, Grace, Granville MS, Granville,  
Charissa Pack, Coach

Erdman, Addy, Shawnee MS,  
Springfield, Darcy Leis, Coach

Erman, Piper, Columbia MS, Columbia  
Station, Kyleen Wilson, Coach

Erravelli, Sreshta, New Albany MS,  
New Albany, Michele Oldenquist,  
Coach

## F

Faltay, Madelyn, St. Michael School,  
Canton, Kara Stuhlmiller, Coach

Faruki, Ayesha, Memorial MS, Mentor,  
Chelsea Apicello, Coach

Feerer, Hannah, St. Charles Borromeo,  
Kettering, Chris Bigelow, Coach

Ference, Natalie, St. Matthew School,  
Gahanna, Melissa Mengos, Coach

Fernandez, Ella, Wyoming MS,  
Wyoming, Elizabeth Toerner, Coach

Fetherolf, Kayleigh, Northwest MS,  
Canal Fulton, Jessica Ventosa, Coach

Fink, Andrew, St. Charles Borromeo,  
Kettering, Chris Bigelow, Coach

Folk, Katherine, Immaculate Heart of  
Mary School, Cuyahoga Falls, Linda  
Littler, Coach

Foster, Eden, Arbor Hills JHS,  
Sylvania, Karen Francis, Coach

## G

Gebhart, Rebecca, St. Matthew School,  
Gahanna, Melissa Mengos, Coach

Gehret, Ben, Anna MS, Anna, Missy  
Rivera, Coach

Gerst, Lillian, Canfield Village MS,  
Canfield, Darlene Corfman, Coach

Gilson, Charles, University School,  
Shaker Heights, Charles Oberndorf,  
Coach

Grace, Lily, Mount Vernon MS, Mount  
Vernon, Esther Sadoff, Coach

Griffith, Ethan, Van Buren MS,  
Kettering, Kyle Kennedy, Coach

Grzbowski, Pressley, Oakwood MS,  
Canton, Lacey Marinaro, Coach

Gustin, Ella, Van Buren MS, Kettering,  
Kyle Kennedy, Coach

## H

Haley, Dennison, John Paul II Catholic  
School, Cincinnati, Jeffrey Karpanty,  
Coach

Hallaman, Emily, St. Michael School,  
Canton, Kara Stuhlmiller, Coach

Halm, Sophia, Perrysburg JHS,  
Perrysburg, Allison Latella, Coach

Hamilton, Emma, Seton Catholic  
School, Hudson, Sarah Jackson, Coach

Hasenkopf, Ali, Seton Catholic School,  
Hudson, Sarah Jackson, Coach

Hassan, Thnaa, International Academy  
of Columbus, Columbus, Amanda  
Lewis, Coach

Hauer, Keegan, Gahanna MS West,  
Gahanna, Natalie Baransy, Coach

Hayes, Emmy, St. Paul Lutheran  
School, Westlake, Shari Rooney, Coach

Head, Nina, The Seven Hills School,  
Cincinnati, Chris Caldemeyer, Coach

Hicks, Markie, East Canton MS, East  
Canton, Ida Gorman, Coach

Hiller, Lydia, St. Columban School,  
Loveland, Amanda Zizelman, Coach

Hoeffel, Kendall, Lebanon JHS,  
Lebanon, Kathy Robinson, Coach

Holonitch, Matthew, St. Joseph  
Montessori School, Columbus,  
Jessica Appel, Coach

Hren, Katie, St. Mary of the Falls  
School, Olmsted Falls, Susan  
Bevelacqua, Coach

Hubert, Mia, Shelby MS, Shelby, Jessie  
Huggins, Coach

Hudok, Maddie, Van Buren MS, Van  
Buren, Karen Dishong, Coach

Huffman, Grant, St. Mary Catholic  
School, Marietta, Liz Kern, Coach

Hughes, Adeline, Edgewood MS,  
Wooster, Michael Sexton, Coach

## J

Jacob, Josh, St. Michael School,  
Canton, Kara Stuhlmiller, Coach

Johnson, Lacey, Avon MS, Avon,  
Brittany Steiger, Coach

Johnson, Sydney, Tuslaw MS,  
Massillon, Janel Swonger, Coach

Johnston, Elise, Tiffin MS, Tiffin,  
Michelle Helkey, Coach

## K

Kaibas, Caroline, Tippecanoe MS, Tipp  
City, Brittasha Thompson, Coach

Kaneria, Ruhi, Mason MS, Mason,  
Rachel Young, Coach

Karman, Panka, Ballard Brady Middle,  
Pepper Pike, Jenna Drozd, Coach

Katz, Elina, Granville MS, Granville,  
Charissa Pack, Coach

Keel, Ava, Kenton MS, Kenton, Tina  
Hiller, Coach

Kennedy, Marylynn, St. Paul Lutheran  
School, Westlake, Shari Rooney, Coach

Kheyfets, Sasha, Beachwood MS,  
Beachwood, Suzanne Tucker, Coach

Kiedrowski, Hayden, St. Brigid of  
Kildare, Dublin, Sara Hardin, Coach

Kleehamer, Kiersten, Reading MS,  
Reading, Cindy Childs, Coach

Kleinfelter, Kathryn, Perrysburg JHS,  
Perrysburg, Allison Latella, Coach

Koehler, Madison, Arcadia MS,  
Arcadia, Carrie Plesec, Coach

Kortan, Gideon, Brunswick MS,  
Brunswick, Dana Delnay, Coach

Kosakowski, Reagan, Olmsted Falls  
MS, Olmsted Falls, Makenzie Lahoud,  
Coach

Kraus, Alexis, Wyoming MS, Wyoming,  
Elizabeth Toerner, Coach

Krieger, Felicity, Ashland MS, Ashland,  
Carolyn Hrinda, Coach

Krishnan, Karina, Beachwood MS,  
Beachwood, Suzanne Tucker, Coach

Krohn, Alex, St. Sebastian Parish  
School, Akron, Maggi Blischak, Coach

Kubiak, Violet, Bay MS, Bay Village,  
Helen Goldberg, Coach

Kukulski, Margot, Cardinal Pacelli  
School, Cincinnati, Anne Losekamp,  
Coach

## L

Lance, Nora, Loudonville-Perrysville  
Exempted Village Schools, Loudonville,  
Maggie Thomas, Coach

Lebold, Elizabeth, Mount Vernon MS,  
Mount Vernon, Esther Sadoff, Coach

Ledoux, Zachary, Jackson Memorial  
MS, Massillon, Victoria Kerr, Coach

Lenhart, Anna, Jackson Memorial MS,  
Massillon, Victoria Kerr, Coach

Little, Maddie, Ashland MS, Ashland,  
Carolyn Hrinda, Coach

Ludwig, Julia, Oakwood JHS, Dayton,  
Mindy Hoffer, Coach

Luecke, Cameryn, Chippewa Junior/  
Senior High School, Doylestown, Leslie  
Marshall, Coach

Lynch, Angel, Mason MS, Mason,  
Rachel Young, Coach

## M

Madrigal, Lila, Columbus School For  
Girls, Columbus, Elizabeth Garcia,  
Coach

Manfresca, Ava, St. Matthew School,  
Gahanna, Melissa Mengos, Coach

Marrocco, Lily, John Sells MS, Dublin,  
Melissa Voss, Coach

Matlock, Sara, St. Paul Lutheran  
School, Westlake, Shari Rooney, Coach

McCabe, Sydney, Dover MS, Dover,  
Jeremy Evans, Coach

McCarthy, Claire, Dr. Henry Karrer MS,  
Dublin, Melissa Eddington, Coach

McClure, Lucy, Tippecanoe MS, Tipp  
City, Brittasha Thompson, Coach

McKee, Adelynn, Columbia MS,  
Columbia Station, Kyleen Wilson,  
Coach

Miklovic, Brayden, Tiffin MS, Tiffin,  
Michelle Helkey, Coach

Miller, Ava, Gahanna MS East,  
Gahanna, Paityn Caudill, Coach

Mohan, Nakshatra, Menlo Park  
Academy, Cleveland, Amanda Conti,  
Coach

Mongelli, Olivia, Holy Angels Dayton,  
Dayton, Emily Mongelli, Coach

Moon, Mary, Edison MS, Berlin  
Heights, Amy Ehrhardt, Coach

Moore, Khloe, Shawnee MS,  
Springfield, Darcy Leis, Coach

Morley, Lila, Seton Catholic School,  
Hudson, Sarah Jackson, Coach

Mosby, Breanna, Jacob Coy MS, Xenia,  
Kristina Minton, Coach

Motter, Kathleen, St. Matthew School,  
Gahanna, Melissa Mengos, Coach

Mousourakis, Emily, Claggett MS,  
Medina, Kelly McLaren-Olin, Coach

## N

Newtz, Courtney, Fairless MS, Navarre,  
Angela Ferrell, Coach

Nouman, Areesha, Birchwood School,  
Cleveland, Lorraine Tzeng, Coach

Nussbaum, Kinsey, Wadsworth MS,  
Wadsworth, Briana Lowdermilk, Coach

## O

Oestreich, Anna, Menlo Park Academy,  
Cleveland, Amanda Conti, Coach

Ohl, Madelyn, Gahanna MS East,  
Gahanna, Paityn Caudill, Coach

Ondrejko, Claire, Columbia MS,  
Columbia Station, Kyleen Wilson,  
Coach

Ott, Eliza, Monroe JHS, Monroe,  
Andrew Manning, Coach

## P

Pacifico, Parker, West Geauga MS,  
Chesterland, Lisa Zimmer, Coach

Palosi, Alyssa, Edison MS, Massillon,  
Meagan Patron, Coach

Parlar, Beyza, Ann Simpson Davis MS,  
Dublin, Katie Estepp, Coach

Pierce, Eva, Cornerstone Christian  
Academy, Willoughby Hills, Danielle  
Lake, Coach

Plessinger, Jaylin, Anna MS, Anna,  
Missy Rivera, Coach

Plum, Lily, The Seven Hills School,  
Cincinnati, Chris Caldemeyer, Coach

Poupard, Marlee, Timberstone JHS,  
Sylvania, Sara Nelson, Coach

Prizler, Matilda, Oakwood JHS,  
Dayton, Mindy Hoffer, Coach

## R

Rangaya, Aliana, St. Raphael School,  
Bay Village, Kimberly Hirsch, Coach

Rawal, Manav, Jackson Memorial MS,  
Massillon, Victoria Kerr, Coach

Reing-Hurley, Sophia, Immaculate  
Conception, Columbus, Kaitlyn Ditalia,  
Coach

Reville, Maren, St. Brigid of Kildare,  
Dublin, Sara Hardin, Coach

Riley, Kellie, North Ridgeville Academic  
Center, North Ridgeville, Tammi Belko,  
Coach

Riva, Elle, Mason MS, Mason, Rachel  
Young, Coach

Roark, Rosalind, St. Dominic School,  
Shaker Heights, Spencer Weidig, Coach

Rogers, Annaliese, Perkins Briar MS,  
Sandusky, Mary Darr, Coach

Roth, Estelle, St. Albert the Great,  
Kettering, Abby Gross, Coach

Rowland, Allison, St. Agatha, Upper  
Arlington, Alison Adamsky, Coach

## S

Salvucci, Ellen, St. Vincent de Paul  
School, Mt. Vernon, Annie Wrucke,  
Coach

See, Jadon, Van Buren MS, Kettering,  
Kyle Kennedy, Coach

Sesco, Alexia, Ontario MS, Ontario,  
Kellie Ritchey, Coach

Shipley, Opal, Dominion MS,  
Columbus, Matthew Hysell, Coach



Shodd, Kalleigh, South Range MS,  
Canfield, Jacklyn Racketta, Coach

Siders, Alyssa, Tippecanoe MS, Tipp  
City, Brittasha Thompson, Coach

Siegel, Isabel, Shaker Heights MS,  
Shaker Heights, Sara Lambert, Coach

Simpson, Steven, Tuscarawas Central  
Catholic Jr/Sr High School, New  
Philadelphia, Judy Swope, Coach

Smail, Ashley, Ashland MS, Ashland,  
Carolyn Hrinda, Coach

Smallwood, Megan, Lebanon JHS,  
Lebanon, Kathy Robinson, Coach

Smith, Addyson, Perkins Briar MS,  
Sandusky, Mary Darr, Coach

Smith, Daphne, Welsh Hills School,  
Granville, Shelli Drumm, Coach

Souther, Keely, Ratner Montessori,  
Pepper Pike, Molly Urban, Coach

Specht, Bella, Thomas Ewing JHS,  
Lancaster, Molly DiTommaso, Coach

Srikanth, Sahana, Mason MS, Mason,  
Rachel Young, Coach

Stahl, Julianna, Ruffing Montessori  
School, Cleveland Heights, Rebecca  
Smith, Coach

Stanford, Isabelle, Tippecanoe MS,  
Tipp City, Brittasha Thompson, Coach

Stebbins, Madison, Dover MS, Dover,  
Jeremy Evans, Coach

Steinmetz, Olyvia, Tiffin MS, Tiffin,  
Michelle Helkey, Coach

Swallow, Madison, Versailles MS,  
Versailles, Megan Keiser, Coach

Swigart, Anthony, Jackson Memorial  
MS, Massillon, Victoria Kerr, Coach

## T

Talley, Anderson, University School,  
Shaker Heights, Charles Oberndorf,  
Coach

Tarbill, Amelia, Circleville MS,  
Circleville, Karen Valentine, Coach

Taylor, Logan, St. Marys MS, St. Marys,  
Angie Woods, Coach

Tennety, Shivani, Dempsey MS,  
Delaware, Kaela Roeder, Coach

Thomas, Brooke, Gahanna MS East,  
Gahanna, Paityn Caudill, Coach

Thomas, Susie, St. Sebastian Parish  
School, Akron, Maggi Blischak, Coach

Thompson, Bayleigh, Reading MS,  
Reading, Cindy Childs, Coach

Thompson, Elizabeth, Hudson MS,  
Hudson, Mike Fejes, Coach

Tien, Neko, Shaker Heights MS, Shaker  
Heights, Sara Lambert, Coach

Timmerman, Emily, Ottawa Hills,  
Ottawa Hills, Karen Fischer, Coach

Touchette, Morgan, Jacob Coy MS,  
Xenia, Kristina Minton, Coach

Trivoli, Khloe, Tuscarawas Central  
Catholic Jr/Sr High School, New  
Philadelphia, Judy Swope, Coach

Trulock, Mila, Northridge MS,  
Springfield, Emily Comer, Coach

Tylke, Tatum, Dover MS, Dover,  
Jeremy Evans, Coach

## V

Veith, Isabella, Cardinal Pacelli School,  
Cincinnati, Anne Losekamp, Coach

## W

Walter, Isabella, Granville MS,  
Granville, Charissa Pack, Coach

Wargo, Bella, Shore MS, Mentor,  
Alexandra Alsaigh, Coach

Wazni, Adonis, University School,  
Shaker Heights, Charles Oberndorf,  
Coach

Wedberg, Khloe, Lisbon David  
Anderson High School, Lisbon, Teresa  
Crawford, Coach

Wenger, Maggie, Green MS, Smithville,  
Greg DeRodes, Coach

Wentzel, Adele, Menlo Park Academy,  
Cleveland, Amanda Conti, Coach

Weyrauch, Jadon, Norwayne MS,  
Creston, Katie Kerns, Coach

Wibowo, Aurora, St. Gertrude School,  
Madeira, Joan Ratajczak, Coach

Willard, Amy, St. Paul Lutheran School,  
Westlake, Shari Rooney, Coach

Williams, Teagan, Oakwood JHS,  
Dayton, Mindy Hoffer, Coach

Wolanski, Claire, North Ridgeville  
Academic Center, North Ridgeville,  
Tammi Belko, Coach

Wood, Halima, Gahanna MS South,  
Gahanna, Becky Leffler, Coach

Wrobel, Emily, Kimpton MS, Munroe  
Falls, Leslie Haynam, Coach

Wu, Samantha, Olmsted Falls MS,  
Olmsted Falls, Makenzie Lahoud,  
Coach

Wu, Serena, Solon MS, Solon, Valerie  
Parillo, Coach

Wuliger, Naomi, Kirtland MS, Kirtland,  
Sue Summerhill, Coach

## X

Xiong, Abigail, Solon MS, Solon,  
Valerie Parillo, Coach

## Y

Yaniglos, Logan, Perrysburg JHS,  
Perrysburg, Allison Latella, Coach

York, Valarie, Anna MS, Anna, Missy  
Rivera, Coach

## Z

Zheng, Lyndia, Beachwood MS,  
Beachwood, Suzanne Tucker, Coach

Zhou, Sasha, John Sells MS, Dublin,  
Melissa Voss, Coach

# EIGHTH GRADE CONTESTANTS

## A

Acharya, Laasya, Mason MS, Mason, Jillian Denman, Coach

Allman, Mandy, South Range MS, Canfield, Debbie Staffeld, Coach

Angel, Riley, Little Miami Local Schools, Morrow, Erin Dipzinski, Coach

Arumugam, Pragalya, Willard Grizzell MS, Dublin, Mitzi Moshiri, Coach

Ashurst, Caralyn, Hudson MS, Hudson, Michael Fejes, Coach

Auerbach-Brown, Caroline, Mandel JDS, Beachwood, Adam Levine, Coach

## B

Babula, Paulina, Timberstone JHS, Sylvania, Sara Nelson, Coach

Ball, Lauren, Wadsworth MS, Wadsworth, Briana Lowdermilk, Coach

Ballani, Rhea, R.B. Chamberlin MS, Twinsburg, Jason Pietrasz, Coach

Balog, Grace, Pleasant MS, Marion, Lynn Swaney, Coach

Barzdukas, Lija, Dominion MS, Columbus, Sarah Priebe, Coach

Bauer, Brooke, Tuscarawas Valley MS, Zoarville, Jen Gardner, Coach

Beever, Jillian, St. Vincent de Paul School, Mt. Vernon, Annie Wrucke, Coach

Belko, Jordyn, Rocky River MS, Rocky River, Melissa Stickney, Coach

Bennett, Lorene, Wadsworth MS, Wadsworth, Briana Lowdermilk, Coach

Blackburn, Ava, St. Brigid of Kildare, Dublin, Sara Hardin, Coach

Bowen, Sara, Ann Simpson Davis MS, Dublin, Disa Banker, Coach

Boyer, Rylee, Miami Valley School, Dayton, Debbie Voetberg, Coach

Brenot, Jocelyn, St. John XXIII Catholic School, Middletown, Kathryn Sokol, Coach

Bridgeman, Mira, Toledo School for the Arts, Toledo, Mark Allred, Coach

Burgess, Olivia, Dominion MS, Columbus, Sarah Priebe, Coach

Burke, Tancy, Hudson MS, Hudson, Michael Fejes, Coach

## C

Cadaret, Sophia, Perrysburg JHS, Perrysburg, Jamie Avery, Coach

Cameron, Lauren, West Branch MS, Beloit, Heidi Wilhelm, Coach

Campbell, Lucy, Ballard Brady Middle, Pepper Pike, Sarah DiBenedetto, Coach

Carr, Chloe, Perkins Briar Middle, Sandusky, Danielle Moody, Coach

Carroll, Addelina, Tuscarawas Valley MS, Zoarville, Jen Gardner, Coach

Carroll, Allen, Lordstown HS, Lordstown, Ryan Hart, Coach

Carroll, Callie, Lebanon JHS, Lebanon, Carmen Hurst, Coach

Cerne, Meah, Black River MS, Sullivan, Kara Mumaw, Coach

Chaiten, Lilly, Mandel JDS, Beachwood, Adam Levine, Coach

Chase, Victoria, Lake MS, Hartville, Cheryl Yates-Bledsoe, Coach

Chellu, Shreya, Beachwood MS, Beachwood, Michele Toomey, Coach

Chrisman, Martha, Fairlawn Local Schools, Sidney, Kaylyn Hall, Coach

Cisar, Jaqueline, St. Mary Catholic School, Marietta, Darcie Porter, Coach

Clarkson, Clare, Mount Vernon MS, Mount Vernon, Rebecca Cronk, Coach

Conley, Quinn, St. Vincent de Paul Parish School, Akron, Dominic Gideon, Coach

Connelly, Anne, Seton Catholic School, Hudson, Sarah Jackson, Coach

Conrow, Gabby, Norwayne MS, Creston, Cassandra Mey, Coach

Cox, Margaret, Perrysburg JHS, Perrysburg, Jamie Avery, Coach

Cox, Owen, Claymont MS, Uhrichsville, Lindsey Tulak, Coach

Crellin, Brina, Cincinnati Country Day School, Cincinnati, Emily DiMatteo, Coach

Crinion, Mia, St. Charles Borromeo, Kettering, Emily Issenmann, Coach

Crock, Bridget, Marietta MS, Marietta, Brianna Johnson, Coach

Crosby, Jonathan, St. Mary Catholic School, Marietta, Darcie Porter, Coach

## D

Davies, Eva, Anna MS, Anna, Nancy Stutsman, Coach

Deal, Abigail, North Royalton MS, North Royalton, Jill Evangelista, Coach

Denton, Elliana, Tippecanoe MS, Tipp City, Bridget Hughes, Coach

Deshpande, Rhea, Mayfield MS, Mayfield, Shannon Saunders, Coach

Dorn, Sasha, Green MS, Smithville, Greg DeRodes, Coach

Doubet, Candace, Northwest MS, Canal Fulton, Noelle Rice, Coach

Dougherty, Thomas, St. Matthew School, Gahanna, Anita Ference, Coach

Douglas, Rebekah, Rocky River MS, Rocky River, Melissa Stickney, Coach

Downie, Markus, St. Mary of the Falls School, Olmsted Falls, Kelly Strobel, Coach

## E

Easton, Clementine, Dominion MS, Columbus, Sarah Priebe, Coach

Erwin, Elizabeth, Oakwood JHS, Dayton, Mindy Hoffer, Coach

Eshelman, Emma, New Bremen MS, New Bremen, Polly Rodgers, Coach

Eyink, Emily, New Bremen MS, New Bremen, Polly Rodgers, Coach

Ezzo, Rachel, St. Michael School, Canton, Amy Krajeck, Coach

## F

Farivar, Kailani, Solon MS, Solon, Emilie Macek, Coach

Fisher, Lily, Edison MS, Berlin Heights, Amy Ehrhardt, Coach

Flowers, Jessa, South Range MS, Canfield, Debbie Staffeld, Coach

Flynn, Liam, St. Rita Catholic School,  
Solon, Cathy Edmonds, Coach

Ford, Josephine, Brown Local Schools,  
Malvern, Tami Warner, Coach

Frammartino, Ava, Seton Catholic  
School, Hudson, Sarah Jackson, Coach

Fritzgerald, Ailani, Menlo Park  
Academy, Cleveland, Amanda Conti,  
Coach

Frost, Brooke, Wapakoneta,  
Wapakoneta, Erika Eley, Coach

## G

Gaier, Valerie, Triad MS, North  
Lewisburg, Christina Smart Meigs,  
Coach

Galvin, Maggie, Wyoming MS,  
Wyoming, Jennifer Sauvey, Coach

Gardner, Isabella, Little Miami Local  
Schools, Morrow, Erin Dipzinski, Coach

Gee, Will, Kimpton MS, Munroe Falls,  
Leslie Haynam, Coach

Geiger, Keira, Perkins Briar Middle,  
Sandusky, Danielle Moody, Coach

George, Sarah, Tippecanoe MS, Tipp  
City, Bridget Hughes, Coach

Glazier, Ava, John Paul II Catholic  
School, Cincinnati, Jeffrey Karpanty,  
Coach

Gold, Madelyn, Tippecanoe MS, Tipp  
City, Bridget Hughes, Coach

Good, Addie, Chippewa Junior/Senior  
High School, Doylestown, Leslie  
Marshall, Coach

Gracon, Anna, Notre Dame Elementary  
School, Chardon, Kelly Stefanek, Coach

Greco, Olivia, Mason MS, Mason,  
Jillian Denman, Coach

Green, Phoebe, Global Impact  
Stem Academy, Springfield, Lauri  
McCutcheon, Coach

Grimm, Jay, Dover MS, Dover, Jeremy  
Evans, Coach

Guo, Cadence, Birchwood School,  
Cleveland, Chuck Debelak, Coach

## H

Hagen, Swayva, Norwayne MS,  
Creston, Cassondra Mey, Coach

Harlin, Ally, Field MS, Mogadore, Dan  
Battaglia, Coach

Harsa, Talia, Avon MS, Avon, Brittany  
Steiger, Coach

Hart, Ruby, St. Teresa of Avila,  
Cincinnati, Michelle Stevens, Coach

Hartley, Eve, Perkins Briar MS,  
Sandusky, Danielle Moody, Coach

Haudenschild, Juliannah, Tiffin MS,  
Tiffin, Sara Conner, Coach

Haufe, Sinan, Birchwood School,  
Cleveland, Chuck Debelak, Coach

Hiland, Katherine, Jackson Memorial  
MS, Massillon, Victoria Kerr, Coach

Holda, Ingrid, Shaker Heights MS,  
Shaker Heights, Erika Pfeiffer, Coach

Holloway, Vivian, Dr. Henry Karrer  
MS, Dublin, Jennifer Wolf, Coach

Holmes, Ava, St. Gertrude School,  
Madeira, Leah Naumann, Coach

Holt, Sophia, Arcadia MS, Arcadia,  
Carly Seery, Coach

Honaker, Jocelyn, Ashland MS,  
Ashland, Carolyn Hrinda, Coach

Hopiard, Courtney, St. Jude School,  
Elyria, Jenny Perrins, Coach

Hoyes, Olivia, White Oak MS,  
Cincinnati, Melissa Griley, Coach

Huber, Lauren, Tippecanoe MS, Tipp  
City, Bridget Hughes, Coach

Huff, Kamdyn, Dover MS, Dover,  
Jeremy Evans, Coach

## I

Ibsen, Ella, Perrysburg JHS,  
Perrysburg, Jamie Avery, Coach

## J

Jennings, Josie, Global Impact  
Stem Academy, Springfield, Lauri  
McCutcheon, Coach

Johnson, Ellie, Triad MS, North  
Lewisburg, Christina Smart Meigs, Coach

Johnson, Lilly, South Range MS,  
Canfield, Debbie Staffeld, Coach

Jones, Cecilia, Mason MS, Mason,  
Jillian Denman, Coach

Jordan, Julian, Wapakoneta,  
Wapakoneta, Erika Eley, Coach

## K

Karim, Abby, Brunswick MS,  
Brunswick, Dana Delnay, Coach

Keegan, Alaina, Edison MS, Berlin  
Heights, Amy Ehrhardt, Coach

Kemock, McKeely, Olmsted Falls MS,  
Olmsted Falls, Lisa MacAleese, Coach

Kennard, Heidi, Weisenborn JHS,  
Huber Heights, Abby Hardin, Coach

Kerber, Catherine, Toledo School for  
the Arts, Toledo, Mark Allred, Coach

Kerr, Lexi, St. Michael School, Canton,  
Amy Krajeck, Coach

Khan, Anah, Beachwood MS,  
Beachwood, Michele Toomey, Coach

Kilgore, Kayla, Bethany, Glendale,  
Sarah Dorger, Coach

Kincaid, Madison, Dr. Henry Karrer  
MS, Dublin, Jennifer Wolf, Coach

Klems, Ella, St. Clement School, St.  
Bernard, Sr. Carol Louise Inderhees,  
Coach

Koehnen, Lee, R.B. Chamberlin MS,  
Twinsburg, Jason Pietrasz, Coach

Kosar, Mya, A.I. Root, Medina, Susan  
Scalia, Coach

Kremer, Norah, R.B. Chamberlin MS,  
Twinsburg, Jason Pietrasz, Coach

Kula, Allie, Seton Catholic School,  
Hudson, Sarah Jackson, Coach

Kurland, Sara, Mandel JDS,  
Beachwood, Adam Levine, Coach

## L

Lal, Diksha, Ann Simpson Davis MS,  
Dublin, Disa Banker, Coach

Larkin, William, Ruffing Montessori  
School, Cleveland Heights, Sarah  
Vasvari, Coach

Ledbetter, Gwen, Our Lady of the Elms,  
Akron, Anne Suntken, Coach



Lee, Hannah, Hudson MS, Hudson,  
Michael Fejes, Coach

Leng, Chloe, Birchwood School,  
Cleveland, Chuck Debelak, Coach

Lepley, Gavin, Chippewa Junior/  
Senior High School, Doylestown, Leslie  
Marshall, Coach

Lewis, Lilliann, St. John XXIII Catholic  
School, Middletown, Kathryn Sokol,  
Coach

Liao, Selena, Solon MS, Solon, Emilie  
Macek, Coach

Liu, Isabella, Solon MS, Solon, Emilie  
Macek, Coach

Liu, Olivia, Solon MS, Solon, Emilie  
Macek, Coach

Lu, Mandi, Solon MS, Solon, Emilie  
Macek, Coach

Lu, Olivia, Willard Grizzell MS, Dublin,  
Mitzi Moshiri, Coach

Lyvers, Saige, Gahanna MS South,  
Gahanna, Libby Grubb, Coach

## M

Maddock, Elliana, Bethany, Glendale,  
Sarah Dorger, Coach

Malcuit, Audrey, St. Michael School,  
Independence, Allie Branco, Coach

Manion, Jacquelyn, Wadsworth MS,  
Wadsworth, Briana Lowdermilk, Coach

Markosky, Samantha, Columbia MS,  
Columbia Station, Kyleen Wilson,  
Coach

Mastromatteo, Alba, Holy Family  
Catholic School, Stow, Christine  
Krinsky, Coach

Mayich, Kaiya, Rocky River MS, Rocky  
River, Melissa Stickney, Coach

McBride, Margaret, Edgewood MS,  
Wooster, Chelsey Porter, Coach

McLaughlin, Elizabeth, St. Brigid of  
Kildare, Dublin, Sara Hardin, Coach

McNally, Joan, Holy Family School,  
Poland, James Stickel, Coach

Medina, Gabriella, Bethany, Glendale,  
Sarah Dorger, Coach

Mereddi, Preethi, Dr. Henry Karrer MS,  
Dublin, Jennifer Wolf, Coach

Mezu, Mya, Miami Valley School,  
Dayton, Debbie Voetberg, Coach

Mikhail, Ava, Ann Simpson Davis MS,  
Dublin, Disa Banker, Coach

Miklos, Elise, Seton Catholic School,  
Hudson, Sarah Jackson, Coach

Miller, Abby, Cincinnati Country Day  
School, Cincinnati, Emily DiMatteo,  
Coach

Miller, Avari, Napoleon Jr/Sr High,  
Napoleon, Jessica Hanefeld, Coach

Miller, Breckin, New Albany MS, New  
Albany, Suzie Cooper, Coach

Miller, Callie, Chippewa J/SHS,  
Doylestown, Leslie Marshall, Coach

Miller, Elise, Kimpton MS, Munroe  
Falls, Leslie Haynam, Coach

Miller, Jocie, Immaculate Conception,  
Columbus, Kaitlyn Ditalia, Coach

Moeller, Genevieve, Rocky River MS,  
Rocky River, Melissa Stickney, Coach

Monfort, Chloe, New Bremen MS, New  
Bremen, Polly Rodgers, Coach

Moore, Claire, St. John XXIII Catholic  
School, Middletown, Kathryn Sokol,  
Coach

Moore, Tiffany, Bethel MS, Tipp City,  
Barb Seebach, Coach

Morales, Adelaide, Cincinnati Country  
Day School, Cincinnati, Emily  
DiMatteo, Coach

Mostafiz, Maria, North Royalton MS,  
North Royalton, Jill Evangelista, Coach

Murray, Maggie, Columbia MS,  
Columbia Station, Kyleen Wilson, Coach

## N

Neal, Josie, Lordstown HS, Lordstown,  
Ryan Hart, Coach

Nery, Sophia, The Summit Country  
Day School, Cincinnati, Brendan  
McEachern, Coach

Newkirk, Simon, Ann Simpson Davis  
MS, Dublin, Disa Banker, Coach

Nicewander, Payton, Tuslaw MS,  
Massillon, Janel Swonger, Coach

Nightingale, Aubri, Arbor Hills JHS,  
Sylvania, Janice Heller, Coach

## O

O'Connor, Catherine, St. Michael  
School, Independence, Allie Branco,  
Coach

Odom, Ashley, Cincinnati Country Day  
School, Cincinnati, Emily DiMatteo,  
Coach

Oldfield, Amelia, St. Vincent De Paul  
Parish School, Akron, Dominic Gideon,  
Coach

Ortiz, Valeria, Bethel MS, Tipp City,  
Barb Seebach, Coach

## P

Page, Laura, Mount Vernon MS, Mount  
Vernon, Rebecca Cronk, Coach

Palm, Lydia, McKinney MS, Yellow  
Springs, Jaime Adoff, Coach

Palumbo, Zachary, Jackson Memorial  
MS, Massillon, Victoria Kerr, Coach

Pandya, Keya, Ontario MS, Ontario,  
Kellie Ritchey, Coach

Panza, Eva, Communion of Saints  
School, Cleveland Heights, Jane Panza,  
Coach

Patterson, Jilian, Claymont MS,  
Uhrichsville, Lindsey Tulak, Coach

Perez, Elias, Brooklyn School District,  
Brooklyn, Jacinta Bader, Coach

Perry, Will, New Albany MS, New  
Albany, Suzie Cooper, Coach

Peters, Sophia, Edison MS, Berlin  
Heights, Amy Ehrhardt, Coach

Petersen, Heidi, Brunswick MS,  
Brunswick, Dana Delnay, Coach

Petrie, Charlotte, St. Vincent De Paul  
School, Mt. Vernon, Annie Wrucke,  
Coach

Planisek, Jill, Avon MS, Avon, Brittany  
Steiger, Coach

Platner, Camden, Ontario MS, Ontario,  
Kellie Ritchey, Coach

Prabhakaran, Shakthi, Jackson  
Memorial MS, Massillon, Victoria Kerr,  
Coach

Provance, Ashlynn, Oakwood MS,  
Canton, Morgan Begue, Coach

## Q

Quick, Charlie, McCord JHS, Sylvania,  
Diane Long, Coach

## R

Rajesh, Sanjana, John Sells MS,  
Dublin, Rachel Polacek, Coach

Rajesh, Sapna, John Sells MS, Dublin,  
Rachel Polacek, Coach

Ramdatt, Arianna, Jacob Coy MS,  
Xenia, Kristina Minton, Coach

Reid, Amanda, St. Paul Lutheran  
School, Westlake, Shari Rooney, Coach

Repka, Vivian, Lebanon JHS, Lebanon,  
Carmen Hurst, Coach

Reynolds, Hadley, Sacred Heart of  
Jesus, Wadsworth, Elizabeth Valeri,  
Coach

Rich, Lilly, Oakwood JHS, Dayton,  
Mindy Hoffer, Coach

Richards, Ainsley, Valley View JHS,  
Farmersville, Jennifer Harshberger,  
Coach

Rickord, Rebecca, Global Impact  
Stem Academy, Springfield, Lauri  
McCutcheon, Coach

Riegel, Kate, St. Charles Borromeo,  
Kettering, Emily Issenmann, Coach

Rigg, Morgan, Timberstone JHS,  
Sylvania, Sara Nelson, Coach

Roberts, Kaydee, Triad MS, North  
Lewisburg, Christina Smart Meigs,  
Coach

Rodabaugh, Addy, Ankeney MS,  
Beavercreek, Carol Brown, Coach

Rodgers, Jackson, Shawnee MS,  
Springfield, Terry Janssen, Coach

Romano, Maggie, Brunswick MS,  
Brunswick, Dana Delnay, Coach

Rosenberg, Diane, Oakwood JHS,  
Dayton, Mindy Hoffer, Coach

## S

Salvino, Ricky, St. Michael School,  
Canton, Amy Krajeck, Coach

Scheffler, Daniela, Lake MS, Hartville,  
Cheryl Yates-Bledsoe, Coach

Sharma, Ananya, Our Lady of the Elms,  
Akron, Anne Suntken, Coach

Shaw, Meagan, Ankeney MS,  
Beavercreek, Carol Brown, Coach

Sikora, Jada, Our Lady of the Elms,  
Akron, Anne Suntken, Coach

Smith, Caleb, Kimpton MS, Munroe  
Falls, Leslie Haynam, Coach

Starkey, Ashleigh, Chippewa Junior/  
Senior High School, Doylestown, Leslie  
Marshall, Coach

Stevens, Olivia, Northridge MS,  
Springfield, Emily Comer, Coach

Stickney, Beatrix, Rocky River MS,  
Rocky River, Melissa Stickney, Coach

Stiefel, Zoe, Shaker Heights MS, Shaker  
Heights, Erika Pfeiffer, Coach

Stuebe, Hannah, St. Brigid of Kildare,  
Dublin, Sara Hardin, Coach

Sweeney, Kiera, Oakwood MS, Canton,  
Morgan Begue, Coach

Syslo, Chloe, Kenston MS, Chagrin  
Falls, Tamara Cabrera-Perrine, Coach

Szelagowski, Riley, Wapakoneta,  
Wapakoneta, Erika Eley, Coach

## T

Thomas, Elizabeth, Arbor Hills JHS,  
Sylvania, Janice Heller, Coach

Tinkler, Madeline, St. Brigid of Kildare,  
Dublin, Sara Hardin, Coach

Tucker, Emma, Cornerstone Christian  
Academy, Willoughby Hills, Emily  
Glontz, Coach

## V

Van Zandweghe, Nina, Solon MS,  
Solon, Emilie Macek, Coach

Vieira, Emily, Notre Dame Elementary  
School, Chardon, Kelly Stefanek, Coach

VordemEsche, Lauren, The Seven Hills  
School, Cincinnati, Chris Caldemeyer,  
Coach

## W

Waltz, Lillie, Indian Hill MS,  
Cincinnati, Kim Given, Coach

Ward, Jocelyn, Perrysburg JHS,  
Perrysburg, Jamie Avery, Coach

Watkins, Cordelia, Pleasant View MS,  
Grove City, Kate Larsen, Coach

Weiss, Ella, Seton Catholic School,  
Hudson, Sarah Jackson, Coach

Wentz, Rose, St. Charles Borromeo,  
Kettering, Emily Issenmann, Coach

Wilson, Eliana, Wadsworth MS,  
Wadsworth, Briana Lowdermilk, Coach

Wilson, Isabella, Edison MS, Berlin  
Heights, Amy Ehrhardt, Coach

Winegardner, Jozie, Kenton MS,  
Kenton, Tina Hiller, Coach

Woconish, Avalon, St. Dominic School,  
Shaker Heights, Spencer Weidig, Coach

Wolbers, Morgan, Tippecanoe MS,  
Tipp City, Bridget Hughes, Coach

Woods, Clara, Immaculate Heart of  
Mary School, Cuyahoga Falls, Linda  
Littler, Coach

Worley, Eve, St. Brigid of Kildare,  
Dublin, Sara Hardin, Coach

## X

Xu, Hansheng, Willard Grizzell MS,  
Dublin, Mitzi Moshiri, Coach

## Y

Yonak, Hannah, Willard Grizzell MS,  
Dublin, Mitzi Moshiri, Coach

Young, Alyse, Columbia MS, Columbia  
Station, Kyleen Wilson, Coach

## Z

Zander, Paige, Timberstone JHS,  
Sylvania, Sara Nelson, Coach

Zhang, Lucy, Mason MS, Mason, Jillian  
Denman, Coach

Zhou, Grace, Indian Hill MS,  
Cincinnati, Kim Given, Coach

# THE POWER BEHIND THE PROGRAM

The statewide expansion of Power of the Pen and its ongoing development as a program that strengthens and enriches writing in Ohio schools has been made possible by grants and contributions from many sources. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge our contributors, past and present, and tournament sponsors who have supported our pursuit of excellence in written expression.

## Initial Enabling Foundation Grants

Martha Holden Jennings Foundation  
The Cleveland Foundation  
The GAR Foundation  
The George Gund Foundation  
The Hoover Foundation  
The Knight Foundation  
The Nord Family Foundation  
The Stark County Foundation  
The Turner Foundation

## THANK YOU TO HOST SCHOOLS

Even though we did not meet in person, schools, colleges, and universities across Ohio served as virtual host schools and helped with planning and awards ceremonies for district and regional tournaments. We thank the following schools for serving as virtual hosts in 2020-2021.

### District Tournament Host Schools

Ashland Middle School, Ashland  
Circleville High School, Circleville  
Columbia Middle School, Columbia Station  
Gahanna Middle School South, Gahanna  
Lake Erie College, Painesville  
Little Miami Junior High School, Morrow  
Northeast Ohio IMPACT Academy, Lowellville  
Shawnee Middle School, Springfield  
St. Marys Middle School, St. Marys  
St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, Akron  
The Seven Hills School, Cincinnati  
Tiffin Middle School, Tiffin  
University of Mount Union, Alliance  
University School, Shaker Heights  
West Carrollton Middle School, West Carrollton

### Regional Tournament Host Schools

Ann Simpson Davis Middle School, Dublin  
Baldwin Wallace University, Berea  
Hudson Middle School, Hudson  
Kent State University, Kent  
Lourdes University, Sylvania  
Malone University, Canton  
Wittenberg University, Springfield  
Wyoming Middle School, Wyoming



# DONATIONS AND SUPPORT TO POWER OF THE PEN

Educational enrichment doesn't just happen. It requires the dedication of people who are willing to lend time, commitment, and financial support to the pursuit of academic excellence. Like any other 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Power of the Pen is made possible through contributions and volunteer assistance. In forming partnerships with schools and communities, Power of the Pen will succeed in its mission to provide a permanent ongoing interscholastic writing program. We are grateful to parents, friends, service organizations, corporations, businesses, and newspapers who have responded generously to our need for support.

If you would like to donate to Power of the Pen, you may give online at [powerofthepen.org/Donate](http://powerofthepen.org/Donate) or mail your donation to PO Box 442, Richfield, OH 44286.

## Otterbein University

Otterbein is a regionally-accredited liberal arts university. Since its founding in 1847, Otterbein has been recognized for its pace-setting ideals, its ground-breaking Integrative Studies curriculum, its standing among the country's first co-education institutions, and its commitment to serve the public good. Among the many majors offered at Otterbein are the BFA in Creative Writing and the BA in English (with a concentration in Creative Writing, Film Studies, or Literary Studies). Both majors immerse students in the study of great literature and the art of generating their own fictions, poems, essays, plays, and screenplays. Through this course of study, students come to know the elements of the writer's craft and the imaginative energy of the writer's life.

In conjunction with the state tournament, Otterbein is awarding five \$2,500 four-year renewable scholarships, for any major, to deserving Power of the Pen writers. Scholarship winners will be announced in the virtual awards ceremony for the 2021 State Tournament.



## State Tournament Support

### Otterbein University

In addition to serving as virtual host, Otterbein is the title sponsor of this year's state tournament.

### St. Raphael Home and School

When the St. Raphael tournament in December was cancelled due to the pandemic, St. Raphael Home and School generously donated to the state tournament.

### Power of the Pen Founders' Award in Memory of Frank and Lorraine Merrill, Springfield Foundation

Family members established this endowment fund at the Springfield Foundation to honor the memory of Power of the Pen Founders Frank and Lorraine Merrill. The fund provides for an annual award to a deserving writer and support for the annual state tournament. Contributions may be sent to Power of the Pen Founders' Award at the Springfield Foundation at 333 N Limestone Street, Suite 201, Springfield, Ohio 45503.

### The Turner Foundation of Springfield

A longtime supporter of Power of the Pen, The Turner Foundation of Springfield provides grant funding for our program throughout the year, including for district and regional tournaments, the state tournament, and the *Book of Winners*.

### District and Regional Tournament Sponsors for the 2020-2021 School Year

Baldwin Wallace University  
Block Communications  
The Canton Repository/  
The Alliance Review  
Circleville City School Foundation  
Columbia Community Foundation  
The Hudson Kiwanis Foundation  
The Hudson PTO  
Kent State University School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies  
Kiwanis Club of Alliance  
Kiwanis Club of Dayton  
Kiwanis Club of Gahanna  
Lake Erie College  
The Lander Circle Kiwanis Club  
Little Miami PTO  
The Michael "Mickey" Soroka Charitable Foundation  
Princeton Sharonville Kiwanis Club  
The Seven Hills School  
Smile Doctors  
St. Marys Rotary Club  
Tiffin Middle School P.T.O.  
The Turner Foundation of Springfield  
Wyoming Middle School PSA  
Vinton County National Bank

# DONATIONS AND SUPPORT TO POWER OF THE PEN

## Grants

Erie County Community Foundation  
The Innis Maggiore Community Endowment Fund  
Jewish Federation of Cleveland: Steven and Gail Goldfarb Family Philanthropic Fund  
The Timken Foundation of Canton (IIAF) at Stark Community Foundation  
The Turner Foundation of Springfield  
The William M. and Patricia R. Wallace Charitable Fund

## Donors

*September 1, 2020, through May 1, 2021*

Katia Abboud  
Mary and Bill Anderson  
Ellen Arena  
Mason Badger  
Debra Beck  
Susan Cramer  
Holly and Brad Dixon  
Mason Duvall  
Connie Dykiel  
Beth Elliott  
Steven Evans  
Andy Finamore  
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Jake Sternburn  
Zack Trontel  
Barbara Tschantz  
The Wilson Family  
W.W. Grainger, Inc. Matching Gift

## Gifts in Memory of Robert J. Drumheller

Mr. Drumheller was a longtime leader and executive with Gongwer News Service in Columbus, Ohio. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Power of the Pen, as his sister-in-law, Eileen Nolan, coached a team at St. Christopher School in Vandalia, Ohio.

Michael Geraghty  
Alexandra Kaufhold  
Larry Lee  
Barbara and Tim McCombs  
Kathryn K. and Thomas C. Nelson  
Andrew and Maria Nolan  
Nicholas and Eileen Nolan  
Jim and Fran Sheehan  
Dave Siewe and Ian Jackson  
Jackie Slatkow

## Memorial and Scholarship Awards

### The Turner Foundation of Springfield

In addition to their generous program support, The Turner Foundation of Springfield provides the annual Sara T. Landess Outstanding Teacher award to an exceptional Power of the Pen coach. This year's winner is Christina Smart-Meigs of Triad Middle School.

### Kiwanis Club of Dayton

The Kiwanis Club of Dayton presented eighth grader Rylee Boyer with the Randy Kramer Award for Writing Excellence, given in memory of longtime Dayton Kiwanis member and Power of the Pen supporter Randy Kramer. In addition, Carol Brown of Ankeney Middle School received the Kiwanis Club of Dayton Outstanding Teacher Award.

### Kent State University

Awarded letters of support for future scholarships to Maggie Romano, eighth grader at Brunswick Middle School, and Elise Miller, eighth grader at Kimpton Middle School, for their outstanding writing throughout their time with Power of the Pen.

### Wittenberg University

Awarded the Wittenberg Keller Scholarship for \$2,500 to Ellie Johnson of Triad Middle School for outstanding writing at the Western regional tournament.

### Special Thanks

We express our appreciation to Dr. Mark Lyberger and his students at Kent State University, who assisted with grant applications and Giving Tuesday.

# POWER OF THE PEN ALUMNI: POWERFUL IMPACT



**Jasmine Warga,**  
Newbery Honor Author, Wyoming MS

Jasmine Warga is author of four books for young adults, including the Newbery Honor winner *Other Words for Home*. “Power of the Pen undoubtedly shaped my life as a writer,” Jasmine says. For Jasmine, Power of the Pen was one of the first experiences in her life where adults referred to her as a writer.

More importantly, she says, it taught her that writers need to practice. “The more hours you put into your craft, the more you will get out of it,” she says. “It also gave me the opportunity to explore lots of different styles of writing, playing with genre and perspective, and this helped open up my own writing in numerous ways.”

The lessons middle school students learn in Power of the Pen stay with them for life. No matter the career they have chosen, Power of the Pen alumni tell us that the writing skills they developed and the confidence they found with their middle school Power of the Pen team have contributed to their success.

Read more about alumni, coaches, and students at <https://powerofthepen.org/Blog-Power-of-the-Pen-Spotlight>. Alumni, reconnect with Power of the Pen at <https://powerofthepen.org/alumni>.

**Justin A. Reynolds,**  
Author, Elyria Westwood MS

Justin A. Reynolds’ latest book, *Miles Morales: Shock Waves*, is a Marvel graphic novel that will be released on June 1, 2021. He is also the author of young adult novels *Opposite of Always* and *Early Departures*. Power of the Pen will always have a special place in his heart, he told the Solon Middle School team in December 2020.

“Learning to write, problem solve, think critically – Power of the Pen exemplifies all of that,” he told the Solon team. “You have to process information quickly and dispense it on the page in a short time.” Justin reminded Solon’s young writers to believe in themselves: no matter what you are writing, if it is high quality and makes an emotional connection, the work will find an audience.



**Angie Peng,**  
Expert in Artificial Intelligence, Hudson MS

Angie Peng had her first short story published in the September/October 2020 issue of the *Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, putting her in the company of such literary figures as Daniel Keyes and Ray Bradbury. Her story, “Do AIs Dream of Perfect Games?” features a science fiction twist on a hometown favorite, Cleveland Major League baseball.

Power of the Pen taught her that good writing doesn’t just happen; it takes work.

“It was only when I found out that we would have weekly writing ‘practices’ that it occurred to me that perhaps artists didn’t just sit around waiting for inspiration or a muse or lightning to strike all the time,” Angie says. “It changed how I saw myself. I never thought of myself as a writer, and I still don’t sometimes, but it reinforced in me that if I was disciplined and motivated enough to practice my writing on a regular basis, then I could indeed be a writer.”



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Power of the Pen was incorporated in March of 1989 as an educational nonprofit (501)(c)(3) organization. It is helmed by a Board of Directors which draws its membership from the educational, corporate, and professional communities.

## **Members of the Board of Directors of Power of the Pen, serving as of April 2021, are:**

Barb Tschantz, *Executive Director (Non-voting)*

Julie Lyberger, *President*, assistant principal at Lake Elementary in Hartville

Robin Langlais, *Secretary*, retired media specialist, Strongsville City Schools

Tyler Chaplin, CPA, tax manager, Bober Markey Fedorovich

Susan Cramer, retired, Granville Village Schools

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Mike Fejes, teacher and Power of the Pen coach, Hudson Middle School

Dave Hill, communications manager for Finance and IT, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company

Brittany Mackey, talent development team in Human Resources, J.M. Smucker Company

Gregory Parker, retired district supervisor, White Castle Systems, Inc.

## STATE TOURNAMENT STAFF

The planning and execution of the state tournament was accomplished through the combined efforts of Power of the Pen staff, contractors, and volunteers. We appreciate everyone's efforts in this most unusual online season.

### **Otterbein University Liaison**

Margaret Koehler, Professor and Department Chair, English

### **Regional Directors**

Mary Anderson, Northeast Region

Robin Langlais, South-Central Region

Julie Lyberger, Eastern Region

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Jenn Sauvey, Southwest Region

Barb Tschantz, Lake Erie Region

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Cheryl Yates-Bledsoe, Northern Region

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