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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PO Box 442, Richfield, Ohio 44286
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

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Hosted virtually by Otterbein University
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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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](https://jackgantos.com).
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.

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.
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, Millikovitch MS, Maple Heights
Coached by Scott Stephen

The Gordon Korman Award
1995 Tim Bugansky, Marlington 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
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, Matamoros
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 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

Past Winners of the Promising Young Talent Award

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
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.

Lorraine made her vision a reality with the first interscholastic tournament for middle school students at Nordonia Junior High School in the 1985-1986 school year. The Nordonia 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.

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.
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 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.

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
Moira 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
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.”


“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.

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

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.
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
**POWER OF THE PEN 2021 STATE TOURNAMENT**

### 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

#### Western District 1
- West Carrollton Middle School
- Saturday, January 30, 2021

#### Western District 2
- Shawnee Middle School
- Saturday, February 6, 2021

#### Southwest District 1
- The Seven Hills School
- Saturday, January 23, 2021

#### Southwest District 2
- Little Miami Junior High School
- Saturday, January 30, 2021

#### South-Central District 1
- Circleville High School
- Saturday, January 23, 2021

#### South-Central District 2
- Gahanna Middle School South
- Saturday, February 20, 2021

#### Eastern District 1
- University of Mount Union
- Saturday, January 9, 2021

#### Eastern District 2
- Northeast Ohio IMPACT Academy
- Saturday, January 30, 2021

#### Northeast District 1
- St. Vincent-St. Mary High School
- Saturday, January 9, 2021

#### Northeast District 2
- Ashland Middle School
- Saturday, January 23, 2021

#### Lake Erie District 1
- Lake Erie College
- Saturday, January 9, 2021

#### Lake Erie District 2
- University School
- Saturday, January 30, 2021

#### Northern District 2
- Columbia Middle School
- Saturday, February 6, 2021

#### Northwest Regional
- Lourdes University
- Saturday, March 20, 2021

#### Western Regional
- Wittenberg University
- Saturday, March 13, 2021

#### Southwest Regional
- Wyoming Middle School
- Saturday, February 27, 2021

#### South-Central Regional
- Ann Simpson Davis Middle School
- Saturday, March 20, 2021

#### Eastern Regional
- Malone University
- Saturday, March 13, 2021

#### Northeast Regional
- Kent State University
- Saturday, February 27, 2021

#### Lake Erie Regional
- Hudson Middle School
- Saturday, March 13, 2021

#### Northern Regional
- Baldwin Wallace University
- Saturday, March 13, 2021

**State Tournament**
- Otterbein University
- Online May 15, 2021
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

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

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

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
### Lake Erie College

*January 9, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Dr. Elizabeth Walsh-Moorman

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Seventh Grade</th>
<th>Eighth Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Marie Cain</td>
<td>Emma Tucker</td>
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<td>Cornerstone Christian Academy</td>
</tr>
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<td>Anna Gracon</td>
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<td>Shore MS</td>
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<td>Notre Dame Elementary School</td>
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<td>Michelle Chiacchiari</td>
<td>Kelly Stefanek</td>
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### University of Mount Union

*January 9, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Julie Lyberger

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<td>2nd</td>
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<td>Addelina Carroll</td>
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### St. Vincent-St. Mary High School

*January 9, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Mary Anderson

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<td>Will Gee</td>
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### Circleville High School

*January 23, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Brooke Paxton

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<td>Willard Grizzell MS</td>
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### Ashland Middle School

*January 23, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Carolyn Hrinda

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### The Seven Hills School

*January 23, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Chris Caldemeyer

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<td>Claire Evans</td>
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St. Marys Middle School
January 23, 2021
Host School Coordinator: Angie Woods

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Coached by
Angie Woods

Coached by
Erika Eley

Little Miami Junior High School
January 30, 2021
Host School Coordinator: Erin Dipzinski

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<td>Laasya Acharya</td>
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Coached by
Elizabeth Toerner

Coached by
Jillian Denman

West Carrollton Middle School
January 30, 2021
Host School Coordinator: Lesley Mosher

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Coached by
Chris Bigelow

Coached by
Emily Issenmann

Northeast Ohio IMPACT Academy
January 30, 2021
Host School Coordinator: Kent Polen

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Coached by
Teresa Crawford

Coached by
Debbie Staffeld

University School
January 30, 2021
Host School Coordinator: Charlie Oberndorf

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Coached by
Jenna Drozd

Coached by
Emilie Macek

Shawnee Middle School
February 6, 2021
Host School Coordinator: Darcy Leis

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Coached by
Megan Keiser

Coached by
Lauri McCutcheon
### Tiffin Middle School

*February 6, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Sara Conner

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<td>Timberstone JHS</td>
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*Coached by*

*Sara Nelson*

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### Columbia Middle School

*February 6, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Kyleen Wilson

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*Coached by*

*Kimberly Hirsch*

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### Gahanna Middle School South

*February 20, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Libby Grubb

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*Coached by*

*Shelley Regrut*

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*Coached by Chuck Debelak*
## Kent State Regional Tournament
*February 27, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Mary Anderson

<table>
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<th>Seventh Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Ashley Smail</td>
<td>Callie Miller</td>
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<td>Ashland MS</td>
<td>Chippewa Junior/Senior HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Suzana Borges</td>
<td>Meah Cerne</td>
</tr>
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<td>St. Sebastian</td>
<td>Black River MS</td>
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<td>Parish School</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Susie Thomas</td>
<td>Alba Mastromatteo</td>
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<td>Seton Catholic School</td>
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*Coached by* Carolyn Hrinda and 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Seventh Grade</th>
<th>Eighth Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Denny Haley</td>
<td>Lucy Zhang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Paul II</td>
<td>Mason MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catholic School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Elle Riva</td>
<td>Cecilia Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mason MS</td>
<td>Mason MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Angel Lynch</td>
<td>Laasya Acharya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mason MS</td>
<td>Mason MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Wyoming MS</td>
<td>Mason MS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Coached by* Elizabeth Toerner and 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Seventh Grade</th>
<th>Eighth Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Isabel Siegel</td>
<td>Mandi Lu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaker Heights MS</td>
<td>Solon MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Adonis Wazni</td>
<td>Zoe Stiefel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University School</td>
<td>Shaker Heights MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ian Brohier</td>
<td>Nina Van Zandweghe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University School</td>
<td>Solon MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>University School</td>
<td>Solon MS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Coached by* Charles Oberndorf and Emilie Maeck

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

## Malone University Regional Tournament
*March 13, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Julie Lyberger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Seventh Grade</th>
<th>Eighth Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Laurel Balcom</td>
<td>Shakhri Prabhakaran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jackson Memorial MS</td>
<td>Jackson Memorial MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Pressley Grzbowski</td>
<td>Zachary Palumbo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oakwood MS</td>
<td>Jackson Memorial MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Madelyn Faltay</td>
<td>Lauren Cameron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Michael School</td>
<td>West Branch MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Claymont MS</td>
<td>Jackson Memorial MS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Coached by* Alisha Mahaffey and 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Seventh Grade</th>
<th>Eighth Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Areesha Nouman</td>
<td>Audrey Malcuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birchwood School</td>
<td>St. Michael School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Samantha Wu</td>
<td>Alyse Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Olmsted Falls MS</td>
<td>Columbia MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Katie Hren</td>
<td>Beatrix Stickney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Mary of the Falls School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Menlo Park Academy</td>
<td>Birchwood School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Coached by* Amanda Conti and Chuck Debelak

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

## Wittenberg University Regional Tournament
*March 13, 2021*

Host School Coordinator: Paula McWilliams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Seventh Grade</th>
<th>Eighth Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Inara Arnett</td>
<td>Ellie Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valley View JHS</td>
<td>Triad MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Bailey Boude</td>
<td>Rose Wentz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Van Buren MS</td>
<td>St. Charles Borromeo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Julia Ludwig</td>
<td>Arianna Ramdatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oakwood JHS</td>
<td>Jacob Coy MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Tippecanoe MS</td>
<td>Tippecanoe MS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Coached by* Brittasha Thompson and 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 Charlie Quick Perkins Briar MS McCord JHS
2nd Lailah Byrd Juliannah Haudenshild Toledo School Tiffin MS
for the Arts
3rd Maddie Hudok Margaret Cox Van Buren MS Perrysburg JHS
1st Kenton MS Edison MS Coached by Coached by
Coached by Tina Hiller Amy Ehrhardt

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

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

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

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 Racketa, 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, Nordonia 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

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'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, Reeva, 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, Lilian, McCord JHS, Sylvania, Diane Long, Coach

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
Feeer, 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 Karpantry, 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, Brittashia 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, Clagett 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 Esteppe, 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
Revile, 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 Racketa, 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, Daphne, Welsh Hills School, Granville, Shelli Drumm, Coach
Souther, Keely, Ratner Montessori School, Cleveland Heights, Rebecca Smith, 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

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

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 Stafford, 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 Priebie, 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 Priebie, Coach
Buake, Tancy, Hudson MS, Hudson, Michael Fejes, Coach

C

Cadaret, Sophia, Perrysburg JHS, Perrysburg, Jammy 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
Chelu, 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
Clarkston, 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, Cassondra 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

D

Davies, Eva, Anna MS, Anna, Nancy Stuttsman, Coach
Deal, Abigail, North Royalton MS, North Royalton, Jill Evangelista, Coach
Denton, Elliana, Tippecanoe MS, Tipp City, Bridget Hughes, Coach
Despande, 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 Priebie, 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 Stafford, Coach
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Fitzgerald, Ailani, Menlo Park Academy, Cleveland, Amanda Conti, Coach
Frost, Brooke, Wapakoneta, Wapakoneta, Erika Eley, Coach

Gaier, Valerie, Triad MS, North Lewisburg, Christina Smart Meigs, Coach
Galvin, Maggie, Wyoming MS, Wyoming, Jennifer Sauve, 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 Karpany, 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
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Liu, Isabella, Solon MS, Solon, Emilie Macek, Coach
Liu, Olivia, Solon MS, Solon, Emilie Macek, Coach
Lu, Mandi, Solon MS, Solon, Emilie Macek, Coach
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Lyvers, Saige, Gahanna MS South, Gahanna, Libby Grubb, Coach

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McNally, Joan, Holy Family School, Poland, James Stickel, Coach
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Miklos, Elise, Seton Catholic School, Hudson, Sarah Jackson, Coach
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Miller, Jocie, Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Kaitlyn Ditalia, Coach
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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

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

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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
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Rajesh, Sapna, John Sells MS, Dublin, Rachel Polacek, Coach
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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
Scheffler, Daniela, Lake MS, Hartville, Cheryl Yates-Bledsoe, Coach
Sharma, Ananya, Our Lady of the Elms, Akron, Anne Sunken, Coach
Shaw, Meagan, Ankeney MS, Beavercreek, Carol Brown, Coach
Sikora, Jada, Our Lady of the Elms, Akron, Anne Sunken, 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
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 Sunken, Coach
Shaw, Meagan, Ankeney MS, Beavercreek, Carol Brown, Coach
Sikora, Jada, Our Lady of the Elms, Akron, Anne Sunken, Coach
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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, Brian Lowdermilk, Coach
Wilson, Isabella, Edison MS, Berlin Heights, Amy Ehrhardt, Coach
Winegardner, Jozie, Kentos 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 Mosheri, Coach

Y

Yonak, Hannah, Willard Grizzell MS, Dublin, Mitzi Mosheri, 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 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

**The Power Behind the Program**
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

**Thank You to Host Schools**
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 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
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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
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The Lander Circle Kiwanis Club
Little Miami PTO
The Michael “Mickey” Soroka Charitable Foundation
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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
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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.
**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.”

**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.”

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.

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.

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Barb Tschantz

2021 T-Shirt Sales
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Polly Walters

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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:
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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.