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SOUTH-CENTRAL REGION STUDENTS ADVANCE TO POWER OF THE PEN STATE TOURNAMENT

NORTH CANTON, OH — March 21, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen on Sunday announced the results of the South-Central Region Tournament hosted virtually by Ann Simpson Davis Middle School on March 5. The Ann Simpson Davis Middle School PTO sponsored the tournament.

In the Power of the Pen regional tournament, 7th- and 8th-grade students competed in a series of extemporaneous rounds of creative writing tasks, each in response to an open-ended prompt. The regional tournament is both a team and an individual competition.

The top prize in the tournament is a rotating Regional Sweepstakes trophy. **This year's Sweepstakes winner** is St. Brigid of Kildare, coached by Sara Hardin and Shelley Regrut.

Teams are also honored at each grade level. **Team award winners in the 7th grade are:**

1st Place – Rushville Middle School, Lancaster, coached by Jodi Forsythe

2nd Place – St. Brigid of Kildare, Dublin, coached by Shelley Regrut

3rd Place – Dominion Middle School, Columbus, coached by Pattie Niese

Team award winners for the 8th grade are:

1st Place – St. Brigid of Kildare, Dublin, coached by Sara Hardin

2nd Place – Mount Vernon Middle School, Mount Vernon, coached by Esther Sadoff

3rd Place – St. Matthew School, Gahanna, coached by Anita Ference

7th grade top individual award winners are:

1st Place – Easton Dompier, Rushville Middle School

2nd Place – Shirley Gui, Eversole Run Middle School

3rd Place – Marinda Pope, St. Brigid of Kildare

4th Place – Emma Drab, St. Brigid of Kildare

5th Place – Amanda Misarti, Mount Vernon Middle School

6th Place – Simone Edwards, Dominion Middle School

7th Place – Mia Philemond, John Sells Middle School

8th Place – Samantha Freytag, John Sells Middle School

9th Place – Cicely Esterline, Circleville Middle School

10th Place – Natalia Skosples, Dempsey Middle School

11th Place – Ava Wilkinson, Rushville Middle School

12th Place – Sahasra Bodepudi, Eversole Run Middle School

**8th grade top individual winners are:**

- 1st Place – Sreshta Erravelli, New Albany Middle School
- 2nd Place – Ali Ferrell, Circleville Middle School
- 3rd Place – Madelyn Ohl, Gahanna Middle School East
- 4th Place – Emma Summers, Watkins Middle School
- 5th Place – Paige Harper, St. Brigid of Kildare
- 6th Place – Shivani Tennety, Dempsey Middle School
- 7th Place – Erin Griswold, Warren Middle School
- 8th Place – Marcos Miller-Carmona, St. Brigid of Kildare
- 9th Place – Sanskriti Gupta, Dr. Henry Karrer Middle School
- 10th Place – Niama Bah, KIPP Columbus Middle School
- 11th Place – Kalin Kaiser, Rushville Middle School
- 12th Place – Claire Bigelow, Willard Grizzell Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Ella Dieffenderfer of Dominion Middle School, Ella Armstrong of Columbus School for Girls, and Olivia Mershon of Ann Simpson Davis Middle School; and 8th graders Emma Summers of Watkins Middle School, Sarah Franchitti of New Albany Middle School, and Kathleen Motter of St. Matthew School. Director's Choice awards were presented to Madelyn Ohl of Gahanna Middle School East, Rebecca Gebhart of St. Matthew School, and Katie Graff of St. Agatha.

Platinum Pen award winners are Arabella Kimbler of Welsh Hills School, Chet Kirkland of Circleville Middle School, Emma Summers of Watkins Middle School, and Madelyn Ohl of Gahanna Middle School East. The Platinum Pen award is given to students whose writing has been selected for publication in the *Book of Winners*.

Power of the Pen, one of Ohio's largest educational enhancement programs, seeks to positively impact academic achievement of the state's middle schoolers by helping young people find and develop a creative voice uniquely their own.

All of the individual award winners at the tournament, plus at least the top 20% of the writers at each grade level, will advance to the state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The South-Central Region includes Delaware, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Union, Athens, Fairfield, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton counties.

Power of the Pen is Ohio's original interscholastic creative writing program for middle schools. 7th- and 8th-grade students in Ohio compete in a series of district, regional and state competitions by writing creative responses using provided prompts. The 501(c)(3) organization was founded in 1986 by the late Lorraine B. Merrill and has since become one of the state's largest educational enhancement programs. About 3,000 students participate in tournaments each year, while in-class supporting materials are provided for nearly 300 middle schools in Ohio. Support for the 2021-2022 academic year has been provided by Ohio Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. For more information, visit powerofthepen.org.

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