

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NORTHEAST REGION STUDENTS ADVANCE TO
REGIONAL POWER OF THE PEN WRITING TOURNAMENT****Qualifying 7th- and 8th-grade writers competed in the recent
District 2 tournament hosted virtually by Ashland Middle School**

NORTH CANTON, OH — February 6, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen today announced the results of the Northeast Ohio Region District 2 tournament hosted virtually by Ashland Middle School on January 22. The Ashland Evening Lions Club sponsored the tournament.

In the Power of the Pen district 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 district tournament is both a team and an individual competition.

Team award winners in the 7th grade at the District 2 tournament are:

- 1st Place – St. Francis Xavier, Medina, coached by Mary McAllister
- 2nd Place – Norwayne Middle School, Creston, coached by Katie Kerns
- 3rd Place – Edgewood Middle School, Wooster, coached by Michael Sexton

Team award winners for the 8th grade at the District 2 tournament are:

- 1st Place – Edgewood Middle School, Wooster, coached by Chelsey Porter
- 2nd Place – Ashland Middle School, Ashland, coached by Carolyn Hrinda
- 3rd Place – Green Middle School, Smithville, coached by Greg DeRodes

7th grade top individual award winners are:

- 1st Place – Samantha Horvat, Wadsworth Middle School
- 2nd Place – Farrah Holladay, A I Root
- 3rd Place – Lena Burgett, West Holmes Middle
- 4th Place – Elianna Fittante, Ontario Middle School
- 5th Place – Megan Raklovits, A I Root
- 6th Place – Violet Stormer Burch, Edgewood Middle School
- 7th Place – Stella Allen, Claggett Middle School
- 8th Place – Kathleen Palmer, St. Francis Xavier
- 9th Place – Madeline Frank, St. Barnabas School
- 10th Place – Harper Rosenberger, Wadsworth Middle School



11th Place – Camila Hernandez, Wadsworth Middle School

12th Place – Lincoln Marks, A I Root

8th grade top individual winners at the District 1 tournament are:

1st Place – Mia Hubert, Shelby Middle School

2nd Place – Aaron Casey, Wadsworth Middle School

3rd Place – Mason Cooper, Claggett Middle School

4th Place – Joshua Butcher, Highland Middle School

5th Place – Elizabeth Sprang, Edgewood Middle School

6th Place – Gabrielle Bright, Black River Middle School

7th Place – Emily Mousourakis, Claggett Middle School

8th Place – Colton Csapo, Norwayne Middle School

9th Place – Laila Manchester, Loudonville-Perrysville Exempted Village School

10th Place – Maggie Wenger, Green Middle School

11th Place – Addison Hatcher, St. Francis Xavier

12th Place – Payne Schwartz, Ontario Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Madison Beckham of Edgewood Middle School, Kathleen Palmer of St. Francis Xavier, and Aurora Sensabaugh of Lakeview Middle School, and 8th graders Mia Hubert of Shelby Middle School, Sophia Young of Claggett Middle School, and Danielle Ferree of St. Barnabas School. Katie Snider of Edgewood Middle School and Maggie Wenger of Green Middle School won Director's Choice awards.

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 will advance to the Northeast Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Kent State University on February 26. In all, 108 students from the Ashland tournament will advance to the Northeast Regional Tournament, together with the 110 writers who qualified in the District 1 tournament at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School on January 8. Qualifying students from the Northeast Regional Tournament will advance to a state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The Northeast Region includes Ashland, Medina, Portage, Trumbull, Wayne, and Southern Summit 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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