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NORTHERN REGION STUDENTS ADVANCE TO POWER OF THE PEN STATE TOURNAMENT

NORTH CANTON, OH — March 28, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen on Sunday announced the results of the Northern Region Tournament hosted virtually by Baldwin Wallace University on March 12. Baldwin Wallace also 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 Birchwood School of Hawken, coached by Lorraine Tzeng, Maysan Hadar, and Jennifer Seward.

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

1st Place – Birchwood School of Hawken, Cleveland, coached by Lorraine Tzeng and Maysan Haydar
2nd Place – Lewis F. Mayer Middle School, Fairview Park, coached by Kale Chevalier
3rd Place – Rocky River Middle School, Rocky River, coached by Melissa Stickney

Team award winners for the 8th grade are:

1st Place – Independence Middle School, Independence, coached by Jill Wagner
2nd Place – Menlo Park Academy, Cleveland, coached by Sean Wheeler
3rd Place – Olmsted Falls Middle School, Olmsted Falls, coached by Lisa MacAleese

7th grade top individual award winners are:

1st Place – Manya Raina, Birchwood School of Hawken
2nd Place – Max Cremona, St. Mary of the Falls
3rd Place – Caitlyn Suhie, St. Jude School
4th Place – Annabelle Seybold, St. Raphael School
5th Place – Addison Miles, Olmsted Falls Middle School
6th Place – Nataly Shenouda, St. Paul Lutheran
7th Place – Elliana Chrisman, St. Albert the Great
8th Place – Joshua Gordon, Birchwood School of Hawken
9th Place – Grace Welch, Holy Trinity
10th Place – Abby Schuler, St. Mary Avon
11th Place – Miranda Thurman, Lewis F. Mayer Middle School
12th Place – Mariah Gray, Monticello Middle School
8th grade top individual winners are:

1st Place – Katie Hren, St. Mary of the Falls
2nd Place – Adele Wentzel, Menlo Park Academy
3rd Place – Nyah Palmer, North Royalton Middle School
4th Place – Isabel Pangrace, Rocky River Middle School
5th Place – Areesha Nouman, Birchwood School of Hawken
6th Place – Anna Oestreich, Menlo Park Academy
7th Place – Abby Campbell, Holy Trinity
8th Place – Piper Erman, Columbia Middle School
9th Place – Jacob Rholda, St. Mary of the Falls
10th Place – Alice Jones, Bay Middle School
11th Place – Ava Hunt, Columbia Middle School
12th Place – Madison Garver, Olmsted Falls Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Cam Williams of Bay Middle School and Haadeya Salman and Ayat Jaffar of Birchwood School of Hawken; and 8th graders Areesha Nouman of Birchwood School of Hawken, Abby Campbell of Holy Trinity, and Nia Blain of Olmsted Falls Middle School.

Platinum Pen award winners are Annabelle Wissman of Rocky River Middle School, Isabella Bixler of Birchwood School of Hawken, Nyah Palmer of North Royalton Middle School, Cassandra Petras of Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School, and Adele Wentzel of Menlo Park Academy. 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 Northern Region includes Crawford, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Richland, and most of Cuyahoga 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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