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Contact: Barb Tschantz, barb@powerofthepen.org, 330-704-1436

SOUTHWEST 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 Southwest Region Tournament hosted virtually by Cincinnati Country Day School on March 5. The Princeton Sharonville Kiwanis Club and the Cincinnati Country Day Middle School 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 Mason Middle School, coached by Rachel Young and Aaron West.

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

- 1st Place – Loveland Middle School, coached by Karen Clary
- 2nd Place – Wyoming Middle School, coached by Beth Toerner
- 3rd Place – Mason Middle School, coached by Rachel Young

Team award winners for the 8th grade are:

- 1st Place – Mason Middle School, coached by Aaron West
- 2nd Place – Cardinal Pacelli School, coached by Rachael Klein
- 3rd Place – Lebanon Junior High School, coached by Carmen Hurst

7th grade top individual award winners are:

- 1st Place – Rosie Galvin, Wyoming Middle School
- 2nd Place – Ian Laubernds, Little Miami Middle School
- 3rd Place – Mitalee Godbole, Mason Middle School
- 4th Place – Devi Kool, Wyoming Middle School
- 5th Place – Josie Shaffer, Loveland Middle School
- 6th Place – Elizabeth Striet, St. Antoninus School
- 7th Place – Lily Fraser, The Seven Hills School
- 8th Place – Charlotte Cooley, Cardinal Pacelli School
- 9th Place – Emma Rudisell, Loveland Middle School
- 10th Place – Lara Licu, St. Gertrude School
- 11th Place – Zane Shrewsberry, Loveland Middle School
- 12th Place – Aubrey Meyer, White Oak Middle School

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

- 1st Place – Gwenevere Markey, Lebanon Junior High School
- 2nd Place – Tabitha Johnson, Loveland Middle School
- 3rd Place – Margot Kukulski, Cardinal Pacelli School
- 4th Place – Sophie Andreassen, Wyoming Middle School
- 5th Place – Makayla Crockett, Little Miami Middle School
- 6th Place – Kaavya Tatavarty, The Seven Hills School
- 7th Place – Sam Stagnaro, Cardinal Pacelli School
- 8th Place – Abigail Angel, Little Miami School
- 9th Place – Mike Devassy, Mason Middle School
- 10th Place – Nina Head, The Seven Hills School
- 11th Place – Evie Morgan, Little Miami Middle School
- 12th Place – Sahana Srikanth, Mason Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Alyssa Dewey of Mariemont JHS, Kabir Arora of Mason Middle School, and Rosie Galvin of Wyoming Middle School; and 8th graders Kaavya Tatavarty of The Seven Hills School, Lorelei Wise of Wyoming Middle School, and Mike Devassy of Mason Middle School. Rosie Galvin of Wyoming Middle School and Lucy Good of Mariemont JHS won Director's Choice awards.

Platinum Pen award winners are Rosie Galvin, Devi Kool, Rory Ruedisueli, Maggie Brennan, and Lorelei Wise of Wyoming Middle School; Beatrice Nery of Summit Country Day School; Sonia Zafar of The Seven Hills School; Lorelei Paul of Mariemont JHS; Bayleigh Thompson of Reading Middle School; and Ruhi Kaneria of Mason Middle School. 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 Southwest Region includes Adams, Baker, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Hamilton, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Warren 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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