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SOUTH-CENTRAL REGION STUDENTS ADVANCE TO REGIONAL POWER OF THE PEN WRITING TOURNAMENT**Qualifying 7th- and 8th-grade writers competed in the recent District 1 tournament hosted virtually by Circleville High School**

NORTH CANTON, OH — January 23, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen today announced the results of the South-Central Ohio Region District 1 tournament hosted virtually by Circleville High School on January 8.

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 1 tournament are:

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

2nd Place – Watkins Middle School, Pataskala, coached by Paula Ball

3rd Place – Dominion Middle School, Columbus, coached by Matthew Hysell

Team award winners for the 8th grade at the District 1 tournament are:

1st Place – Dominion Middle School, Columbus, coached by Matthew Hysell

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

3rd Place – Watkins Middle School, Pataskala, coached by Paula Ball

7th grade top individual award winners are:

1st Place – Simone Edwards, Dominion Middle School

2nd Place – Ellen Morgan, Rushville Middle School

3rd Place – Amanda Misarti, Mount Vernon Middle School

4th Place – Audrey Barr, Rushville Middle School

5th Place – Natascha Shepherd, Watkins Middle School

6th Place – Arabella Kimbler, Welsh Hills School

7th Place – Morgan Belville, Rushville Middle School

8th Place – Maliyah Feltner, Sciotoville Community School

9th Place – Megan Keating, Watkins Middle School



10th Place – Riley Doty, General Sherman Junior High

11th Place – Agatha Search, Circleville Middle School

12th Place – Marlowe Flowers, Dominion Middle School

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

1st Place – Shivani Tennety, Dempsey Middle School

2nd Place – Lily Grace, Mount Vernon Middle School

3rd Place – Madelyn Ohl, Gahanna Middle School East

4th Place – Oliver Weaver, Dominion Middle School

5th Place – Salym Mercerhill, Dominion Middle School

6th Place – Allison Rowland, St. Agatha

7th Place – Emma Summers, Watkins Middle School

8th Place – Lauren Smeltzer, St. Agatha

9th Place – Kalin Kaiser, Rushville Middle School

10th Place – Kaitlyn Scholl, Immaculate Conception

11th Place – Natasha Jose, Mount Vernon Middle School

12th Place – Emilia Ortleib, Immaculate Conception

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Simone Edwards of Dominion Middle School, Arabella Kimbler of Welsh Hills School, and Chet Kirkland of Circleville Middle School and 8th graders Madelyn Ohl of Gahanna Middle School East and Emma Summers of Watkins Middle School. Erin Griswold of Warren Middle School earned Director's Choice honors.

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 South-Central Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Ann Simpson Davis Middle School on March 5. In all, 102 students from the Circleville tournament will advance to the South-Central Regional Tournament, together with those who advance from District 2 in a February 12 tournament in Gahanna. Qualifying students from the South-Central Regional Tournament will advance to a 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 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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