

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WESTERN 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 Jacob Coy Middle School**

NORTH CANTON, OH — February 14, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen on Saturday announced the results of the Western Ohio Region District 1 tournament hosted virtually by Jacob Coy Middle School on January 29. The Kiwanis Club of Dayton 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 1 tournament are:

- 1st Place – Ankeney Middle School, Beavercreek, coached by Carol Brown
- 2nd Place – Jacob Coy Middle School, Xenia, coached by Kristina Minton
- 3rd Place – Greeneview Middle School, Jamestown, coached by Carolyn Jones

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

- 1st Place – Oakwood Junior High, Oakwood, coached by Ann Whitehair
- 2nd Place – Tippecanoe Middle School, Tipp City, coached by Brittasha Thompson
- 3rd Place – Jacob Coy Middle School, Xenia, coached by Kristina Minton

7th grade top individual award winners are:

- 1st Place – Penelope Weber, Van Buren Middle School (Kettering)
- 2nd Place – Julia Pochet, Ankeney Middle School
- 3rd Place – Ruxandra Paslaru, Oakwood Junior High
- 4th Place – Emma Adams, Jacob Coy Middle School
- 5th Place – Charlotte Howard, Ankeney Middle School
- 6th Place – Carson Cusick, Ankeney Middle School
- 7th Place – Elijah Ramos, Tippecanoe Middle School
- 8th Place – Spencer Neal, Van Buren Middle School (Kettering)
- 9th Place – Sam DeHart, Twin Valley Community Local
- 10th Place – Aubrey Hall, Jacob Coy Middle School



11th Place – Alyssa Drake, Stivers School for the Arts

12th Place – Sadie Gobrail, Oakwood Junior High

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

1st Place – Lili Kiewitz, Montessori School of Dayton

2nd Place – Inara Arnett, Valley View Junior High

3rd Place – Ella Gustin, Van Buren Middle School (Kettering)

4th Place – Alayna Brown, Oakwood Junior High

5th Place – Avery Anderson, Tippecanoe Middle School

6th Place – Alena Truman, Jacob Coy Middle School

7th Place – Georgia Sosebee, Miami Valley School

8th Place – Ethan Griffith, Van Buren Middle School (Kettering)

9th Place – Morgan Touchette, Jacob Coy Middle School

10th Place – Annika Linqvist, Jacob Coy Middle School

11th Place – Arwen Feng, Oakwood Junior High

12th Place – Lucy McClure, Tippecanoe Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Carson Cusick of Ankeney Middle School, Julia Pochet of Ankeney Middle School, and Abela Morris of Stivers School for the Arts, and 8th grader Lili Kiewitz of Montessori School of Dayton. Director's Choice award winners are Ella Gustin of Van Buren Middle School and Matilda Prizler of Oakwood Junior High.

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 Western Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Wittenberg University on March 5. In all, 71 students from the Jacob Coy tournament will advance to the Western Regional Tournament, together with those who advance from District 2 in the February 5 tournament in North Lewisburg. Qualifying students from the Western Regional Tournament will advance to a state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The Western Region includes Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, and Preble 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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