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

NORTHEAST REGION STUDENTS ADVANCE TO POWER OF THE PEN STATE TOURNAMENT

NORTH CANTON, OH — March 14, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen on Sunday announced the results of the Northeast Region Tournament hosted virtually by Kent State University on February 26. The Kent State University School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies 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 St. Sebastian Parish School, Akron, coached by Maggi Blischak and Sally Weakland.

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

1st Place – Seton Catholic School, Hudson, coached by Sarah Jackson

2nd Place – St. Francis Xavier, Medina, coached by Mary McAllister

3rd Place – Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Wadsworth, coached by Christine McMillan

Team award winners for the 8th grade are:

1st Place – St. Sebastian Parish School, Akron, coached by Sally Weakland and Maggi Blischak

2nd Place – Ashland Middle School, Ashland, coached by Carolyn Hrinda

3rd Place – Edgewood Middle School, Wooster, coached by Chelsey Porter

7th grade top individual award winners are:

1st Place – Abigail Alberta, Holy Family School

2nd Place – Luke Lillich, Field Middle School

3rd Place – Bryanna Francis, Shelby Middle School

4th Place – Aleksandra Rosenblum, R.B. Chamberlin Middle School

5th Place – Lucy Green, Seton Catholic School

6th Place – Harper Rosenberger, Wadsworth Middle School

7th Place – Laurel Marquis, R.B. Chamberlin Middle School

8th Place – Camila Hernandez, Wadsworth Middle School

9th Place – Abby Wild, Crestwood Middle School

10th Place – Julia Rea, St. Sebastian Parish School

11th Place – Adelaide Baran, Seton Catholic School

12th Place – Reese Williams, Field Middle School

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

- 1st Place – Sophia Young, Claggett Middle School
- 2nd Place – Susie Thomas, St. Sebastian Parish School
- 3rd Place – Lila Morley, Seton Catholic School
- 4th Place – Suzana Borges, St. Sebastian Parish School
- 5th Place – Gabrielle Bright, Black River Middle School
- 6th Place – Jadon Weyrauch, Norwayne Middle School
- 7th Place – Emily Mousourakis, Claggett Middle School
- 8th Place – Katie Snider, Edgewood Middle School
- 9th Place – Braelynn Sexton, Edgewood Middle School
- 10th Place – Maggie Wenger, Green Middle School
- 11th Place – Calista Tullos, Green Middle School
- 12th Place – Adriana Chlad, Stanton Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Aleksandra Rosenblum of R.B. Chamberlin Middle School, Reese Williams of Field Middle School, and Violet Stormer Burch of Edgewood Middle School; and 8th graders Susie Thomas and Suzana Borges of St. Sebastian Parish School and Sophia Young of Claggett Middle School. Eighth graders Katie Snider of Edgewood Middle School, Avery Bohrer of Our Lady of the Elms, and Suzana Borges of St. Sebastian Parish School all received Director's Choice awards.

The following students earned Platinum Pen honors, which means their writing has been selected for publication in the *Book of Winners*: Logan Liptak of Field Middle School, Kathleen Palmer of St. Francis Xavier, Mia Hubert of Shelby Middle School, Maggie Wenger of Green Middle School, and Sophia Young of Claggett Middle School.

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 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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