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NORTHERN 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 Monticello Middle School

NORTH CANTON, OH — February 6, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen today announced the results of the Northern Ohio Region District 1 tournament hosted virtually by Monticello Middle School on January 22. Monticello Middle School also 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 – Avon Middle School, Avon, coached by Brittany Steiger
2nd Place – Lewis F. Mayer Middle School, Fairview Park, coached by Kale Chevalier
3rd Place – St. Charles Borromeo Parish School, Parma, coached by Emily Seguin

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

1st Place – Menlo Park Academy, Cleveland, coached by Sean Wheeler
2nd Place – St. Joseph School Avon Lake, Avon Lake, coached by Katie Bradesca
3rd Place – Independence Middle School, Independence, coached by Jill Wagner

7th grade top individual award winners are:

1st Place – Chloe Mouzaya, St. Charles Borromeo Parish School
2nd Place – Caitlyn Suhie, St. Jude School
3rd Place – Adam Soltes, St. Joseph School Avon Lake
4th Place – Peyton Oleff, Avon Middle School
5th Place – Abby Schuler, St. Mary Avon
6th Place – Mariah Gray, Monticello Middle School
7th Place – Lizzie Worden, St. Joseph School Avon Lake
8th Place – Maggie Pauley, Avon Middle School
9th Place – Ian Harrison, St. Dominic School
10th Place – Eden McCune, St. Charles Borromeo Parish School
11th Place – Reed Ross, Lewis F. Mayer Middle School
12th Place – Naisha Kesari, Menlo Park Academy

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

1st Place – Anna Oestreich, Menlo Park Academy
2nd Place – Tatiana Randjelovic, Independence Middle School
3rd Place – Rosalind Roark, St. Dominic School
4th Place – Erin Dean, Holy Trinity
5th Place – Echo Glorioso, Menlo Park Academy
6th Place – Nakshatra Mohan, Menlo Park Academy
7th Place – Payton Arbogast, St. Joseph School Avon Lake
8th Place – Morgan Hartzell, St. Joseph School Avon Lake
9th Place – Sam Bernhardt, Independence Middle School
10th Place – Maggie McGill, St. Christopher School
11th Place – Tate McGovern, Independence Middle School
12th Place – Kaleigh Crawford, Lewis F. Mayer Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Abby Schuler of St. Mary Avon, Mariah Gray of Monticello Middle School, and Reed Ross of Lewis F. Mayer Middle School, and 8th graders Adele Wentzel of Menlo Park Academy, Cassandra Petras of Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School, and Anna Oestreic of Menlo Park Academy.

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 Northern Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Baldwin Wallace University on March 12. In all, 83 students from the Monticello tournament will advance to the Northern Regional Tournament, together with those who advance from District 2 in a February 5 tournament in Bay Village. Qualifying students from the Northern Regional Tournament will advance to a state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The Northern Region includes Crawford, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Richland, and 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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