

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EASTERN 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 the University of Mt. Union**

NORTH CANTON, OH — February 6, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen today announced the results of the Eastern Ohio Region District 1 tournament hosted virtually by the University of Mt. Union on January 22. The tournament was sponsored by the Alliance Review and the Kiwanis of Alliance.

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 – St. Michael School, Canton, coached by Kara Stuhlmiller
- 2nd Place – Edison Middle School, Massillon, coached by Meagan Patron
- 3rd Place – Canton Country Day School, Canton, coached by Robin Hannold

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

- 1st Place – Jackson Memorial Middle School, Massillon, coached by Victoria Kerr
- 2nd Place – St. Michael School, Canton, coached by Kara Stuhlmiller
- 3rd Place – Edison Middle School, Massillon, coached by Meagan Patron

7th grade top individual award winners are:

- 1st Place – Isabel Lombardi, St. Michael School
- 2nd Place – Annika Williamson, Marlinton Middle School
- 3rd Place – Alyssa Morman, St. Michael School
- 4th Place – Beata Prosser, St. Michael School
- 5th Place – Kimaya Kanjale, Jackson Memorial Middle School
- 6th Place – Peyton Stalder, Edison Middle School
- 7th Place – Anna Miller, St. Michael School
- 8th Place – Elisabeth Daugintis, Edison Middle School
- 9th Place – Ella Rennecker, Canton Country Day School
- 10th Place – Madison Fabek, St. Michael School



11th Place – Emma Gardner, St. Joan of Arc

12th Place – Imaan Iqbal, Canton Country Day School

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

1st Place – Leah Backus, Edison Middle School

2nd Place – Anna Cruz, Edison Middle School

3rd Place – Haylie Menefee, Indian Valley Middle School

4th Place – Mikenna Slayman, Jackson Memorial Middle School

5th Place – Vivian Phillips, Marlinton Middle School

6th Place – Jackson Baker, Jackson Memorial Middle School

7th Place – Aubrey Elliot, Indian Valley Middle School

8th Place – Zach Ledoux, Jackson Memorial Middle School

9th Place – Elaina Eichner, West Branch Middle School

10th Place – Josh Jacob, St. Michael School

11th Place – Hannah Studer, Massillon Junior High

12th Place – Maggie Johnson, Jackson Memorial Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Elisabeth Daugintis of Edison Middle School, Emma Gardner of St. Joan of Arc, and Adri Neiningner of Indian Valley Middle School, and 8th graders Anna Cruz of Edison Middle School, Chloe Dowd of Lisbon David Anderson Junior High School, and Emily Hallaman of St. Michael 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 will advance to the Eastern Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Lake Elementary School on February 26. In all, 106 students from the Mt. Union tournament will advance to the Eastern Regional Tournament, together with those who advance from District 2 in a January 29 tournament in Lowellville. Qualifying students from the Eastern Regional Tournament will advance to a state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The Eastern Region includes Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Mahoning, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Washington 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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