

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 2 tournament hosted virtually by Northeast Ohio IMPACT Academy**

NORTH CANTON, OH — February 14, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen on Saturday announced the results of the Eastern Ohio Region District 2 tournament hosted virtually by Northeast Ohio IMPACT Academy on January 29. The Michael "Mickey" Soroka Charitable Foundation 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 2 tournament are:

1st Place – Northwest Middle School, Canal Fulton, coached by Jessica Ventosa

2nd Place – Lincoln Middle School, Warren, coached by Kelly Notar

3rd Place – Claymont Middle School, Uhrichsville, coached by Alisha Mahaffey

Team award winners for the 8th grade at the District 2 tournament are:

1st Place – LaBrae Middle School, Leavittsburg, coached by Jodi Pleacher

2nd Place – Claymont Middle School, Uhrichsville, coached by Lindsey Tulak

3rd Place – South Range Middle School, Canfield, coached by Deborah Staffeld

7th grade top individual award winners are:

1st Place – Kasey LaVoie, Northwest Middle School

2nd Place – Cecily Murphy, Dover Middle School

3rd Place – Shelby Davidson, Northwest Middle School

4th Place – Alexandra Pappalardo, Canfield Village Middle School

5th Place – Jane Faulk, Lincoln Middle School

6th Place – Madison Gladstone, Claymont Middle School

7th Place – Miciah Capers, Lincoln Middle School

8th Place – Olivia Waldron, Lincoln Middle School

9th Place – Baylee Auer, Hillsdale Middle School

10th Place – Evangeline Nelson, Canfield Village Middle School



11th Place – Mariam Al-Abid, Northwest Middle School

12th Place – Lala Affolter, Northwest Middle School

8th grade top individual winners are:

1st Place – Lukas Snyder, Northwest Middle School

2nd Place – Marlena Carneal, Northwest Middle School

3rd Place – Axel Grilli, Northeast Ohio IMPACT Academy

4th Place – Natalia Chadbourne, South Range Middle School

5th Place – Sami Ward, Tuscarawas Valley Middle School

6th Place – Allegra McMillan, Tuscarawas Valley Middle School

7th Place – Kalis Bigley, Marietta High School

8th Place – Tessa Palmer, Claymont Middle School

9th Place – Caylee Fitzpatrick, LaBrae Middle School

10th Place – Luke Aneshansel, Northwest Middle School

11th Place – Kalleigh Shodd, South Range Middle School

12th Place – Olivia Weber, Canfield Village Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Kasey LaVoie and Hayden Spencer of Northwest Middle School and 8th graders Olivia Weber, Marlena Carneal, and Luke Aneshansel of Northwest 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, plus about the top 50% of writers in each grade level, will advance to the Eastern Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Lake Elementary School on February 26. They will be joined by regional qualifiers from the recent District 1 tournament virtually hosted by the University of Mt. Union. 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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