

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NORTHWEST 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 St. Marys Middle School**

NORTH CANTON, OH — February 14, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen on Saturday announced the results of the Northwest Ohio Region District 1 tournament hosted virtually by St. Marys Middle School on January 29. Rotary Club of St. Marys 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 – West Side Montessori, Toledo, coached by Mary Brandon
- 2nd Place – Lake Middle School, Uniontown, coached by Cheryl Bledsoe
- 3rd Place – Edison Middle School, Berlin Heights, coached by Colleen Hansen

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

- 1st Place – Edison Middle School, Berlin Heights, coached by Colleen Hansen
- 2nd Place – West Side Montessori, Toledo, coached by Mary Brandon
- 3rd Place – St Marys Middle School, St. Marys, coached by Becky Evers

7th grade top individual award winners are:

- 1st Place – Ella Pennell, Edison Middle School
- 2nd Place – Elena Moore, Edison Middle School
- 3rd Place – Hazel Shanahan, West Side Montessori
- 4th Place – Audrey Alig, Coldwater Middle School
- 5th Place – Skylar Sachs, West Side Montessori
- 6th Place – Deijah Weidner, Hardin Houston School
- 7th Place – Amelie Phillips, Fairlawn
- 8th Place – Sophia Werner, Fort Loramie JHS
- 9th Place – Kieran Davis, West Side Montessori
- 10th Place – Aurora Lauterbach, New Bremen Middle School



11th Place – Katie Freshley, Lake Middle School

12th Place – Lauren Metzger, West Side Montessori

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

1st Place – Nadia Chaudhary, West Side Montessori

2nd Place – Lylah Kennedy, Hardin Houston School

3rd Place – Becca Houser, Edison Middle School

4th Place – Brielle Strunk, Spencerville Middle School

5th Place – Lizzie Campbell, Edison Middle School

6th Place – Liz Treat, West Side Montessori

7th Place – Jillian Weilnau, Edison Middle School

8th Place – Evelyn Flanigan, West Side Montessori

9th Place – Presley Csontos, West Side Montessori

10th Place – Rebecca Simper, Coldwater Middle School

11th Place – Emily Ayers, St. Marys Middle School

12th Place – Mary Moon, Edison Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Lauren Metzger of West Side Montessori and Elena Moore of Edison Middle School, and 8th graders Lizzie Campbell of Edison Middle School and Liz Treat of West Side Montessori.

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 at each grade level, will advance to the Northwest Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Lourdes University on March 12. They will be joined by those who advance from District 2 in the February 5 tournament in Tiffin. Qualifying students from the Northwest Regional Tournament will advance to a state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The Northwest Region includes Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hardin, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Williams, Wood, Wyandot, and Van Wert 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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