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 Csoros, 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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