

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Barb Tschantz, barb@powerofthepen.org, 330-704-1436

**NORTHEAST 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. Vincent-St. Mary High School**

NORTH CANTON, OH — January 23, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen today announced the results of the Northeast Region District 1 tournament hosted virtually by St. Vincent-St. Mary High School on January 8. The District 1 tournament was sponsored by Breha Orthodontics.

At 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 – Holy Family School, Stow, coached by Elizabeth Grayson

2nd Place – Seton Catholic School, Hudson, coached by Sarah Jackson

3rd Place – St. Sebastian Parish School, Akron, coached by Maggi Blischak and Sally Weakland

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

1st Place – St. Sebastian Parish School, Akron, coached by Sally Weakland and Maggi Blischak

2nd Place – Seton Catholic School, Hudson, coached by Sarah Jackson

3rd Place – Brunswick Middle School, Brunswick, coached by Dana Delnay

7th grade top individual award winners are:

1st Place – Julia Rea, St. Sebastian Parish School

2nd Place – Lydia Chivers, St. Sebastian Parish School

3rd Place – Luke Lillich, Field Middle School

4th Place – Muriel Sabourin, Immaculate Heart of Mary

5th Place – Logan Liptak, Field Middle School

6th Place – Addison Hovey, Holy Family School

7th Place – Laurel Marquis, R.B. Chamberlin Middle School



- 8th Place – Adelaide Baran, Seton Catholic School
9th Place – Abigail Alberta, Holy Family School
10th Place – Aleksandra Rosenblum, R.B. Chamberlin Middle School
11th Place – Carolina McCarthy, Holy Family School
12th Place – Lucy Green, Seton Catholic School

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

- 1st Place – Suzana Borges, St. Sebastian Parish School
2nd Place – Susie Thomas, St. Sebastian Parish School
3rd Place – Natalie Prijatel, Crestwood Middle School
4th Place – Anastasia Dragan, Brunswick Middle School
5th Place – Quinn Slota, St. Sebastian Parish School
6th Place – Lila Morley, Seton Catholic School
7th Place – Marcy Barksdale, St. Patrick School
8th Place – Avery Bohrer, Our Lady of the Elms
9th Place – Gianna Yanelli, St. Patrick School
10th Place – Violet Reese, Field Middle School
11th Place – Sophia Burgoyne, St. Sebastian Parish School
12th Place – Cameryn Luecke, Chippewa Junior High School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Lydia Chivers of St. Sebastian Parish School, Logan Liptak of Field Middle School, and Caroline Marrone of St. Patrick School and 8th graders Suzana Borges of St. Sebastian Parish School, Indrani Das Sarma of R.B. Chamberlin Middle School, and Katherine Folk of Immaculate Heart of Mary.

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 Northeast Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Kent State University on February 26. In all, 110 students from the St. Vincent-St. Mary tournament will advance to the Northeast Regional Tournament, together with those who advance from District 2 in a January 22 tournament in Ashland. Qualifying students from the Northeast Regional Tournament will advance to a state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The Northeast Region includes Ashland, Medina, Portage, Trumbull, Wayne, and Southern Summit.

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.

###