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**POWER OF THE PEN ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF DISTRICT WRITING TOURNAMENT
VIRTUALLY HOSTED BY TRIAD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

NORTH CANTON, OH — February 21, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen on Sunday announced the results of the Western Ohio Region District 2 tournament hosted virtually by Triad Middle School on February 5. The Turner Foundation of Springfield 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 are:

1st Place – St. Charles Borromeo, Kettering, coached by Becky Mueller

2nd Place – Shawnee Middle School, Springfield, coached by Darcy Leis

3rd Place – Ridgewood School, Springfield, coached by Paul Sauter

Team award winners for the 8th grade are:

1st Place – Madison-Plains Junior High, London, coached by Geoffrey Stokes

2nd Place – Versailles Middle School, Versailles, coached by Megan Keiser

3rd Place – Ridgewood School, Springfield, coached by Paul Sauter

7th grade top individual award winners are:

1st Place – Mya McLaughlin, St. Charles Borromeo

2nd Place – Abby Groth, Ridgewood School

3rd Place – Usayd Ashraf, Ridgewood School

4th Place – Sydney Haywood, St. Charles Borromeo

5th Place – Reese Chilcote, Shawnee Middle School

6th Place – Natalie Sonnanstine, Bethel Middle School

7th Place – Joslynn Baird, Southeastern Junior High School

8th Place – Sophie Lemon, Shawnee Middle School

9th Place – Corynn Goubeaux, Versailles Middle School

10th Place – Katie Ault, Shawnee Middle School

11th Place – Kyla Yowler, Northridge Middle School



12th Place – Natalie Boillot, St. Charles Borromeo

8th grade top individual winners are:

1st Place – Audrey Compton, Madison-Plains Junior High

2nd Place – Alyssa Geyer, Madison-Plains Junior High

3rd Place – Hannah White, Northridge Middle School

4th Place – Keerah Cain, Southeastern Junior High School

5th Place – Isamu Murakami, Northwestern Junior High School

6th Place – Mara Batty, Versailles Middle School

7th Place – Via Mongelli, Holy Angels

8th Place – Grace Borchers, Versailles Middle School

9th Place – Emma Ramsey, Northridge Middle School

10th Place – Evan Schulz, St. Charles Borromeo

11th Place – Lydia Stokes, Global Impact STEM Academy

12th Place – Raya Millis, St. Charles Borromeo

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders McKenna Morris of Global Impact STEM Academy, Corynn Goubeaux of Versailles Middle School, and Reese Chilcote of Shawnee Middle School, and 8th graders Mary Cunningham of Ridgewood School, Elli Stammen of Versailles Middle School, and Melody Maxwell of Madison-Plains Junior High 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 at each grade level, will advance to the Western Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Wittenberg University on March 5. They will be joined by those who advanced from District 1 in the January 29 tournament in Xenia. Qualifying students from the Western Regional Tournament will advance to a state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The Western Region includes Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, and Preble 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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