

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SOUTHWEST 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 Wyoming Middle School**

NORTH CANTON, OH — January 23, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen today announced the results of the Southwest Ohio Region District 1 tournament hosted virtually by Wyoming Middle School on January 8. The district tournament was sponsored by the Wyoming Middle School PSA.

In the Power of the Pen district tournament, area 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 – Wyoming Middle School, Wyoming, coached by Beth Toerner
- 2nd Place – The Seven Hills School, Cincinnati, coached by Chris Caldemeyer
- 3rd Place – Summit Country Day School, Cincinnati, coached by Brendan McEachern

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

- 1st Place – Wyoming Middle School, Wyoming, coached by Jenn Sauvey
- 2nd Place – Summit Country Day School, Cincinnati, coached by Brendan McEachern
- 3rd Place – St. James School, Cincinnati, coached by Stephanie Boomer

7th grade top individual award winners are:

- 1st Place – Devi Kool, Wyoming Middle School
- 2nd Place – Sakshum Vij, The Seven Hills School
- 3rd Place – Brandt Lopez, The Seven Hills School
- 4th Place – Rory Ruedisueli, Wyoming Middle School
- 5th Place – Emily Schlessman, St. Margaret of York School
- 6th Place – Emma Samy, St. Margaret of York School
- 7th Place – Laurel Eaton, Fairfield Crossroads Middle School



8th Place – Lara Licu, St. Gertrude School

9th Place – Sania Zafar, The Seven Hills School

10th Place – Sophia Suwiryo, Summit Country Day School

11th Place – Cecily Houston, Cardinal Pacelli School

12th Place – Ardisha Thawrani, Indian Hill Middle School

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

1st Place – Maggie Brennan, Wyoming Middle School

2nd Place – Hana Conte, Summit Country Day School

3rd Place – Ella Fernandez, Wyoming Middle School

4th Place – Lucas Arter, St. James School

5th Place – Lily Plum, The Seven Hills School

6th Place – Emily Bolan, Summit Country Day School

7th Place – Aurora Wibowo, St. Gertrude School

8th Place – Sophie Andreassen, Wyoming Middle School

9th Place – Haley Baker, Summit Country Day School

10th Place – William Moeggenberg, Reading Middle School

11th Place – Sydney Saleh, St. Antoninus School

12th Place – Harper Wood, Summit Country Day School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Rosie Galvin, Devi Kool, and Rory Ruedisueli of Wyoming Middle School and 8th graders Maggie Brennan of Wyoming Middle School and Bayleigh Thompson of Reading Middle School. Director's Choice winners are 7th graders Rory Ruedisueli of Wyoming Middle School, Beatrice Nery of Summit Country Day School, and Sania Zafar of The Seven Hills School and 8th grader Lorelei Wise of Wyoming 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 will advance to the Southwest Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Cincinnati Country Day School on March 5. In all, 75 students from the Wyoming tournament will advance to the Southwest Regional Tournament, together with those who advance from District 2 in a February 5 tournament in Morrow. Qualifying students from the Southwest Regional Tournament will advance to a state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The Southwest Region includes Adams, Baker, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Hamilton, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Warren 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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