

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Barb Tschantz, [barb@powerofthepen.org](mailto:barb@powerofthepen.org), 330-704-1436

**NORTHERN REGION STUDENTS ADVANCE TO POWER OF THE PEN STATE TOURNAMENT**

NORTH CANTON, OH — March 28, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen on Sunday announced the results of the Northern Region Tournament hosted virtually by Baldwin Wallace University on March 12. Baldwin Wallace also sponsored the tournament.

In the Power of the Pen regional tournament, 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students competed in a series of extemporaneous rounds of creative writing tasks, each in response to an open-ended prompt. The regional tournament is both a team and an individual competition.

The top prize in the tournament is a rotating Regional Sweepstakes trophy. **This year's Sweepstakes winner** is Birchwood School of Hawken, coached by Lorraine Tzeng, Maysan Hadar, and Jennifer Seward.

Teams are also honored at each grade level. **Team award winners in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade are:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Birchwood School of Hawken, Cleveland, coached by Lorraine Tzeng and Maysan Haydar

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Lewis F. Mayer Middle School, Fairview Park, coached by Kale Chevalier

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Rocky River Middle School, Rocky River, coached by Melissa Stickney

**Team award winners for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade are:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Independence Middle School, Independence, coached by Jill Wagner

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Menlo Park Academy, Cleveland, coached by Sean Wheeler

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Olmsted Falls Middle School, Olmsted Falls, coached by Lisa MacAleese

**7<sup>th</sup> grade top individual award winners are:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Many Raina, Birchwood School of Hawken

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Max Cremona, St. Mary of the Falls

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Caitlyn Suhie, St. Jude School

4<sup>th</sup> Place – Annabelle Seybold, St. Raphael School

5<sup>th</sup> Place – Addison Miles, Olmsted Falls Middle School

6<sup>th</sup> Place – Nataly Shenouda, St. Paul Lutheran

7<sup>th</sup> Place – Elliana Chrisman, St. Albert the Great

8<sup>th</sup> Place – Joshua Gordon, Birchwood School of Hawken

9<sup>th</sup> Place – Grace Welch, Holy Trinity

10<sup>th</sup> Place – Abby Schuler, St. Mary Avon

11<sup>th</sup> Place – Miranda Thurman, Lewis F. Mayer Middle School

12<sup>th</sup> Place – Mariah Gray, Monticello Middle School

**8<sup>th</sup> grade top individual winners are:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Katie Hren, St. Mary of the Falls
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Adele Wentzel, Menlo Park Academy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Nyah Palmer, North Royalton Middle School
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – Isabel Pangrace, Rocky River Middle School
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place – Areesha Nouman, Birchwood School of Hawken
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place – Anna Oestreich, Menlo Park Academy
- 7<sup>th</sup> Place – Abby Campbell, Holy Trinity
- 8<sup>th</sup> Place – Piper Erman, Columbia Middle School
- 9<sup>th</sup> Place – Jacob Rholda, St. Mary of the Falls
- 10<sup>th</sup> Place – Alice Jones, Bay Middle School
- 11<sup>th</sup> Place – Ava Hunt, Columbia Middle School
- 12<sup>th</sup> Place – Madison Garver, Olmsted Falls Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7<sup>th</sup> graders Cam Williams of Bay Middle School and Haadeya Salman and Ayat Jaffar of Birchwood School of Hawken; and 8<sup>th</sup> graders Areesha Nouman of Birchwood School of Hawken, Abby Campbell of Holy Trinity, and Nia Blain of Olmsted Falls Middle School.

Platinum Pen award winners are Annabelle Wissman of Rocky River Middle School, Isabella Bixler of Birchwood School of Hawken, Nyah Palmer of North Royalton Middle School, Cassandra Petras of Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School, and Adele Wentzel of Menlo Park Academy. The Platinum Pen award is given to students whose writing has been selected for publication in the *Book of Winners*.

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 at the tournament, plus at least the top 20% of the writers at each grade level, will advance to the state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The Northern Region includes Crawford, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Richland, and most of Cuyahoga 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](http://powerofthepen.org).*

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