

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LAKE ERIE 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 Lake Erie College**

NORTH CANTON, OH — January 23, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen today announced the results of the Lake Erie Region District 1 tournament hosted virtually by Lake Erie College on January 8. The District 1 tournament was also sponsored by Lake Erie College.

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 – Kenston Middle School, Chagrin Falls, coached by Tamara Cabrera-Perrine

2nd Place – St. John School, Ashtabula, coached by Kim Porter

3rd Place – Kirtland Middle School, Kirtland, coached by Sue Summerhill

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

1st Place – Shore Middle School, Mentor, coached by Kathy Weber

2nd Place – Perry Middle School, Perry, coached by Amy Stavar

3rd Place – Cornerstone Christian Academy, Willoughby Hills, coached by Emily Glontz

7th grade top individual award winners are:

1st Place – Payton Winters, Perry Middle School

2nd Place – Kherington Swader, Kenston Middle School

3rd Place – Porter Fontana, Kenston Middle School

4th Place – Ava Lucas, Chagrin Falls Middle School

5th Place – Isla Yellen, West Geauga Middle School

6th Place – Emmanuella Chelbezan, Kenston Middle School

7th Place – Fiona Martin, Andrews Osborne Academy

8th Place – Evan Whittaker, Perry Middle School

9th Place – Abrielle Allen, Chardon Middle School

10th Place – Felicia Gilreath, Shore Middle School

11th Place – Josephine Hall, St. John School

12th Place – Maddie Tedrick, Cornerstone Christian Academy

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

1st Place – Marie Cain, Chagrin Falls Middle School

2nd Place – Tess Snyder, Chagrin Falls Middle School

3rd Place – Kiersten Chaney, Chagrin Falls Middle School

4th Place – Avery Carlisle, Kirtland Middle School

5th Place – Raymie Fill, Conneaut Middle School

6th Place – Isabelle Copeland, Kirtland Middle School

7th Place – Kendall Sims, Cornerstone Christian Academy

8th Place – Libby Inman, Windham Junior High

9th Place – Audriana Polzer, Perry Middle School

10th Place – Symone Bibb, Heritage Middle School

11th Place – Lilah Yeager, Perry Middle School

12th Place – Jackson Nicholas, Cornerstone Christian Academy

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Isla Yellen and Payton Winters and 8th graders Marie Cain and Isabelle Copeland.

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 Lake Erie Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Hudson Middle School on March 5. In all, 65 students from the Lake Erie College tournament will advance to the Lake Erie Regional Tournament, together with those who advance from District 2 in a January 29 tournament in Shaker Heights. Qualifying students from the Lake Erie Regional Tournament will advance to a state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The Lake Erie Region includes Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, southeastern Cuyahoga and northern Summit 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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