

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

NORTH CANTON, OH — February 21, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen on Sunday announced the results of the Southwest Ohio Region District 2 tournament hosted virtually by Little Miami Middle School on February 5. The Little Miami Middle School PTO 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 – Mason Middle School, Mason, coached by Rachel Young
- 2nd Place – Mariemont Junior High School, Cincinnati, coached by Erica Eppert
- 3rd Place – Loveland Middle School, Loveland, coached by Karen Clary

Team award winners for the 8th grade are:

- 1st Place – Mason Middle School, Mason, coached by Aaron West
- 2nd Place – Lebanon Junior High School, Lebanon, coached by Carmen Hurst
- 3rd Place – Little Miami Middle School, Morrow, coached by Erin Dipzinski

7th grade top individual award winners are:

- 1st Place – Angela Tang, Mason Middle School
- 2nd Place – Mara Kindt, St. Columban School
- 3rd Place – Alice Luo, Mason Middle School
- 4th Place – Ria Patel, Cincinnati Country Day School
- 5th Place – Zane Shrewsbury, Loveland Middle School
- 6th Place – Emma Rudisell, Loveland Middle School
- 7th Place – Jenna VanScoy, Mariemont Junior High
- 8th Place – Mitalee Godbole, Mason Middle School
- 9th Place – Dylan McIntyre, Mariemont Junior High
- 10th Place – Julianne Haskamp, Mariemont Junior High
- 11th Place – Evelyn Ni – Cincinnati Country Day School



12th Place – Jay Matusak, Loveland Middle School

8th grade top individual winners are:

1st Place – Ruhi Kaneria, Mason Middle School

2nd Place – Ali Zimmerman, Cincinnati Country Day School

3rd Place – Mike Devassy, Mason Middle School

4th Place – Emily Waun, St. Columban School

5th Place – Campbell Pohlman, Lebanon Junior High School

6th Place – Grace Ai, Mason Middle School

7th Place – Sahana Srikanth, Mason Middle School

8th Place – Lucy Good, Mariemont Junior High

9th Place – Ella Brady, Lebanon Junior High School

10th Place – Zoe Conger, Lebanon Junior High School

11th Place – Esteban Cruz, Mason Middle School

12th Place – Marializ Caraballo, Little Miami Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Lorelei Paul of Mariemont Junior High School, Mara Kindt of St. Columban School, and Julianne Haskamp of Mariemont Junior High School, and 8th graders Tabitha Johnson of Loveland Middle School, Kate Kranias of Cincinnati Country Day School, and Ruhi Kaneria of Mason Middle School.

Alice Luo of Mason Middle School, Megan Smallwood of Lebanon Junior High School, and Esteban Cruz of Mason Middle School received Director's Choice awards.

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 Southwest Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Cincinnati Country Day School on March 5. They will be joined by those who advanced from District 1 in the January 8 tournament in Wyoming. 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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