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NORTHWEST 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 Northwest Region Tournament hosted virtually by Lourdes University on March 12. Block Communications sponsored the tournament.

In the Power of the Pen regional 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 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 West Side Montessori of Toledo, coached by Mary Brandon.

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

1st Place – West Side Montessori, Toledo, coached by Mary Brandon

2nd Place – Perrysburg Junior High School, Perrysburg, coached by Allison Latella

3rd Place – Perkins Briar Middle School, Sanducky, coached by Mary Darr

Team award winners for the 8th grade are:

1st Place – Anna Middle School, Anna, coached by Missy Rivera

2nd Place – Edison Middle School, Berlin Heights, coached by Colleen Hansen

3rd Place – West Side Montessori, Toledo, coached by Mary Brandon

7th grade top individual award winners are:

1st Place – Kaylee Thomas, Kenton Middle School

2nd Place – Elena Moore, Edison Middle School

3rd Place – Hazel Shanahan, West Side Montessori

4th Place – Nora Brown, Ottawa Hills JHHS

5th Place – Grace Hartz, Arbor Hills Junior High

6th Place – Anna Helton, McCord Junior High School

7th Place – Lauren Metzger, West Side Montessori

8th Place – Annabelle Seville, Edison Middle School

9th Place – Evelyn Parsons, Ottawa Hills JHHS

10th Place – Lucy Miller, Perkins Briar Middle School

11th Place – Sophia Ploeger, Toledo School for the Arts

12th Place – Maanya Parikh, Perrysburg Junior High School

**8th grade top individual winners are:**

- 1st Place – Ben Gehret, Anna Middle School
- 2nd Place – Asher Hollinger, Wapakoneta High School
- 3rd Place – Annaliese Rogers, Perkins Briar Middle School
- 4th Place – Ava Klosterman, St. Marys Middle School
- 5th Place – Lizzie Campbell, Edison Middle School
- 6th Place – Ava Goodnough, Timberstone Junior High
- 7th Place – Emily Ayers, St. Marys Middle School
- 8th Place – Elise Johnston, Tiffin Middle School
- 9th Place – Nina Clark, Ottawa Hills JHHS
- 10th Place – Naida Chaudhary, West Side Montessori
- 11th Place – Liz Treat, West Side Montessori
- 12th Place – Charlotte Lunz, Botkins Local School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Elena Moore of Edison Middle School, Lauren Metzger of West Side Montessori, and Nora Brown of Ottawa Hills JHHS; and 8th graders Nina Clark of Ottawa Hills JHHS, Elise Johnston of Tiffin Middle School, and Charlotte Lunz of Botkins Local School. Eighth graders Lizzie Campbell of Edison Middle School and Ben Gehret of Anna Middle School earned Director's Choice awards.

Platinum Pen award winners are Lizzie Campbell of Edison Middle School, Liz Treat of West Side Montessori, and Sophia Halm of Perrysburg JHS. 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 Northwest Region includes Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hardin, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Williams, Wood, Wyandot, and Van Wert 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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