

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NORTHERN REGION STUDENTS ADVANCE TO  
REGIONAL POWER OF THE PEN WRITING TOURNAMENT****Qualifying 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade writers competed in the recent  
District 1 tournament hosted virtually by Monticello Middle School**

NORTH CANTON, OH — February 6, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen today announced the results of the Northern Ohio Region District 1 tournament hosted virtually by Monticello Middle School on January 22. Monticello Middle School also sponsored the tournament.

In the Power of the Pen district 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 district tournament is both a team and an individual competition.

**Team award winners in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at the District 1 tournament are:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Avon Middle School, Avon, coached by Brittany Steiger

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – St. Charles Borromeo Parish School, Parma, coached by Emily Seguin

**Team award winners for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the District 1 tournament are:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Menlo Park Academy, Cleveland, coached by Sean Wheeler

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – St. Joseph School Avon Lake, Avon Lake, coached by Katie Bradesca

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Independence Middle School, Independence, coached by Jill Wagner

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

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Chloe Mouzaya, St. Charles Borromeo Parish School

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Caitlyn Suhie, St. Jude School

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Adam Soltes, St. Joseph School Avon Lake

4<sup>th</sup> Place – Peyton Oleff, Avon Middle School

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

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

7<sup>th</sup> Place – Lizzie Worden, St. Joseph School Avon Lake

8<sup>th</sup> Place – Maggie Pauley, Avon Middle School

9<sup>th</sup> Place – Ian Harrison, St. Dominic School

10<sup>th</sup> Place – Eden McCune, St. Charles Borromeo Parish School



11<sup>th</sup> Place – Reed Ross, Lewis F. Mayer Middle School

12<sup>th</sup> Place – Naisha Kesari, Menlo Park Academy

**8<sup>th</sup> grade top individual winners at the District 1 tournament are:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Anna Oestreich, Menlo Park Academy

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Tatiana Randjelovic, Independence Middle School

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Rosalind Roark, St. Dominic School

4<sup>th</sup> Place – Erin Dean, Holy Trinity

5<sup>th</sup> Place – Echo Glorioso, Menlo Park Academy

6<sup>th</sup> Place – Nakshatra Mohan, Menlo Park Academy

7<sup>th</sup> Place – Payton Arbogast, St. Joseph School Avon Lake

8<sup>th</sup> Place – Morgan Hartzell, St. Joseph School Avon Lake

9<sup>th</sup> Place – Sam Bernhardt, Independence Middle School

10<sup>th</sup> Place – Maggie McGill, St. Christopher School

11<sup>th</sup> Place – Tate McGovern, Independence Middle School

12<sup>th</sup> Place – Kaleigh Crawford, Lewis F. Mayer Middle School

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7<sup>th</sup> graders Abby Schuler of St. Mary Avon, Mariah Gray of Monticello Middle School, and Reed Ross of Lewis F. Mayer Middle School, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders Adele Wentzel of Menlo Park Academy, Cassandra Petras of Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School, and Anna Oestreich of Menlo Park Academy.

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 Northern Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Baldwin Wallace University on March 12. In all, 83 students from the Monticello tournament will advance to the Northern Regional Tournament, together with those who advance from District 2 in a February 5 tournament in Bay Village. Qualifying students from the Northern Regional Tournament will advance to a state tournament May 12-13 at Otterbein University.

The Northern Region includes Crawford, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Richland, and 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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