

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

NORTH CANTON, OH — February 21, 2022 — North Canton educational nonprofit Power of the Pen on Sunday announced the results of the Northwest Ohio Region District 2 tournament hosted virtually by Tiffin Middle School on February 5. The Tiffin Middle School P.T.O. 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 – Perkins Briar Middle, Sandusky, coached by Mary Darr
- 2nd Place – Perrysburg Junior High School, Perrysburg, coached by Allison Latella
- 3rd Place – Ottawa Hills JHHS, Ottawa Hills, coached by Karen Fischer

Team award winners for the 8th grade are:

- 1st Place – Upper Sandusky Middle School, Upper Sandusky, coached by Rachel Smith
- 2nd Place – Timberstone Junior High, Sylvania, coached by Sara Nelson
- 3rd Place – McCord Junior High School, Sylvania, coached by Diane Long

7th grade top individual award winners are:

- 1st Place – Vivian Schmidt, Timberstone Junior High
- 2nd Place – Sophia Ploeger, Toledo School for the Arts
- 3rd Place – Alexander Ban, Perrysburg Junior High School
- 4th Place – Mary Lathrop, Ottawa Hills JHHS
- 5th Place – Tavilynn Dillender, Perkins Briar Middle
- 6th Place – Sophia De La Cruz, Arcadia Middle School
- 7th Place – Ria Khatri, Perrysburg Junior High School
- 8th Place – Maanya Parikh, Perrysburg Junior High School
- 9th Place – Lucy Miller, Perkins Briar Middle
- 10th Place – Madalayna Toccaceli, Perkins Briar Middle
- 11th Place – Juan Alagha, Arbor Hills Junior High



12th Place – Anna Helton, McCord Junior High School

8th grade top individual winners are:

1st Place – Sophia Halm, Perrysburg Junior High School

2nd Place – Leah Hegarty, Timberstone Junior High

3rd Place – Addyson Rogers, Upper Sandusky Middle School

4th Place – Elise Johnston, Tiffin Middle School

5th Place – Hannah Vreeland, Upper Sandusky Middle School

6th Place – Caroline Lavalette, McCord Junior High School

7th Place – Charlotte Lunz, Botkins Local School

8th Place – Brianne Bucher, Perkins Briar Middle

9th Place – Miley Helmstetter, Tiffin Middle School

10th Place – Nina Clark, Ottawa Hills JHHS

11th Place – Medha Ramaswamy, McCord Junior High School

12th Place – Scarlet Holten, Arbor Hills Junior High

In addition, the following students earned Best of Round honors: 7th graders Ria Khatri of Perrysburg Junior High, Nora Brown of Ottawa Hills JHHS, and Anna Helton of McCord Junior High School, and 8th graders Haleigh Murphy of McCord Junior High School, Satori Alter of Woodmore Middle School, and Sophia Halm of Perrysburg Junior High School.

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 Northwest Regional Tournament virtually hosted by Lourdes University on March 12. They will be joined by those who advanced from District 1 in the January 29 tournament in St. Marys. Qualifying students from the Northwest Regional Tournament will advance to a 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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