



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **BCPS Grade 4 students sweep District 3 prizes in 2021 Mayor's Essay Contest sponsored by The Maryland Municipal League**

*Honored students represent Chatsworth School and Bear Creek Elementary*

Towson, MD – William Sharpless of Chatsworth School was the District 3 winner of the 2021 Mayor's Essay Contest sponsored by The Maryland Municipal League. The two finalists were Bear Creek Elementary School students Colby Cooper and Landon Burkindine.

The Mayor's Contest challenged Grade 4 students in Maryland to write essays beginning with the words "If I were mayor, I would..." Essays were judged based on knowledge of municipal government, understanding of the role of mayor, creativity, and grammar. Contest winners, receiving cash prizes and certificates, were selected in each of 11 districts. Baltimore County and Baltimore City comprise District 3.

Sharpless is in Leanna Middlekamp's class at Chatsworth. Burkindine and Cooper are both in Katharine Ruskey's class at Bear Creek Elementary. The [students' honored essays](#) can be found on the BCPS blog. While each student addressed multiple issues, all three tackled creating cleaner, healthier environments.

*(Editor's note: Photos of Burkindine, Cooper, and Sharpless accompany this release.)*

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).