



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: March 1, 2022

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Winners announced in 2022 BCPS Black History Month Writing Contest

*Top awards earned by students from Logan and Riderwood elementary schools,
Arbutus Middle School, and Catonsville High School*

Towson, MD – Top honors in the 2022 BCPS Black History Month Writing contest have been earned by students from Logan and Riderwood elementary schools, Arbutus Middle School, and Catonsville High School.

The contest, sponsored by the BCPS Offices of English Language Arts and Social Studies, challenged students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 to craft entries inspired by a Black activist, artist, athlete, author, musician, scientist, or other public figure.

The top entries included an essay about Misty Copeland (the first Black woman to be named a principal dancer for American Ballet Theatre); poems about Amanda Gorman (the first National Youth Poet Laureate); Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (iconic civil rights leader); and Elijah Anderson (a leading conductor on the Underground Railroad.) The [winning entries](#) can be read on the BCPS blog.

The contest winners and runners-up are:

Kindergarten – Grade 2

Winner: Login Abdelfatah, Grade 2, Logan Elementary School, teacher: Rebecca Morrell

Runners-up:

- Muhammad-Jahid Kahn, Grade 2, Riderwood Elementary School, homeroom teacher: Jen Brown
- Grace Habash, Grade 2, Pinewood Elementary School, teacher: Debra Chodkowski

Grades 3 - 5

Winner: Kendall Brown, Grade 4, Riderwood Elementary School, teacher: Rebekah Kahl

Runners-up:

- Karmen Griggs, Grade 5, Featherbed Lane Elementary School, teacher: Princess Agha
- Henry Yan, Grade 4, West Towson Elementary School, teacher: Megan Curtis

Grades 6 - 8

Winner: Gabi Perillan, Grade 6, Arbutus Middle School, teacher: Gail Gast

Runners-up:

- Kamara Ervin, Grade 6, Sudbrook Magnet Middle School, teacher: Nicole Smutny
- Mihika Ghangrekar, Grade 7, Cockeysville Middle School, teacher: Constance Fisher

Grades 9 - 12

Winner: Lauryn Blair, Grade 9, Catonsville High School, teacher: Tonya Feaster

Runners-up:

- Endiya Tyson, Grade 11, Virtual Learning Program, teacher: Jennifer Restak
- Abiola Cynthia Ebietomiye, Grade 11, Parkville High School, teacher: Virginia Richard

“This year there were several hundred submissions for the writing contest, and the competition was very close,” said Michael Crispens, BCPS coordinator of elementary social studies. “Through generous partnerships with First Financial Federal Credit Union, The Education Foundation of BCPS, and the Padonia Park Club, students who authored the winning entries received a gift from our sponsors in addition to an award certificate.”

(Editor’s Note: Photos of contest winners 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](#).