



NEWS RELEASE

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New online haiku book reveals students' deep thoughts about the power of dreams

Towson, MD — Selected haiku written by students for the 2022 Team BCPS Haiku Contest have been compiled into an [online book](#) exploring the theme “dream.”

A panel of staff and student judges carefully reviewed a record 2,445 entries from 111 schools, centers, and programs to pick [four contest winners](#): Juliet Wentzell, Grade 5, Mays Chapel Elementary School; David Yuan, Grade 7, Ridgely Middle School; Grace O’Neill, Grade 11, Hereford High School; and Yen Pan, Grade 10, Catonsville High School. The judges selected another 130 favorite haiku to be included in the book. Student artwork introduces each book section. Print copies of the book will be distributed to every school library.

"I encourage community members to take a few minutes to review our students' writing," BCPS Superintendent Darryl L. Williams said. "The haiku created by our students showcase their intelligence, insight, creativity, and humor. We thank every student who participated, and we recognize the support and encouragement our student writers receive from their teachers and families. Every year, this contest affirms Team BCPS' strong commitment to literary arts and self-expression."

While many students wrote about the nature of dreams and nightmares, other shared memories of favorite places and activities and visions of beauty and joy. Haiku addressed topics such as aging, grieving, love, war, fear, freedom, peace, equity, and justice.

(Editor's note: An image of the book cover accompanies this release.)

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 22nd 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](#).