



NEWS RELEASE

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BCPS 2024 Haiku Contest begins accepting entries on Friday, Feb. 16

*In just a few words,
what story can you tell us?
We await haiku.*

TOWSON – They say that every picture tells a story. The 2024 Team BCPS Haiku Contest challenges Baltimore County Public Schools students to describe, in just 17 syllables, what story they see in a piece of artwork, what the artwork makes them think and feel.

Baltimore County Public Schools students, from Kindergarten through Grade 12, are encouraged to enter. Students will be asked to write works inspired by a piece of student artwork selected from among **10 pieces**. [Entries for the annual BCPS Haiku Poetry Contest](#) will be accepted from 12:01 a.m. on Friday, February 16, through 4:45 p.m. on Monday, March 4.

"The annual Team BCPS Haiku Contest has become a valued tradition," said BCPS Superintendent Dr. Myriam Rogers. "It is a special opportunity to celebrate both the visual and literary artistic talents of our students and the strength of our visual arts and English language arts teachers. Our students never fail to impress me with the depth of their thoughts and breadth of their creativity. I know that this year's entries will once again surprise and delight us."

A haiku is a Japanese poem that consists of three lines. The first line has five syllables, the second line has seven syllables, and the third line has five syllables. BCPS uses the [How Many Syllables](#) website to check syllable counts. Each student may enter only one haiku, and it must be an original poem. Haiku found to be plagiarized will be disqualified. Students are encouraged to be creative in their use of

imagery and vocabulary.

All haiku must be submitted using the [online 2024 Haiku Contest Form](#). A winning haiku will be chosen at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Winners will be announced on Monday, April 17, International Haiku Poetry Day, and will receive prizes.

New this year, winners (who are in Grades 4 through 12) will receive a scholarship to participate in this summer's [asynchronous writing camp](#) (June 24 – August 23), sponsored by the [Maryland Writing Project](#) at Towson University. Other prizes will include a gift from [The Charmery](#) and a framed print of their haiku and the artwork that inspired it.

As in prior years, the winning poems and additional selected haiku will be compiled into an online book with student artwork. Each school library will receive a print copy.

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 22nd largest school system, engages and empowers its talented students, teachers, staff, and stakeholders and strives to build an innovative and collaborative learning community where all students excel and reach their highest potential.

Engage. Empower. Excel.