



NEWS RELEASE

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Winners announced in 2024 BCPS Black History Month Writing Contest

Top awards earned by students from Winand and Riderwood elementary schools, Virtual Learning Program – Middle School, and Woodlawn High School

Towson, Md. – Top awards in the 2024 Baltimore County Public Schools Black History Month Writing Contest have been presented to students representing Winand and Riderwood elementary schools, the Virtual Learning Program – Middle School, and Woodlawn High School.

This year, the contest, coordinated by the BCPS Offices of English Language Arts and Social Studies, challenged students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 to write about an African American public figure in the arts. Students spotlighted African Americans in visual arts, performing arts, literature, fashion, film, music, architecture, culinary arts, and other forms of artistic expression. Additionally, students explained how the African American in the arts has inspired them and their future goals. This year, more than 115 students from 47 schools participated.

The contest winners are:

- Kindergarten – Grade 2: **Temiloluwa Esther Adebayo**, Winand Elementary School
- Grades 3-5: **Lily Rosenfeld**, Riderwood Elementary School
- Grades 6-8: **Kyla Griffin**, Virtual Learning Program – Middle School
- Grades 9-12: **Kaja Swan**, Woodlawn High School

The top entries included a speech honoring cartoonist Jackie Ormes, a letter to visual artist Alma Thomas, a poem memorializing musical legend Tina Turner, and an essay celebrating singer/songwriter Frank Ocean. The winning entries can be read on the [BCPS blog](#).

The Education Foundation of BCPS sponsored the 2024 contest and provided a \$75 prize for each winner and certificates of achievement for those receiving honorable mention.

The work of the following students earned honorable mention recognition:

Kindergarten - Grade 2:

- Aria Hamilton, Rossville Elementary School
- Jasmine Swanston, Summit Park Elementary School

Grades 3 - 5:

- Cerise Badawi, Riderwood Elementary School
- Tatiana Chalk, Shady Springs Elementary School

Grades 6 - 8:

- Zion Austin, Virtual Learning Program - Middle School
- Harleen Kaur, Arbutus Middle School

Grades 9 - 12:

- Oluwatenoira Adedire, Eastern Technical High School
- Nathaniel Cole Hultberg-Carter, Woodlawn High School

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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.