

My Personal Michigan Hero

Essays by the
Top Ten Winners
of the 2011/2012
America & Me Essay Contest
for Michigan 8th Grade Students



Also inside...

A complete list of all
participating schools
and their local winners.

America & Me
ESSAY CONTEST



A tribute to Michigan heroes...

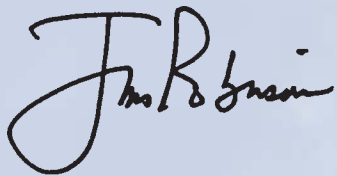
There is so much that is great about Michigan... our natural beauty and breathtaking lakes, our thousands of thriving communities, and our millions of energetic people. But nothing can compare with our Michigan heroes, the people who live and work in our Great State and make a difference in the lives of young people.

That's what this book is about... the heroes of Michigan as seen through the eyes of Michigan eighth grade students. Thousands of students from more than 400 Michigan schools participated in the 2011-12 America & Me Essay Contest and submitted essays based on the topic, "My Personal Michigan Hero."

Inside you'll find reprints of the ten best essays in the state. These essays are about coaches, teachers, organ donors, community leaders, working people, family members, firefighters, and more... everyday people making an extraordinary difference. Also inside is a complete list of all the schools that participated in the 2011-2012 contest - and the local winners from each school. Every student named in this book - and every student who submitted an essay - has our deepest thanks and congratulations.

Farm Bureau Insurance has been the proud sponsor of the annual America & Me Essay Contest since 1968. The contest has become a tradition in Michigan schools and continues to encourage Michigan young people to recognize the heroes in their communities and their state.

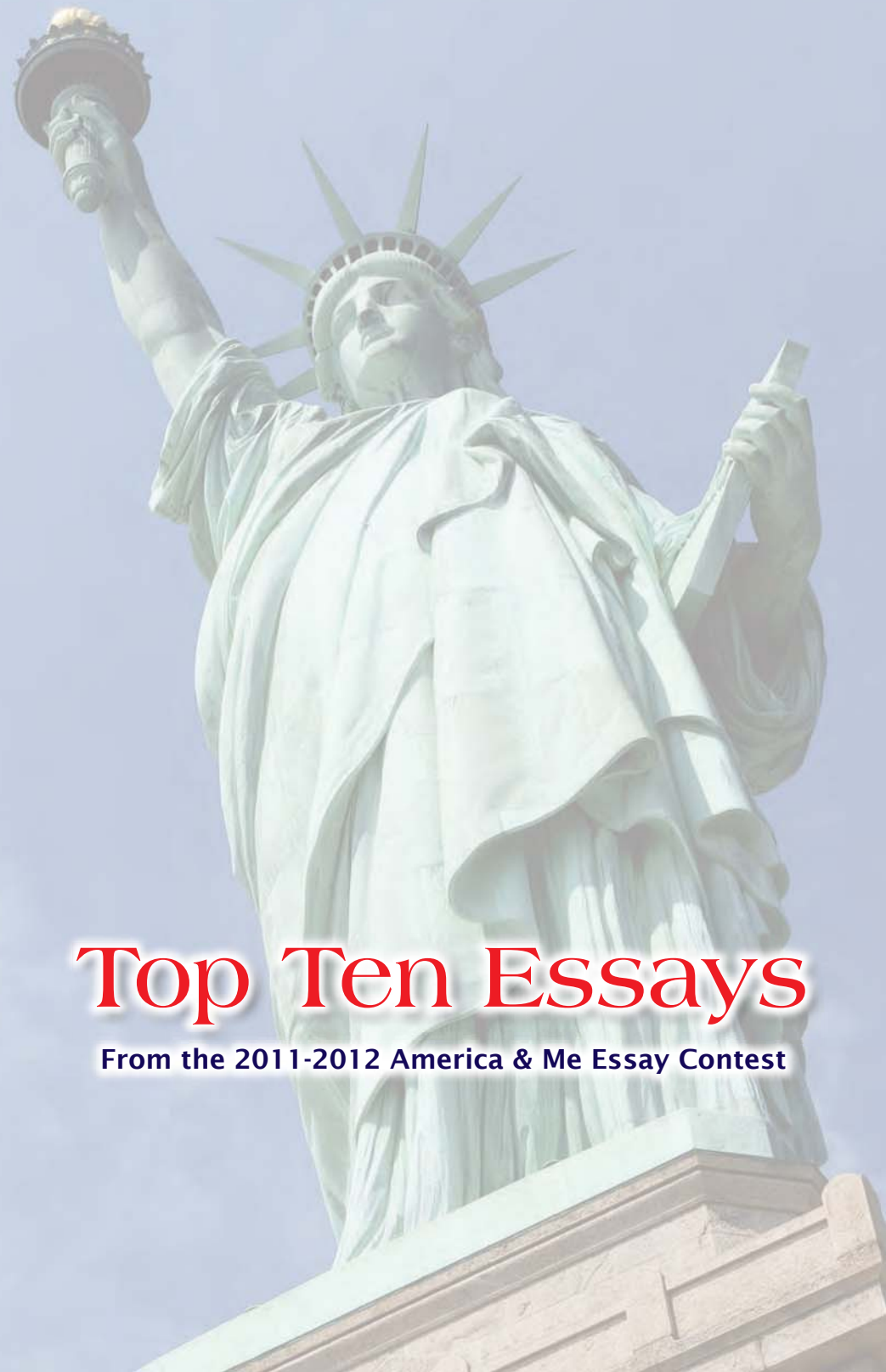
This book is a salute to Michigan heroes and how they make Michigan a better place to live. We hope you enjoy it.



Jim Robinson
Executive Vice President
Farm Bureau Insurance

Top Ten Essays

From the 2011-2012 America & Me Essay Contest



First Place



**Ellen
Bowen**

**City High/Middle School
Grand Rapids**



She Taught While She Fought

When I first started sixth grade, I was hoping to make some new friends and maybe learn a thing or two. Little did I know that not only would I befriend sixty entirely new people, but I would get to spend the year with the teacher who brought us all together, my personal Michigan hero, Mrs. Cheri McKay.

Mrs. McKay was one of the two phenomenal teachers who taught at the Blandford Environmental Education program I attended for sixth grade. The school accepts sixty lucky children for its exclusive year-long program. All the subjects are taught in a natural setting. The actual prairie style schoolhouse we worked in was located in the middle of the forest. Getting up in the morning to go to school was exciting for once, and each new day was an adventure. Though all these things definitely set the school apart, what really made it so unique were the teachers, especially Mrs. McKay.

Through every snowball fight, slimy frog catch, and mud bath, my teacher, Mrs. McKay, was always smiling and playing along. She was kind, compassionate, and dedicated to her work as a teacher. She was the most understanding person I have ever had the good fortune to talk to on a daily basis. Her undeniable energy and joy radiated through the classroom each day. Her easy smiles and wonderful laughs were contagious. Never once that year did we suspect that our beloved teacher was sick with cancer.

Mrs. McKay survived not one, but two types of cancer. Unbeknownst to our class, she had been diagnosed with breast cancer and endured surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation, all while teaching. She came to school almost every day and never seemed to miss a beat. The students heard adults occasionally talk about Mrs. McKay's health struggles, but she didn't look sick and she didn't act sick. She never slowed down or in any way expected us to while she was sick.

How could we not have known? Sure, we were young, but it really had more to do with Mrs. McKay's passion for teaching and her love for her students. She shared a touching story once, that while all the students were outside she removed her wig because it was hot and itchy. When a boy popped into the classroom she quickly put it back on. He looked at her and told her she was beautiful without the wig. She wanted to be at school, and that made all the difference.

My mom was diagnosed with breast cancer this August. When I first found out, I was terrified. Cancer is horrible, and watching my mom fight against it was really scary. Mrs. McKay won the battle against the monster that is cancer, and that inspired me more than words can express.

Mrs. McKay is one of the many Michigan teachers who constantly change kids' lives. She definitely changed mine! Her bravery, empathy, strength, and kindness are qualities I strive to obtain every day. Mrs. McKay is a survivor, and an inspiration to all who are lucky enough to know her.

Second Place



Logan Palm

L'Anse Creuse Middle School East
Chesterfield Twp.



Hero

A hero is someone to be admired because of their actions and devotion to others. There are many characteristics that define a successful hero. You need diverse character traits to prove your heroic qualities. My uncle was a courageous, caring and fearless man who didn't know the meaning of can't. Captain Dave Palm Sr. is my Michigan hero.

To sign up for the Detroit Fire Department at age 18 and become captain nearly 27 years later must put tons of pressure on a person, physically and mentally. Luckily, that never changed the great man my family knew. When you become captain, you are told to stay out of the fires and just give orders and instructions. Instead of obeying that order, he continually went inside incinerating fireballs and helped put out the fires because that's what he knew was right. He was highly respected by everyone he worked with. After years of observing children and teens being scorched and disfigured by flames, he changed. From that point on, he generously would donate his money to the burn center, a place where children who were burned could have the chance of recovery. He spent a great deal of time at the center to visit with the children there. However, nobody knew about his devotion and dedication to these kids until he died.

In April of 2003 my superman of an uncle passed away due to surgery complications. He was only 51 years old. At the funeral, every single area of the church was lined with people and firefighters whose hearts he touched and had given hope to, as well as one of the many people whose lives he changed. For days our family sat there and said, "Why would something so terrible happen to such a heroic man?" Our family then found out about the money he constantly donated and the time he spent with the hospitalized children. Not just me, but our entire family was inspired and impressed by his loving dedication to make those severely injured children feel normal again. That sent us all a message of why we need to hold on to his legacy and continue to help those in need. We decided that my Uncle Dave wouldn't just have us donate money and time, he would want us to be out in the community to share his caring attitude with others. He always said, "There are contributors and non-contributors. Which one are you going to be?" Our entire family made that our motto and we started the Dave Palm Party, a group of people that would throw a party, and all of the proceeds would go to the burn center at the children's hospital. Last year our party raised \$45,000 and donated it to The Great Lakes Burn Camp. It's a camp where burned kids can have fun and camp while recovering. Since we began in 2004, we have raised more than a quarter of a million dollars.

Even though my uncle is not physically with us, we still all know he's there in spirit watching over us. My uncle received an award from the city for going into a burning building to save a man's life. Now, isn't that what a true hero is, someone who puts others in front of himself? I know for a fact that my uncle is one of the greatest people I've ever known in my entire life. It isn't humanly possible for a person to surpass his level of greatness. Batman and Spiderman have their own cities to defend; my uncle would not only defend Detroit but any city he could because he loved life and loved to save lives too. I believe that my Uncle Dave Palm is the greatest hero the world will ever know.

Third Place



Caroline Cassidy

Holy Name Catholic School
Birmingham



An Angel Among Us

Some people say that my Uncle Mike is “special” because he was born with a developmental disability, but to me, that’s not the reason he’s special. He is my personal hero for countless reasons. There are so many qualities that I admire about him, from his selflessness, to his hard work ethic, and to the way he always has a positive outlook on life.

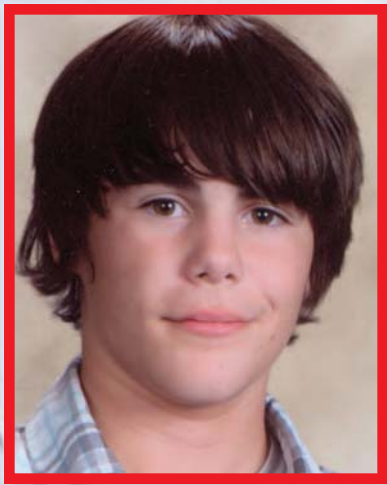
When my Uncle Mike was born in 1965, the doctors pulled my grandparents aside and told them that he had a birth defect and would never be able to do a lot of normal everyday activities. The doctors suggested that they put him in a mental institution for the rest of his life. My grandparents said that they would never do something like that. Instead, they took him home and did whatever they could for Uncle Mike so that he could reach his full potential.

Uncle Mike had a good education, and two years after he graduated high school, Uncle Mike was offered a job at Brother Rice Catholic High School in the maintenance department. He accepted the job, and soon after, the coach of the football team offered him a job as the water boy. He has been working there for over 25 years and the team genuinely cares about him. He is their biggest and most loyal fan, and he is there on the sidelines for every game—rain or shine. One year, when the team won the division championship, the team all chipped in and bought Uncle Mike a championship ring. In addition to all of his work at Brother Rice with the school and football program, Uncle Mike bags groceries at Kroger. He also works out three times a week at a local gym to keep in good health. With this busy of a schedule, he still makes time for what is most important in life, God. He never misses his chance to go to church, which often means going several times a week.

About 12 years ago, my grandparents decided to put him in an Angels Place Home, which is an organization that provides housing for adults with developmental disabilities. This allowed Uncle Mike independence and the opportunity to learn skills to live on his own. Uncle Mike’s roommates say he is the peacemaker of the house, and that he has the ability to take both sides in an argument.

My Uncle Mike is my friend. When I am sad he always makes me feel better. He always puts others before himself. Uncle Mike never talks badly about people, and I have never heard him complain. He always has the right thing to say at the right time. When I asked our family to describe him in one word they had a very hard time, but words that came up most often were inspirational, positive and compassionate. One day, I hope to have all the same qualities as my Uncle Mike. He truly is an angel among us.

Fourth Place



Nate Brickner

St. Gerard School
Lansing

America & Me
ESSAY CONTEST



Letters for Collin

Dear Collin,
You may not read this because I won't show it to you unless I do exceptionally well. We have to write an essay at school for a contest. If I get top in my class, it will get sent in to the statewide judges. I really hope it does so that I can show you something as phenomenal as what you always did in school. Anyway, we have to write this essay about our personal Michigan hero. I'm writing about you because you are the one who has inspired me to do everything I can to the best of my ability. I try my hardest to do great because I dream of one day being as talented as you are. I'm procrastinating on this assignment again, sort of like you used to do. I seem to have picked up on that bad habit of yours. I'll get back to you with the rest of it.

Your brother, Nate

Dear Collin,
I've never really told you this, but you mean the world to me. Other people may not look at you as a hero. They will look at you and see only a smart kid who is athletic. That's their opinion. Not to say that you aren't, but you are much more than that to me. For me, you've been my inspiration ever since I could walk and talk. Every time you brought home straight A's or made the game-winning play, it encouraged me to do the same thing, or something even greater. But that's not all you've done for me. You've been like a teacher and a coach and are always there when I need advice about anything. But most of all, you're there. You've always been there for me, even through the hardest times. That is the main reason that you are my hero.

Your greatest fan, Nate

Dear Collin,
Next year, you will be going off to college at Central Michigan University. Since we're four years apart in age, I will be moving on to high school at the same time that you are moving on to college. I will be going to Grand Ledge High School, the same school that you attended this year. It's going to be strange walking the same halls that you did, especially since you won't be home very often anymore. But in a way, you will be here with me. You have a special place in my heart that can never go away. It will be very difficult getting used to a new life with you not here every day. But, I'll do okay. I'll get through it because you taught me to be strong despite the hardships and to always take on new challenges. Like, when you transferred high schools after your sophomore year. You showed courage through the whole time you were getting used to a new place. Because of that, you have given me the same courage and confidence that I'll need to get through this transition. I hope you come and visit often, because, honestly, I'm going to miss you, buddy. You're the greatest brother a person could ever have asked for. You're like a best friend to me.

Your little brother, Nate

Dear Collin,
You are my hero. You always have been. You always will be.

Love, your little brother, Nate

Fifth Place



Brigette Berke

Big Rapids Middle School
Big Rapids

America & Me
ESSAY CONTEST



My Personal Michigan Hero

A hero can be explained as many things. In cartoons, a hero is someone who stops a bank robber and saves the damsel in distress. In history a hero is someone who lays down their life to end a war. To me, a hero is someone who sees a problem and strives to fix it. Of all the people I see as heroes, one stands out above the rest, Mr. Gary Fitch.

Gary was deeply touched by the deaths of Areilla and Shelila Simmons. He was at the scene where the two sisters had gone under trying to save a friend. He saw all the hurts and pain on the faces of the family and told himself it had to stop. After that fateful day, he created the Muskegon River Water Safety Program with his wife, Char Fitch. The Muskegon River Water Safety Program is a program that promotes awareness of the dangerous waters. Along the Muskegon River, Gary helped install 911 phones and throw-ring stations. He also created safety DVD's to help raise awareness and the video is now shown in schools.

While on one of his walks around the Ferris State University campus with his wife, Gary noticed a girl pushing herself in a manual wheelchair through the snow. He quickly walked over to her and pushed her to her class. While talking to her, he found out she would be in a wheelchair the rest of her life, and her family couldn't afford a motorized one. Gary saw how high her spirits were, even in her predicament, and promised himself to help this girl become more mobile. He went out into the community and to our church family and asked for help to raise enough money for a motorized wheelchair. After a few months, he had finally raised enough money, with help from the Ferris community. He saw the happiness in her eyes as he presented the motorized wheelchair to her, and he knew his mission was completed.

Gary Fitch was a part of the Mecosta County Sheriff's Posse for several years. He watched over the 80-acre wooded area and the trout stream around his home. The Posse is a volunteer group of special individuals in the community who want to help. They attend special police memorials, walk in parades, and offer extra protection in the community.

Gary Fitch is an amazing man anyone could easily look up to. Through all of his past efforts, he helps to prevent the drowning of many people in the Muskegon River every year. He helped an immobilized girl become mobile and helped her get her life back. He was a part of the Sheriff's Posse, an honorary group in the community. All in all, Gary Fitch is the exact image of my hero, but if you talk about it with him, he's too humble to admit it. After everything Gary's done, it is more than easy to say that Gary Fitch is my Personal Michigan Hero.

Sixth Place



Khadijah Muneera Oral

Michigan Islamic Academy
Ann Arbor



Michigan Loyalty

According to Merriam Webster's dictionary, the word "hero" means a person of courage, who is admired for their achievements and noble qualities. To me, my father, Hamid Alper Oral, is the prime example of a hero. He grew up in the city of Mardin, Turkey, and went to one of the best schools in the country, Istanbul Teknik Universitesi, where he earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. After graduation, he came to the United States, attended the University of Michigan and later finished with a PhD from the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom. Later, he returned to Michigan, home of the Motor City, to fulfill his dreams in life with high hopes.

Before General Motors went into bankruptcy, my father had been working for them. They laid him off and he naturally started looking for jobs. He found one at MIT, but the only problem was that it was all the way in Boston, Massachusetts. He was definitely considering it but we could all tell he wasn't sure. Finally agreeing to take the job, my dad started a temporary work period until he could determine whether or not he would stay.

Then things started getting serious; we started finding schools and looking at houses. No one could believe what was happening. My dad did not look quite happy with his decision but we did not really have a choice. We just went along with the plan and no one said anything. However, before we could make the big move, my dad suddenly changed his mind.

He said that he had heard on the radio that professionals and educated people were leaving Michigan to find jobs in other states. He didn't want to abandon the place that gave him so much opportunity and even scholarships when he first came this country, so he returned to his home in the Motor City. He worked so hard to get there I guess he just didn't feel right leaving it all behind. He decided to have loyalty and stick with Michigan through its rough times. He decided to give back to the state that gave him everything to show his appreciation for the "big mitten."

My father is an extremely educated, hard-working man who puts all his effort into every little thing he does. He spends a lot of valuable time for his work and the things he cares about. He came to a different country just so that he could learn more and discover more. Instead of taking what he could and leaving, he decided to stay and try to do beneficial things for Michigan. I am so glad that I have a father like him to teach me and guide me through life. For as long as I can remember he has been my biggest role model; he is my hero because he is a very educated and sophisticated man whom I have the honor of calling my father.

Seventh Place



**Mary
Tinker**

**Pickford Public Schools
Pickford**



My Michigan Hero

When I was asked to write an essay about my Michigan Hero so many wonderful people crossed my mind. My mom and dad? My aunts? My teachers? My grandparents, or maybe my best friends? Then, after I thought about who has helped me achieve my goals, I decided to write about someone who introduced me to something I truly love to do. This man helped me start my career in basketball when I was only eight years old.

I used to go to school in Paradise Michigan, and that is when I met Mr. John Dreves I was about five or six and I had watched him help the "bigger kids" learn to play basketball. He would always be so nice and teach so well, it encouraged me to learn more. In second grade, when I was only eight, I could finally play. He was teaching kids how to dribble and shoot a basketball. When it was my turn I missed the basket and got discouraged, but Mr. Dreves made me feel better because he himself missed the basket just to show all of us kids that it was okay. Although he wasn't the only elementary coach/helper, he did a lot with all of us kids. My kindergarten, first, and second grade teacher helped me, too, along with many of the staff members and high school kids in my old school and I have always looked up to them for it. My parents have helped me as well, but no one has helped me as much as Mr. Dreves.

Mr. Dreves devoted a lot to the little school of Paradise, Michigan, and not just basketball either. Mr. Dreves raised about \$26,700 for the sport boosters in pop cans! He would set up big trash cans all over town that said "The Can Man" on them and collect pop cans from the side of the road. He would then go around town and get all of the pop cans and put them in the back of his Suburban, drive an hour way to Sault Ste. Marie Michigan, and return them for his deposit. Because of him, Paradise Athletics were on ESPN and the basketball team got free, blue and white NBA-grade, chairs that had the "ROCKETS" logo on them and said Paradise across the back. Thanks to Mr. Dreves the Athletics club in the little school of Paradise, with only 54 kids in the whole K-12 school, was saved. Mr. Dreves started doing this in 2002, after he had a heart attack and wasn't expected to live. After he got out of the hospital he said he wanted to do more for the kids, but he couldn't just give us money, so he raised it.

Mr. John Dreves did so much for all of the kids in the school. He had a wonderful reputation for being such a great man and not for just the pop cans, but for all the coaching he did in the past. Because of him I learned to love basketball, and so did many other kids. I think that's why he had such an impact on our lives, and that's why it hit us all so hard when he passed away a year ago. Mr. Dreves was a great man and he will always be remembered.

Eighth Place



Hayden Niepoth

Bellaire Public Schools
Bellaire



Anonymous

Donors who give the gift of life and their families who make the decision to donate are my Michigan heroes. The reason I have come to appreciate organ donating so much is because an organ donor from Michigan saved my Aunt Karen's life twice. I compare organ donating to the saying, "When one door closes another door is opened," because when a donor dies, they save other people's lives in exchange for their own. This is why true Michigan heroes are the blood and organ donors who save lives every day, and their courageous families who make the decision to donate.

The day before Thanksgiving in 2009, my Aunt Karen was admitted into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. She was there for three months, and out of those three months, she was on life support for twenty-eight days. The doctors said that she needed a new liver and if she did not get one fast, they would not be able to keep her alive much longer. I remember the long trips from Bellaire to Detroit and how scared everyone in my family was that my Aunt would not be with us at the end of the day. We prayed that she would get better every day, but she never did. Then one day, something unexpected happened: we received word that my Aunt Karen was going to get the liver that she so desperately needed. The man that donated his liver to my Aunt died from a routine surgery that wasn't supposed to put him on his death bed. He was a very healthy older man when his door closed and my Aunt's door opened. However, the problem with getting her new liver was blood; she needed pints and pints of blood to sustain her life through the transplant. I could not believe how much blood it took for my Aunt to have her operation, so in a way blood donors saved my Aunt's life too.

My Aunt's surgery took place on December 17, 2009. She was in surgery for more than eighteen hours. My family and I kept praying that the surgeons would be able to perform the delicate operation and bring my Aunt back to us. We also kept saying prayers for the family who just lost their loved one. It was very thoughtful of them to make the decision to donate the organs of someone they loved so much. It was so close to the holidays as well, so most of our holiday season was spent at the hospital or hotels, but we never let our spirits down.

Although my Aunt's story is inspirational, this is not the only reason organ donors are my hero. Another reason is an organ donor could save my life of one of my loved ones in the future. The sad part about organ donating in Michigan is that there are not as many donors compared to the number of people on the waiting list to get organs. The people that are willing to give their organs to save a life have to fit the exact criteria to donate; if not, then they are ineligible. To all the organ and blood donors out there, thank you for saving my Aunt's life and allowing me to create more great memories with her, as she continues to live her life to the fullest every day.

Ninth Place



Carmen Chamberlain

Owosso Middle School
Owosso



My Personal Michigan Heroes

Up until the sixth grade the only part of school I was really interested in was being with friends. The only subject I enjoyed was reading, and I thought that's how it would always be, until I met Mr. Clark and Mrs. Wertz.

On the first day of sixth grade my class and the other class came together for our first "team meeting" where Mr. Clark and Mrs. Wertz explained their standards for Attendance, Attitude, and Effort. Attendance didn't just mean showing up to class on time every day; it meant being on time and being mentally ready to get started when the bell rang. Attitude meant you leave bad thoughts, or anything bad that's happened to you, at home because a positive team learns better. Effort was the promise that if we did our best then they'd do their best to help us down the path to success. So, on the fourth day of class I said the "I Can" pledge with the rest of the team, and shook my teachers' hands before accepting the medal of Attendance, Attitude, and Effort.

Even though it took constant effort, I enjoyed the new challenge of our more advanced curriculum. It was even easier to get up and go to school in the mornings because we were always working towards a "challenge", which would usually include games, snacks and free time for part of a day, by keeping the class average at a certain percent in all subjects, and by behaving exceptionally well. And we learned if we behaved well, they would trust us more so class could be more interactive.

Saying our classes were fun would be an understatement. To review, we would solve a math problem and someone from our team would throw a sticky dart at what we thought was the correct answer. Mrs. Wertz made our novels come alive by having us dress up as characters from the Westing Game, or learn how the different social classes would eat by snacking in groups while we read *Fever 1793*.

It wasn't all fun and games, though. Some people were frustrated about the amount of work we were required to do, but we all knew if we ever needed help all we had to do was ask. Mr. Clark and Mrs. Wertz truly cared about us and wanted us to work our hardest to succeed. They made it very clear all through the year that they were willing to help us then, now, and in the future.

Mr. Clark and Mrs. Wertz are my heroes because they were always ready and willing to help. If you really needed them, and you didn't want to ask a question in class, they would be more than happy to help you one on one, and they firmly believed that there was, and is, no such thing as a stupid question. If you were like me, and couldn't understand that two negatives multiplied together are still negative, Mr. Clark was ready for questioning, and if you just couldn't spell that vocabulary word, Mrs. Wertz was there to help. I remember I couldn't stop saying "the capitol of Rome is Italy"... Now I know.

I will never stop visiting Mr. Clark and Mrs. Wertz because they're my heroes, and even now, in the eighth grade, they're a big help when it comes to my academic success.

Tenth Place



Sydney San Juan

James R. Geisler Middle School
Walled Lake



My Personal Michigan Hero

I've been playing competitive softball for about four years. In that time span, I've had some pretty crazy coaches. I've had coaches who were all about having fun, and I've had coaches who were all about winning. It wasn't until I was drafted on Scott Ampe's team that I had a coach who strived for both.

Everything about Coach Scott makes me want to be a better player. The way he whispers in a huddle, how his cheek dimples come out after winning, and how his voice gets an octave higher when he gets frustrated. He pushes us to our limits and makes us believe that we don't have any. When he gives us constructive criticism, we don't take it personally because we know he wouldn't be telling us unless he cared.


Our team respects Coach Scott because he probably knows more about softball than anyone I've ever known. After all, you can't teach what you don't know. His softball IQ is sky high, and I trust him with everything. If Coach Scott tells me to be a leader, I'll be a leader. If he tells me to swing harder, I'll swing harder. If he gives me the 'take' sign, I'll take the pitch even if it's a perfect strike, because I've learned that he knows best.

Coach Scott teaches us not only the game of softball, but also the game of sportsmanship. He doesn't care how great of a player you are; if you have a bad attitude, you're benched. Some may think that's harsh, but in the long run, it's not about how many trophies you acquire or how many games you win. It's about finding the best in each individual player, and in turn, creating a harmony only a successful team could have.

Our team isn't perfect. We strike out, we make errors, and we aren't drama-free. What I can tell you is that we get up one more time than we fall down. We consider each other family. Every single girl on our team has at least one thing in common, a passion for softball. Coach says he learns just as much from us as we do from him. I wonder if he realizes the fact that we admire him. Coaches should inspire, and that's exactly what he does.

Sometimes I wonder how Coach Scott deals with us. We're a loud and crazy pack of teenage girls. I applaud him for patience towards our short attention spans, and his tolerance regarding our laughter at unnecessary times. He understands that we're just kids, but he also understands our potential as softball players, and he makes sure we reach that.

Coach Scott is the heart of our team, and we wouldn't be one without him. He's the reason I love softball as much as I do and the reason I will continue to play and love every minute. He's not only my role model, but also my extraordinary, irreplaceable, one-of-a-kind Michigan hero.

A large, faded image of the Statue of Liberty in New York City, serving as a background for the text. The statue is shown from the waist up, holding a torch in her right hand and a tablet in her left. She is wearing her iconic crown with seven spikes and a robe with flowing folds. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds.

**A salute to each of our
participating schools
and local winners...**

Besides the top ten statewide winners whose essays appear at the front of this book, we also want to recognize the local winners from each school.

On the next several pages, you will find a listing of all the schools that participated in the 2011-12 America & Me Essay Contest... and the local winners from each school. The first place essay from each school went on to the statewide competition from which the ten best essays in the state were selected.

We want to thank all the participating schools and their winners. Thank you for participating, thank you for your excellent essays, and thank you for telling us about your Michigan heroes. We wish you continued success and a great future.

**Farm Bureau Insurance
Michigan's Insurance Company**

Academy of Flint Charter School, Flint
1st - Edward Bell
2nd - Shae'Don Hutson
3rd - Tyler Washington

Academy of the Sacred Heart School,
Bloomfield Hills
1st - Jeannie Nash
2nd - Seyi Osobamiro
3rd - Gretchen Lemon

Adams Protestant Reformed Christian
School, Wyoming
1st - Amy Kaiser
2nd - Rachel Bartelds

AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School,
Southfield
1st - Gabriela Najar
2nd - Noor Arbel
3rd - Angelina Antonyan

Akiva Hebrew Day School, Southfield
1st - Noah Adler
2nd - Alyssa Adler
3rd - Wendy Kelman

Akron-Fairgrove Junior/Senior High
School, Fairgrove
1st - Shyanne Decker
2nd - Austin Carter
3rd - Megan Burton

Allendale Middle School, Allendale
1st - Megan Driesenga
2nd - Alexis DeGroot
3rd - Allison Taylor

Armada Middle School, Armada
1st - Alex Schultz
2nd - Mya Brown
3rd - Lauren Vukovich

Aspen Ridge Middle School, Ishpeming
1st - T'nia Burse
2nd - Hannah Salmi
3rd - Allison Hyttinen

Assumption School, Belmont
1st - Daniel Simmons
2nd - Whitney Hoving
3rd - Morgan Benoit

Athens Middle School, Athens
1st - Jennifer Smittendorf
2nd - Autumn Smith
3rd - Audrey McClure

Auburn Hills Christian School,
Auburn Hills
1st - Michah James
2nd - Amanda Thomas
3rd - Jalen King

Baker Middle School, Rochester Hills
1st - Sirisha Billa
2nd - Isha Naik
3rd - Angela Chen

Baldwin Junior High School, Baldwin
1st - Brittany Bowling
2nd - Jeffrey Davenport
3rd - McKayla Higbee

Baldwin Street Middle School,
Hudsonville
1st - McKenna Lee
2nd - Janelle Potter
3rd - Jaclyn Vander Ploeg

Bark River-Harris, Harris
1st - Jordan Erickson
2nd - McKayla Sippola
3rd - Jordyn Hardy

Bath Middle School, Bath
1st - Madison Margraves
2nd - Jamie Lince
3rd - Clarisse Owens

Beal City Junior High School,
Mt. Pleasant
1st - Erica Sheahan
2nd - Lily Steffke
3rd - Alexia Lynch

Beaver Island Community School,
Beaver Island
1st - Nicholas Williams
2nd - Sarah Avery
3rd - Emily Burton

Bedford Jr. High School, Temperance
1st - Jocelyn Groll
2nd - Amelia Heiserman
3rd - Alyssa Garner

Bellaire Middle School, Bellaire
1st - Hayden Niepoth
2nd - Kaitheryne Washburn
3rd - Amara Smith

Benton Harbor Charter School,
Benton Harbor
1st - Precious Long
2nd - Kenya Harris
3rd - Luis Lopez

Berrien Springs Middle School,
Berrien Springs
1st - Jeremy Williamson
2nd - Hannah Legg
3rd - Samantha Krause

Beth Haven Baptist Academy, Sheridan
1st - Danielle Moline
2nd - Samantha Kellogg

Bethlehem Lutheran School, Saginaw
1st - Nicole Felten
2nd - Faith Korte
3rd - Rachel Scott

Big Bay de Noc School, Cooks
1st - Kaela Clark
2nd - Renee Northrup
3rd - Ilana Cooper

Big Burning Elementry School, Bad Axe
1st - Charity Berger
2nd - Andrew Sutton
3rd - Sydney Moyer

Big Rapids Middle School, Big Rapids
1st - Brigitte Berke
2nd - Natasha Tubbs
3rd - Kayla Somsel

Bloomfield Hills Middle School,
Bloomfield Hills
1st - Erika Lacasse
2nd - Kelly Wester
3rd - Brandon Sebou

Bloomington Middle School,
Bloomington
1st - Ellie Sower
2nd - Jesus Marin
3rd - Dakota Raterink

Bois Blanc Island, Bois Blanc Island
1st - George Raymond Spray

Bothwell Middle School, Marquette
1st - Sydney Laakso
2nd - Maitri White
3rd - Kayce Mullett

Boulan Park Middle School, Troy
1st - July Kim
2nd - Nithya Ramadurai
3rd - Christina Crane

Brandon Middle School, Ortonville
1st - Peyton Newell
2nd - Ethan Verstraete
3rd - Katherine Yeacker

Breckenridge Community School,
Breckenridge
1st - Alison Willman
2nd - Elizabeth Northrop
3rd - Lindsey Reichard

Brethren Middle School, Brethren
1st - Sarah Wayward
2nd - Mackenzie Voorhees
3rd - Kyra Bell

Bridge Academy West, Detroit
1st - Sana Alharazi
2nd - Salas Choudhury
3rd - Aamna Malik

Bronson Junior-Senior High School,
Bronson
1st - Thomas Littlefield
2nd - Angel Davisworth
3rd - Alana Cranson

Brownell Middle School,
Grosse Pointe Farms
1st - Katelyn Carney
2nd - Alexis Motschall
3rd - Emma Rooney

Bunker Middle School, Muskegon
1st - Kobe Gradisher
2nd - T'Asia Thomas
3rd - Desiree Fox

Byron Center Christian School,
Byron Center
1st - Logan Huizenga
2nd - Lucy Dykhouse
3rd - Nicole Kruithof

Cadillac Heritage Christian School,
Cadillac
1st - Kaitlyn Potocki
2nd - Sarah Hall
3rd - Mariah Reitz

Capac Junior-Senior High School,
Capac
1st - Austin Kemp
2nd - Stephanie Marquette
3rd - Emma Kerr

Carl T. Renton Junior High School,
New Boston
1st - Mariah Turner
2nd - Lauren Bennett
3rd - Olivia Georgic

Carrollton Middle School, Carrollton
1st - Zoe Smith
2nd - Kelcey Case
3rd - Raymond Anguiano

Carson City-Crystal Middle School,
Carson City
1st - Hannah McCartney
2nd - Claire Hubbell
3rd - Danielle Flick

Carsonville-Port Sanilac Schools,
Carsonville
1st - Fernando McAboy

Caseville Public School, Caseville
1st - Cameron Speare
2nd - Cole Simmons
3rd - Lauren Siegfried

Central Academy, Ann Arbor
1st - Isra Elshafei
2nd - Reem Khatib
3rd - Basil Baccouche

Centreville Junior High, Centreville
1st - Eric Petoskey
2nd - Rachel Kroupa
3rd - Becca Riess

Cheboygan Middle School, Cheboygan
1st - Katie Perhai
2nd - Brent Miller
3rd - Luke Ward

Cherryland Middle School, Elk Rapids
1st - Lyric Pawloski

Chesaning Middle School, Chesaning
1st - Heather Mahoney
2nd - Abigail Wallace
3rd - Madison Krupp

Chippewa Middle School, Okemos
1st - Caroline Serkaian
2nd - Stephen Beegle
3rd - Ravi Betzig

Christ Lutheran School, Stevensville
1st - Chloe Kalinas
2nd - Abbey Cole
3rd - Matthew Winter

Christ the King Lutheran School,
Sebewaing
1st - Noah Eurich
2nd - Preston Eurich
3rd - Nicole Bauer

Christian Leadership Academy, Troy
1st - Ryan MacArthur
2nd - Maximilian Kohnert
3rd - Sydney Carey

City High Middle School, Grand Rapids
1st - Ellen Bowen
2nd - Imani Hayden

Cityside Middle School, Zeeland
1st - Morgan Sanders
2nd - Jarrett Telgenhoff
3rd - Ashlyn Schasel

Clare Middle School, Clare
1st - Saleen Picard
2nd - Cameron Foss
3rd - Bethanie Jones

Clarenceville Middle School, Livonia
1st - Abigail Van Meter
2nd - Bryce Marciniak
3rd - Samantha Franco

Clifford H. Smart Middle School,
Commerce Township
1st - Amanda Ratliff

Clippert Academy Multicultural Magnet,
Detroit
1st - Fabiola Orozco
2nd - Meliza Huerta
3rd - Richard Galvez

Coleman Community Jr/Sr High School,
Coleman

- 1st - Aieren Anderson
- 2nd - Natalie Rogers
- 3rd - Carley Starnes

Colon Jr. / Sr. High School, Colon

- 1st - Anessa Broker
- 2nd - Trevor Jensen
- 3rd - Tallison Wilson

Comstock Northeast Middle School,
Kalamazoo

- 1st - Sophie Kokales
- 2nd - Jacob Novak
- 3rd - Caylea Jackson

Concord Academy-Boyne, Boyne City

- 1st - Alexis Arsenault
- 2nd - Valentin Romero
- 3rd - Michael Butler

Corpus Christi Catholic School, Holland

- 1st - Schuyler Brunink
- 2nd - Emilee Gaiser
- 3rd - David Puzycki

Corunna Middle School, Corunna

- 1st - Olina Hetych-Helton
- 2nd - Alexis Hundley
- 3rd - Sky Griffeth

Cranbrook Boys Middle School,
Bloomfield Hills

- 1st - Nick Livingston
- 2nd - Jordan Carethers
- 3rd - Blake Norwick

Creekside Middle School, Zeeland

- 1st - Emily Raak
- 2nd - Katelyn Coffey
- 3rd - Megan Richardson

Crescent Academy International,
Canton

- 1st - Shaima Hag
- 2nd - Razan Habash
- 3rd - Hiba Qamar

Cross Lutheran School, Pigeon

- 1st - Michaela Love

Crossroads Charter Academy,
Big Rapids

- 1st - Miranda Carlson

Croswell-Lexington Middle School,
Croswell

- 1st - Isabelle Schwartz
- 2nd - Hailey Totten
- 3rd - Hannah Anderson

Davison Middle School, Davison

- 1st - Katherine Arnes
- 2nd - Brianna Talaska
- 3rd - Dakota Stefanko

Decatur Public Schools, Decatur

- 1st - Mikayla Botti
- 2nd - Kailyn Ebeling
- 3rd - Jacob Ogden

Deckerville Community School,
Deckerville

- 1st - Josie Brown
- 2nd - Hailey Jackson
- 3rd - Karyn McConnachie

DeTour Village High School,
DeTour Village

- 1st - Millie Reed
- 2nd - Mitchell Black
- 3rd - Kaitlynn VanDaele

Detroit Country Day School,
Beverly Hills

- 1st - James Kenney
- 2nd - Leah Krasnick
- 3rd - Damian Runkle

Detroit Merit Academy, Detroit

- 1st - Jenisis Moreland
- 2nd - Kamau Clark
- 3rd - Robyn Horton

Detroit Service Learning Academy,
Detroit

- 1st - Napolian Scott
- 2nd - Symone Tramble
- 3rd - Merit Amadi

DeWitt Junior High School, DeWitt

- 1st - Olivia Ross
- 2nd - Kathryn Bolger
- 3rd - Veronica Freel

Discovery Middle School, Canton

- 1st - Freyja Hofler

Divine Child Elementary School,
Dearborn

- 1st - Julie Meyers

Dowagiac Middle School, Dowagiac

- 1st - Amanda McElheny
- 2nd - Annie Ennesser
- 3rd - Victoria Villegas

Dryden Community Schools, Dryden

- 1st - Emily Levy
- 2nd - MaryRose Clark
- 3rd - Nathan Schiner

Duncan Lake Middle School, Caledonia

- 1st - Mallory Koning

Dundee Middle School, Dundee

- 1st - Kim Taylor
- 2nd - Paige Nolan
- 3rd - Tyler Robertson

Durand Middle School, Durand

- 1st - Brittany Tillman
- 2nd - Anna Dietrich
- 3rd - Jared Long

Dwight Beach Middle School, Chelsea

- 1st - Katie Fischer
- 2nd - Karana Wickens
- 3rd - Nora Dobos

E.F. Rittmueller Middle School,
Frankenmuth

- 1st - Carmen Izzo
- 2nd - Kylie Ostrofsky
- 3rd - Jack Tagget

Eagle Creek Academy, Oakland

- 1st - Samantha Rondeau
- 2nd - Andrew Abela
- 3rd - Alex O'Donnell

East Hills Middle School,
Bloomfield Hills

- 1st - Lily Ochs
- 2nd - Brendan Eathorne
- 3rd - Seraj Desai

East Jackson Middle School, Jackson

- 1st - John Comperchio
- 2nd - Renee Taylor
- 3rd - Rachelle Fitton

East Middle School, Farmington Hills
1st - Shahaan Turner
2nd - Taylor Lombard
3rd - Ravi Tatineni

East Rockford Middle School, Rockford
1st - Christine Alexander
2nd - Gabby Alcalá
3rd - Annalise Petzak

Edwardsburg Middle School,
Edwardsburg
1st - Cayla Haney
2nd - Kayley Closson
3rd - Beth Brady

Emanuel Lutheran School, Lansing
1st - Lailah Thabatah
2nd - Deborah Cordill
3rd - Logan Leighty

Endeavor Charter Academy, Springfield
1st - Jarrad Cowles
2nd - Autumn Simmons
3rd - Jenna Morris

Engadine High School, Engadine
1st - Riley Vogel
2nd - Abigail Miller
3rd - Aspen Hood

Eppler Junior High School, Utica
1st - Emma Sala
2nd - Haley Abbatoy
3rd - Alicia Kirma

Eton Academy, Birmingham
1st - Lucas Williams
2nd - Sean Lindley

Everest Academy, Clarkston
1st - Paulina Czarnecki
2nd - Regina Parra Cantu
3rd - Kathleen Balon

F.C. Reed Middle School, Bridgman
1st - Margaret Oldenburg
2nd - Janae Joyner
3rd - Rebecca Stemm

Faith Christian School, Lake Odessa
1st - Holly Titus

Faith Lutheran School, Bay City
1st - Maria Raab
2nd - Angela Kaczynski
3rd - Hannah Wheeler

Fellowship Baptist Academy,
Carson City
1st - Kyle Prichard
2nd - Miranda Rogers
3rd - InKyo Kim

Flynn Middle School, Sterling Heights
1st - Jenna Johnston
2nd - Lauren Evert
3rd - Colleen Tacubao

Fremont Christian School, Fremont
1st - Timothy Brandt
2nd - Devin Richards
3rd - Weston DuBois

Friends School in Detroit, Detroit
1st - Martel Mathis
2nd - Louis Magidson
3rd - Olivia Holt

Gaylord Middle School, Gaylord
1st - Kaylinn Fonger
2nd - Derek Rakis
3rd - Kiaya Baur

Gesu Catholic School, Detroit
1st - Ron Coleman
2nd - Daisha Brown
3rd - Kierra Wright

Gladstone Middle School, Gladstone
1st - Morgan Bowie
2nd - Chandler Husbye
3rd - Veronica Beauchamp

Gladwin Junior High School, Gladwin
1st - Sierra Jankowski
2nd - Rylie Alward
3rd - Roger Willford

Glen Lake Middle School, Maple City
1st - Ella Pierce-Bluhm
2nd - Jolene Therrien
3rd - Anne Marie Dunklow

Goodrich Middle School, Goodrich
1st - Jacob Baum
2nd - Sydney Conn
3rd - Emily Roat

Grace Christian School, Saginaw
1st - Kaleigh Kuhns

Grace Lutheran School, Auburn
1st - Lucas Weiss
2nd - Olivia Mantei
3rd - Morgan Harrison

Grand Haven Christian School,
Grand Haven
1st - Abigail Billett
2nd - Cassidy Austin
3rd - Leah Hoffer

Grand Traverse Academy, Traverse City
1st - Grace Olson
2nd - Kennedy Riebschleger
3rd - Spencer Stockfish

Grandville Middle School, Grandville
1st - Hunter Wojtas
2nd - Rebecca Licata
3rd - Lindsay Popkin

Grant Christian School, Grant
1st - Alyssa Bonk
2nd - Kristina Veurink
3rd - Elizabeth Nagy

Greater Lansing Adventist School,
Lansing
1st - Levi D. J. Ellis
2nd - Jacob Davis
3rd - Sydney Hutchins

Greater Lansing Islamic School,
East Lansing
1st - Abdulrahman Abdulkadri
2nd - Abdisalam Sharif
3rd - Zainab Faessal

Grosse Pointe Academy, Grosse Pointe
1st - Alexander Minanov
2nd - Evelyn Woodman
3rd - Sara Anthony

Guardian Angels School, Clawson
1st - Callaghan Tyson-Mayer
2nd - Dana Walker
3rd - Abigale Laurencelle

Guardian Lutheran School, Dearborn
1st - Samantha Benner
2nd - Allison Crawford
3rd - Laura Sillanpaa

Hanover-Horton Middle School, Horton
1st - Seth Vincent
2nd - Annaka Saari
3rd - Alexis Brockie

Harbor Beach Middle School,
Harbor Beach
1st - Zayne Klaski
2nd - Dana Schneider
3rd - Travis Holdwick

Harbor Light Christian School,
Harbor Springs
1st - Adam Skop
2nd - Silas Lee
3rd - Annika Swanson

Harbor Springs Middle School,
Harbor Springs
1st - Maddie Keely
2nd - Claire Fleming
3rd - Cassidy Hadix

Harper Creek Middle School,
Battle Creek
1st - Mitchel Coon
2nd - Kearstin Durham
3rd - Amelia Tomalka

Hart Middle School, Hart
1st - Terri Carlson
2nd - Isabel Vela
3rd - Hannah Kuipers

Hart Middle School, Rochester Hills
1st - Allison Nguyen
2nd - Jacob Degasperis

Hartford Middle School, Hartford
1st - Ashley Rittase
2nd - Michael Heinisch
3rd - Jacob Owens

Hartland Middle School at Ore Creek,
Hartland
1st - Matthew Schutz
2nd - Jeremy Tervo
3rd - Jacqueline Shrader-Goetz

Haslett Middle School, Haslett
1st - Paige Scholten
2nd - Lucy Jones
3rd - Onowa Allen

Hayes Middle School, Grand Ledge
1st - Rachel Gute
2nd - Abby Foltz
3rd - Kalli Ramsey

Heritage Christian Academy,
Kalamazoo
1st - Gabrielle Wallace
2nd - Emma Partin
3rd - Alexis Simpson

Heritage Junior High School,
Sterling Heights
1st - David Osinski
2nd - Ashley Gee
3rd - Aashna Patel

Hillsdale Academy, Hillsdale
1st - Mary Stechschulte
2nd - Isabel Williams
3rd - Madisyn Reed

Hillside Middle School, Northville
1st - Max DeDona
2nd - Erica Meister
3rd - Matt Fuller

Holland Christian Middle School,
Holland
1st - Ashley Rogalske
2nd - Clara Dreyer
3rd - Bailey Becksvoort

Holton Middle School, Holton
1st - Claire Conzemius
2nd - Erin McDermott
3rd - Rachael Moreen

Holy Cross Lutheran School, Saginaw
1st - Kyle Jahnke
2nd - Emilee LeRoux
3rd - Spencer Wehner

Holy Cross School, Marine City
1st - Rebecca Schultz
2nd - Brandon Kireta
3rd - Rachelle LaFontaine

Holy Family Catholic School,
Grand Blanc
1st - Mattie Milne
2nd - Erin Emmert
3rd - William Garland

Holy Ghost Lutheran School, Monroe
1st - Aaron Blohm
2nd - Christian Lucas
3rd - Ana Loree

Holy Name Catholic School, Escanaba
1st - Jackie O'Driscoll
2nd - Josh Nelson
3rd - Madelyn Christensen

Holy Name School, Birmingham
1st - Caroline Cassidy
2nd - Riley Page
3rd - Teddy Apap

Holy Redeemer Grade School, Detroit
1st - Daniela Hernandez
2nd - Sydney Lester
3rd - Brizeida Chapa

Holy Trinity School, Comstock Park
1st - Zachary Ferguson
2nd - Tessa Martin
3rd - William Kline

Hopkins Middle School, Hopkins
1st - Madeline Henrickson
2nd - Alex ten Haaf
3rd - Sadie Brookhouse

Houghton Lake Middle School,
Houghton Lake
1st - Victoria Maikrzek
2nd - Brooklyn Fergususon
3rd - Austin Gandolfi

Houghton Middle School, Houghton
1st - Haille Anderson
2nd - Logan Maki
3rd - Lisa Keskimaki

Howardsville Christian School,
Marcellus
1st - Tiffany Kuster
2nd - Mihret Craft
3rd - Matthew Kline

Hudsonville Christian Middle School,
Hudsonville
1st - Chad Lokker
2nd - Caitlin Sall
3rd - Meghan Schilthuis

IHM - St. Casimir Middle School,
Lansing
1st - Miranda Maher
2nd - Madison LaPerriere
3rd - Gavin Jager

Imlay City Christian School, Imlay City
1st - Jessica Knust
2nd - Abraham Grasaki
3rd - Wyatt Wilcox

Immaculate Conception Catholic School,
Ira
1st - Lauren Unruh
2nd - Taylor Currier
3rd - Mario Fusciardi

Immaculate Conception Ukrainian
Catholic Academy, Warren
1st - Zenon Lewyckij
2nd - Marta Zalivska
3rd - Joshua Cormier

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Grand Rapids
1st - Laura Brasseur
2nd - Carrie Cusack

Immanuel Lutheran School, Saginaw
1st - Keri Frahm
2nd - Shalina Aguilar
3rd - Sean Weiss

Immanuel Lutheran School, Bay City
1st - Evan Prevost
2nd - Andrew Kern
3rd - Sara Cojeen

Immanuel Lutheran School, Macomb
1st - Jocelyn Levin
2nd - Tyler Prisby
3rd - Ashton Coles

Immanuel St. James Lutheran School,
Grand Rapids
1st - Joshua Rozelle
2nd - Michael Johnson
3rd - April Hill

Iroquois Middle School, Macomb
1st - Austin Gillim
2nd - Lauren Valente
3rd - Danielle Zito

Jackson Catholic Middle School,
Jackson
1st - Cathy Matthews
2nd - Autumn McCrum
3rd - Madison McCullough

Jackson Christian Middle School,
Jackson
1st - Emily Gerweck
2nd - Alexa Griffis
3rd - Jordan Riedel

James R. Geisler Middler School,
Walled Lake
1st - Sydney San Juan
2nd - Audra Crawford
3rd - Morgan Taylor

Jenison Junior High School, Jenison
1st - Caleb Dyke
2nd - Gerrit Veldt

John E. Owens High School, Reading
1st - Taylor Stewart
2nd - Kyle Gardner
3rd - Erika Spieth

John Page Middle School,
Madison Heights
1st - Valerie Carney
2nd - Kimi Mier
3rd - Tristin Canada

John Paul II Catholic School,
Lincoln Park
1st - Halie Dominguez
2nd - David Thompson
3rd - Alex Dlugopolski

Juniata Christian School, Vassar
1st - Rebekah Graham
2nd - Kaelyn Green
3rd - Vanessa Gibbs

Kalamazoo Country Day School,
Kalamazoo
1st - Lauren Rankin
2nd - Isis Hughes-Mohney
3rd - Max Raphelson

Kelloggsville Middle School,
Grand Rapids
1st - Dalia Torres Leon
2nd - Jason Layne Stocking

Kent City Junior/Senior High School,
Kent City
1st - Shelby Nelson
2nd - Jordan VanWert
3rd - Bailey Armstrong

Kingsford Middle School, Kingsford
1st - Karina Marcell
2nd - Zoe Ketola

Kingston Community School, Kingston
1st - Kali Powell
2nd - Ashley Willbanks
3rd - Dalton Price

Kraft Meadows Middle School,
Caledonia
1st - Gabriella Lombardo
2nd - Cameron Peek
3rd - Sheena Shah

Laingsburg Christian School,
Laingsburg
1st - Kayla Wolf
2nd - Allison Cline
3rd - Kelsey Carter

Laingsburg Middle School, Laingsburg
1st - Olivia Hill
2nd - Katrina Granger
3rd - Tessah Sperry

Lake City Middle School, Lake City
1st - Jessilyn Helsel
2nd - Sadie Henneman
3rd - Lariaiah Schichtel

Lake Michigan Catholic Jr/Sr High
School, St. Joseph
1st - Jessica Russell
2nd - Ryan Stachowski
3rd - Kevin Collins

Laker Junior High School, Pigeon
1st - Karah Marker
2nd - Dylan Bedford
3rd - Larissa Miller

Lakeview Middle School, Lakeview
1st - Marcus Leach
2nd - Tony Seaborn
3rd - Elliott Christensen

Lakewood Middle School, Woodland
1st - Thomas Wernet
2nd - Emily Vander Ploeg
3rd - Philip Wernet

Lamont Christian School, Coopersville
1st - Andrew Storteboom
2nd - Miranda Brinks
3rd - Aubrie Hicks

L'Anse Creuse Middle School - South,
Harrison Township
1st - Amela Kekic
2nd - Kelsey Dersa-Carpenter

L'Anse Creuse Middle School East,
Chesterfield
1st - Logan Palm
2nd - Erik Rausch
3rd - Laurel Neitling

Lansing Christian School, Lansing
1st - Michaela Stock
2nd - Emma Steckelberg
3rd - Sarah Henley

Lawton Middle School, Lawton
1st - Jessa Leversee
2nd - Andrew Talmage
3rd - Jake McDowell

Legacy Christian School, Grand Rapids
1st - Holly Stebbins
2nd - Bradley Dixon
3rd - Sidney Blankespoor

Legg Middle School, Coldwater
1st - Taylor Jones
2nd - Allie VanStone
3rd - Megan Young

Lenawee Christian School, Adrian
1st - Garrett Clark
2nd - David Kelley
3rd - Julia Doan

Lincoln Middle School, Warren
1st - Andy Perez
2nd - Joclynn Nash
3rd - Alyssa Davis

Lincoln Middle School, Ypsilanti
1st - Maxwell Lange
2nd - Ashley Blackburn
3rd - Holly Tumbarello

Linden Grove Middle School,
Kalamazoo
1st - Kevin Le
2nd - Destine Price
3rd - Joud Momani

Litchfield Middle School, Litchfield
1st - Alex Collins
2nd - Blossom Monarach
3rd - Jonathan Staggs

Livingston Christian School, Pinckney
1st - Matthew Bindon
2nd - Paige Wimbrow
3rd - Nicole Jusino

Mackinaw City Public Schools,
Mackinaw City
1st - Paige LaHaie
2nd - Chelsey Closs
3rd - Hannah Flemming

Manistee Catholic Central School,
Manistee
1st - Marissa Peterson
2nd - Anna Buswinka
3rd - Mia Hogan

Manistique Middle School, Manistique
1st - Jodi Kleeman
2nd - Emily Bauman
3rd - Rachel Ryan

Mar Lee School, Marshall
1st - Kaelin Burrows
2nd - Autumn Hazel
3rd - Corlando Slatter

Marlette Middle School, Marlette
1st - Morgan Klein
2nd - Evy Dale
3rd - Hunter McGinnis

Marshall Middle School, Marshall
1st - Abbey Ufkes
2nd - Isabella Jeffers
3rd - Evan Curnow

Martin Junior High School, Martin
1st - Tiffany Wilkerson
2nd - Karlee Curry
3rd - Makalah Zeinstra

Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership
Academy, Grand Rapids
1st - Samuel Penalzoza
2nd - Mont-Ta'Naisha Webb
3rd - Shykela Perry

Mason Middle School, Mason
1st - Cameron Caron
2nd - Shay Oswald
3rd - Liam Bohl

McBain Rural Agricultural Schools,
McBain
1st - Summer Bartrand
2nd - Gabriell Hoaglund
3rd - Zachary Utech

Meads Mill Middle School, Northville
1st - Lauren Talby
2nd - Katherine Bederka
3rd - Ashley Weber

Mendon Middle School, Mendon
1st - Brandy DeLeeuw
2nd - Jordan VanOss
3rd - Shauna Warner

Menominee Catholic Central School,
Menominee
1st - Adam Sorensen
2nd - Dylan Perry

Merritt Academy, New Haven
1st - Alysa Nepper
2nd - Ryan Hargrove
3rd - Emily Madaus

Metro Charter Academy, Romulus
1st - Nailah Bush
2nd - Alexis Thomas

Michigan Islamic Academy, Ann Arbor
1st - Khadijah Muneera Oral
2nd - Zaynab Jamil
3rd - Noor Ghali

Middle School at Parkside, Jackson
1st - Erika Binroth
2nd - Lexi Dailey
3rd - Paris Mast

Midland Christian School, Midland

- 1st - Grantland Aultman
- 2nd - Christa VanDerhoof
- 3rd - Emily Gold

Most Holy Trinity School, Fowler

- 1st - Clayton Simon
- 2nd - Megan Conner
- 3rd - Kathy Smith

Mt. Morris Junior High School,

Mt. Morris

- 1st - Patricia Kennedy

Muskegon Catholic Central Middle School, Muskegon

- 1st - Madison Lewis
- 2nd - Ryan Eisenbarth
- 3rd - Jared Cloutier

Nellie B. Chisholm Middle School, Montague

- 1st - Madeline Mennenga
- 2nd - Chloe Scamehorn
- 3rd - Tyler Scott

New Bedford Academy, Lambertville

- 1st - Samantha Rothman
- 2nd - Elizabeth Porter
- 3rd - Makkenzie Layman

New Buffalo Middle School, New Buffalo

- 1st - Clayton Artz
- 2nd - Dalton McDonald
- 3rd - Mackenzie Williams

Noble Middle School, Detroit

- 1st - Gordon Griffin
- 2nd - Jana Goodwin
- 3rd - Rai'Miesha Autry

North Adams-Jerome Schools,

North Adams

- 1st - Andrew Moore
- 2nd - Gracie Cook
- 3rd - Jake Hart

North Branch Middle School,

North Branch

- 1st - Tara Ash
- 2nd - Lauren Haight
- 3rd - Jenna Youngert

North Muskegon Public Schools, North Muskegon

- 1st - Megan Rossiter
- 2nd - Olivia Witham
- 3rd - Joe Osborn

North Pointe Christian Middle School, Grand Rapids

- 1st - Jocelyn VanderKolk
- 2nd - Claire Waldecker
- 3rd - Levi Faber

North Rockford Middle School, Rockford

- 1st - Katy Mullen
- 2nd - Carly Behrendt
- 3rd - Isaac Younker

O.J. DeJonge Junior High, Ludington

- 1st - Josh Johnson
- 2nd - Jacob Lesinski
- 3rd - Mikayla Mesyar

Oakland Christian School, Auburn Hills

- 1st - Annie Sweet
- 2nd - Emma Curd
- 3rd - Mackenzie Lift

Olivet Middle School, Olivet

- 1st - Allie Kramer
- 2nd - Abigail Wietzke
- 3rd - Brendan Pugh

Otsego Christian Academy, Otsego

- 1st - Gavin Trudelle
- 2nd - Sam Viening
- 3rd - Nicole Kling

Otto Middle School, Lansing

- 1st - Doug Siedelberg
- 2nd - Ahmed Ahmed
- 3rd - Briana Rocha

Our Lady of Lake Huron School, Harbor Beach

- 1st - Danin Tenerife
- 2nd - Paige Woody
- 3rd - Abbie Hentschl

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School, Farmington

- 1st - Conner Reynolds
- 2nd - Lindsay Crawley
- 3rd - Andrew Campbell

Our Lady of the Lakes Middle School, Waterford

- 1st - Quentin Boyer
- 2nd - Michael Mrygas
- 3rd - Marissa Gallmeyer

Our Lady of Victory School, Northville

- 1st - Mercedes Hein
- 2nd - Caitlin Somerville
- 3rd - Johnny Dorigo Jones

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School, Beverly Hills

- 1st - Matthew Busuito
- 2nd - Patrick Dunstone
- 3rd - Kyle Kabot

Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Grosse Pointe Woods

- 1st - Lauren Leshia
- 2nd - Erin Armbruster
- 3rd - Sydnie Allor

Our Savior Lutheran, Lansing

- 1st - Mitchell Huffman
- 2nd - Zoe Glass
- 3rd - Trevor Mohnke

Our Savior Lutheran School, Grand Rapids

- 1st - Drew VandenToorn
- 2nd - Alex Hane
- 3rd - Marcus Malling

Owendale-Gagetown Area School, Owendale

- 1st - Tyler Roemer
- 2nd - Jacob Wright

Owosso Christian School, Owosso

- 1st - Claire Moore

Owosso Middle School, Owosso

- 1st - Carmen Chamberlain
- 2nd - Hannah Zwolensky
- 3rd - Desiree James

Oxford Middle School, Oxford

- 1st - Emily Sovis
- 2nd - Shelby Mabry
- 3rd - Madison Wisniewski

Parchment Middle School, Parchment
1st - Samantha Searles
2nd - Ashley Randall
3rd - Erich Miner

Parker Middle School, Howell
1st - Amilija Petrulis
2nd - Kathleen Isenegger
3rd - Lindsay Fisher

Parkway Christian School,
Sterling Heights
1st - Jordin Fowler
2nd - Ben Turner
3rd - Grace Stewart

Peace Lutheran School, Saginaw
1st - Ashley Krenz
2nd - Mollie Munroe
3rd - Annaleigh Scott

Perry Middle School, Perry
1st - Sara Hendzel
2nd - Kelsi Larsen-Allen
3rd - Emily Fisher

Petoskey Middle School, Petoskey
1st - Lily Armstrong
2nd - Taylor Brown
3rd - Jenny Downey

Pickford Middle School, Pickford
1st - Mary Tinker
2nd - Sarah Halsey
3rd - Ian Firack

Potterville Public Schools, Potterville
1st - Emily Cleeves
2nd - Raquell Rivera
3rd - Taryn Hayes

Powell Middle School, Washington
1st - Anna Rowley
2nd - Brianna Kulaga
3rd - Jasmine Hudgins

Project Excel, Ecorse
1st - Jayla Giles
2nd - Darryl Canty
3rd - Montreal Clary

Reese Middle School, Reese
1st - Caitlin Schoenow
2nd - Jordan Sayan
3rd - Alesha Howden

Riley Street Middle School, Hudsonville
1st - Kaya Tripp
2nd - Alexis Gillion
3rd - Riley Street Middle School

Ring Lardner Junior High School, Niles
1st - Zachary Plummer
2nd - Jake Brawley
3rd - Larry Kamb

Riverside Academy West, Dearborn
1st - Linda Salami
2nd - Mohammad Eddir
3rd - Zahra'a Hussain

Rogers City Area Schools, Rogers City
1st - Desiree Smillie
2nd - Brittany Bade
3rd - Ally Streich

Romeo Middle School, Romeo
1st - Jeff Thoel
2nd - Elizabeth Berishaj
3rd - Romeo Middle School

Sacred Heart Academy, Mt. Pleasant
1st - Hannah Krepostman
2nd - Charles Evans
3rd - Kylie McGinnis

Sacred Heart of Jesus School,
Grand Rapids
1st - Rebecca Meier
2nd - Daniel Herweyer
3rd - Nick Overholt

Sacred Heart School, Dearborn
1st - Henry Bierman
2nd - Haley Divis
3rd - Julia Kirby

Saint Thecla Elementary School,
Clinton Township
1st - Taylor Kaminski
2nd - Octavia Renke
3rd - Sammi Stehlin

Salem Lutheran School, Owosso
1st - Kendra Matthies
2nd - Kenzie Turk
3rd - Alicia Hippert

Saline Middle School, Saline
1st - Kaili Dence
2nd - Josiah Davis
3rd - Collin Cavanaugh

Sandusky Middle School, Sandusky
1st - Autumn Rockefeller
2nd - Gina Sowa-Pratt
3rd - Alexis Johnson

Saranac Jr/Sr High School, Saranac
1st - Gavin Blundy
2nd - Julianna Hawkins
3rd - Josie Manion

Sault Area Middle School,
Sault Ste. Marie
1st - Madison Mayer
2nd - Daniel Frechette
3rd - Sarah Kunze

Schoolcraft Middle School, Schoolcraft
1st - Hannah Huysken
2nd - Justin Braford
3rd - Megan Giese

Seitz Middle School, Riverview
1st - Claire Hunter
2nd - John Clemente
3rd - Michayla Acton

Seneca Middle School, Macomb
1st - Joshua Klobuchar
2nd - Noah Kalil
3rd - Brad Zarzycki

Smith Middle School, Troy
1st - Ashley Zhang
2nd - Eva Lisowski
3rd - Xinchu Tian

Southfield Christian School, Southfield
1st - Nathan Lazor
2nd - Maurgan Lee
3rd - Raven Smith

Spiritus Sanctus Academy, Plymouth
1st - Ugne Orentas
2nd - Camden Burggrabe
3rd - Veda Lee

Spring Lake Junior High School,
Spring Lake
1st - Sid Sabo
2nd - Merelise Antekeier
3rd - Kelvin Baker

Springport Middle School, Springport
1st - Taylor Whitmore
2nd - Blythe Carrier-Hagerman
3rd - Audrey Siefert

SS Peter and Paul School, Ionia
1st - Heather Simon
2nd - Camryn Klein
3rd - Jayden Gerrity

St. Anthony of Padua School,
Grand Rapids
1st - Dylan Launiere
2nd - Evan Green
3rd - Paige Stratton

St. Bartholomew School, Detroit
1st - Ejiro Enajero
2nd - Danielle Kendred
3rd - Ashlyn Delaney

St. Brigid Catholic School, Midland
1st - Jose Semidei
2nd - Brendan Sommer
3rd - St. Brigid Catholic School

St. Charles School, Newport
1st - Mitchell Masserant
2nd - Megan Gennoe
3rd - Hannah Scott

St. Charles School, Greenville
1st - Hannah Crittenden
2nd - Kimmie Thomas
3rd - Brooke Jenks

St. Clare of Montefalco School,
Grosse Pointe Park
1st - Kendall Means
2nd - Morgan Williams
3rd - Arianna Barnes

St. Damian Elementary School,
Westland
1st - Molly Pummill
2nd - Gabrielle Giangrande
3rd - Vanesa Skocelas

St. Elizabeth Area Catholic School,
Reese
1st - Mark Fritzler
2nd - Erin Boensch
3rd - Jill Barber

St. Gerard School, Lansing
1st - Nate Brickner
2nd - Miriam Ross
3rd - Katie Simon

St. Germaine Catholic School,
Saint Clair Shores
1st - Brandon Thomas
2nd - Colin Clark
3rd - Carlye Johnson

St. Hugo of the Hills School,
Bloomfield Hills
1st - Michaela Elliott
2nd - Erica Schwegman
3rd - Preston Pilat

St. Isaac Jogues School,
St. Clair Shores
1st - Savanna Lockett
2nd - Alexis Nowowiecki
3rd - Kayla Selbmann

St. Joan of Arc School, St. Clair Shores
1st - Nicole Tremonti
2nd - Mayme Philbrick
3rd - Kolbie Wojno

St. John Lutheran School, Fraser
1st - Megan Stidwill
2nd - Paige Robinson
3rd - Miranda Dudek

St. John Lutheran School, Rochester
1st - Taesha Tatum
2nd - Andrea Abraham
3rd - Abbey Meissner

St. John Lutheran School, Rogers City
1st - Megan Brege
2nd - Tanner Irwin
3rd - St. John Lutheran School

St. John Lutheran School, Bay City
1st - Nate Englehardt
2nd - Lexi Winiecke
3rd - Hayden Malesky

St. John the Baptist School, Monroe
1st - Aurora Davidson
2nd - Justin Carrabino
3rd - Payton Moore

St. John Vianney Catholic School, Flint
1st - Hannah Rahman
2nd - Elli Sekelsky
3rd - Ronan Moynihan

St. John's Lutheran School,
New Boston
1st - Michelle Fincher
2nd - Rebekah Anderson
3rd - Erin Murphy

St. John's Lutheran School, Port Hope
1st - Connor Kowwaleski

St. John's Lutheran School, Westland
1st - Zachary Villanueva
2nd - Molly Brown
3rd - Jeremiah Stockdale

St. John's Lutheran School, Bay City
1st - Natalie Nitschmann
2nd - Megan Kibbe
3rd - Zach Schaaf

St. Joseph School, Lake Orion
1st - Ricky Johnson
2nd - Molly Galvin
3rd - Abby Hibbler

St. Joseph School, Pewamo
1st - Alyssa Nurenberg
2nd - Savannah Klein
3rd - Hannah Thelen

St. Joseph School, Battle Creek
1st - Kellyn McKnight
2nd - Emily Forche
3rd - Andres Campos

St. Joseph School, West Branch
1st - Brenna Zettel
2nd - Mary Murdock
3rd - James Rogers

St. Lawrence School, Utica
1st - Adam McNeil
2nd - Alexander Ivanovic
3rd - Hannah Gianfermi

St. Lorenz Lutheran School,
Frankenmuth
1st - Joshua Haubenstricker
2nd - Bryce Reinert
3rd - Luke Pendleton

St. Luke Lutheran School,
Clinton Township
1st - Emily Henningsen
2nd - Chelsea Yamin
3rd - Robert Lindsay

St. Margaret School, Otsego
1st - Katie Voisard
2nd - Nick Meszaros
3rd - Delaney Bush

St. Martha Catholic School, Okemos
1st - Matthew Phelps
2nd - Lizzie Hall
3rd - Chino Ekwueme

St. Mary / McCormick Catholic
Academy, Port Huron
1st - Michael Wentzel
2nd - Calista Chaltron
3rd - Grace Garcia

St. Mary Cathedral School, Gaylord
1st - Meredith Mason
2nd - Levi Milan
3rd - Connor Reppuhn

St. Mary Catholic School, Wayne
1st - Rebecca Miller
2nd - Haley Harris
3rd - Emma Vincent

St. Mary Catholic School, Pinckney
1st - Jessica Fett
2nd - Koryn Wilenius
3rd - Taylor Zdanowski

St. Mary Catholic School, Rockwood
1st - Peyton Szczechowski
2nd - Kyle Slatten
3rd - Maggie Piesz

St. Mary Elementary School, Royal Oak
1st - Lola Erfourth
2nd - Matt Burr
3rd - Jillian Berry

St. Mary School, Mt. Clemens
1st - Hannah Sluschewski
2nd - John Day
3rd - Sara Femminieo

St. Mary School, Spring Lake
1st - Christian Ostrowski
2nd - Saebryn Peel
3rd - Erin Ladd

St. Mary's Catholic School, St. Clair
1st - Faith Gwozdz
2nd - Madeline Hansen
3rd - Hannah Plotzke

St. Mary's Elementary School,
Mt. Morris
1st - Alli Allis
2nd - Olivia Korhonen

St. Matthew Lutheran School,
Walled Lake
1st - Logan Manning
2nd - Marcella Saunders
3rd - Sara Trojanowski

St. Michael Lutheran School, Richville
1st - Macy Zwerk
2nd - Phillip Kern
3rd - Collin Bierlein

St. Michael Lutheran School, Wayne
1st - Olivia Ray
2nd - Taylor Vacca
3rd - Hannah Bavol

St. Monica Catholic School, Kalamazoo
1st - Molly Rider
2nd - Eliana Kozal
3rd - Baylee Hewitt

St. Patrick School, Carleton
1st - John McGrath
2nd - Madeline Fogle
3rd - Amanda Grinn

St. Patrick School, Ada
1st - Olivia Richmond
2nd - Michael Trupke
3rd - Elizabeth Pniewski

St. Patrick School, Brighton
1st - Logan Freismuth
2nd - Emily Sanders
3rd - John Herzog

St. Paul Catholic Elementary School,
Grosse Pointe Farms
1st - Julia Fox
2nd - Ashley Brieden
3rd - Jonathan Theros

St. Paul Catholic School, Owosso
1st - Erin Riley
2nd - Valentina Larrivey
3rd - Chase Mallory

St. Paul Lutheran School, Millington
1st - Kara Blue
2nd - Shane Brandle
3rd - Breanna N. Michael

St. Paul Lutheran School, Stevensville
1st - Jeremy Barbott
2nd - Lucy Bartz
3rd - Rochelle Walker

St. Paul's Lutheran School, Saginaw
1st - Mitchell Baumgartner
2nd - Sara Suchodolski
3rd - Alexandria Olvera

St. Paul's Lutheran School, Northville
1st - Lauren Tischler
2nd - Emily Fairbairn

St. Peter Lutheran School, Eastpointe
1st - Daniel Brunell
2nd - Jack Merlo
3rd - Noah Eschmann

St. Peter Lutheran School, Macomb
1st - Justin Bensley
2nd - Anju Thomas
3rd - Kyle Mack

St. Peter Lutheran School, Hemlock
1st - Madison Smith
2nd - Elizabeth Ross
3rd - Christopher Ross

St. Peter's Lutheran School, Richmond
1st - Carly Ballard
2nd - Katherine Davis
3rd - Natasha Kechnie

St. Peter's Lutheran School, Plymouth
1st - Bryan Williams
2nd - Andrew Schroeder
3rd - Lauren Manor

St. Peter's Lutheran School, Big Rapids
1st - Mark Wissink
2nd - Gwendolyn Graham
3rd - Luke VanderHill

St. Pius X Catholic School, Flint
1st - Wolfgang Ruth
2nd - Anthony Chammas
3rd - Alex Kintner

St. Pius X School, Southgate
1st - Michael Surowiak
2nd - Josh Blaszcak
3rd - Joanna Gerberding

St. Raphael School, Garden City

- 1st - Noah Gregg
- 2nd - Alexis Ardinger
- 3rd - Caitlin Lupanoff

St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic School,
Flushing

- 1st - Dorothy Dollinger
- 2nd - Carlie Mattar
- 3rd - Ian Fox

St. Robert Bellarmine School, Redford

- 1st - Kaitlyn Brown
- 2nd - Brona Maloney
- 3rd - Jackie Daily

St. Sebastian School, Dearborn Heights

- 1st - Natalie Beltowski
- 2nd - Ian McKeever
- 3rd - Dakota Fitch

St. Stanislaus School, Dorr

- 1st - Shawn Marschall
- 2nd - Jonah Oman
- 3rd - Lauren Myers

St. Stephen Catholic School,
East Grand Rapids

- 1st - Gresham Olson
- 2nd - Ethan Sullivan
- 3rd - Taylor LaBine

St. Stephen Lutheran School, Waterford

- 1st - Savannah Spring
- 2nd - Erik Charen
- 3rd - Laura Hohnstadt

St. Stephen School, New Boston

- 1st - Alyssa Bergmooser
- 2nd - Allie Fluent

St. Thomas Aquinas School, Saginaw

- 1st - Sierra Wellman
- 2nd - Caroline Collins
- 3rd - Julia Card

St. Thomas the Apostle School,
Grand Rapids

- 1st - Abby Den Braber
- 2nd - Emily Mauren
- 3rd - Riley Schliem

St. Valentine School, Redford

- 1st - Marie Williamson
- 2nd - Brendan Sanders
- 3rd - Avery Zimmerman

St. William Catholic School,
Walled Lake

- 1st - Victoria Ottinger
- 2nd - Ben Vitek
- 3rd - Alexis Kwasniewicz

Standish-Sterling Junior High, Standish

- 1st - Grace Bowerson

Sturgis Middle School, Sturgis

- 1st - Emily Condon
- 2nd - Daniel Steele
- 3rd - Morgan Pueschel

Swan Valley Middle School, Saginaw

- 1st - Noelle Champagne
- 2nd - Madison Krieger
- 3rd - Joe Moskal

T.S. Nurnberger Middle School,
St. Louis

- 1st - Hunter Cannefax
- 2nd - Summer Salgado
- 3rd - Evelyn Bradley

Tekonsha Middle School, Tekonsha

- 1st - Everett Lewis
- 2nd - Jazmen Ulleg
- 3rd - Margaret Runyon

The Midland Academy, Midland

- 1st - Malorie Bovee
- 2nd - Chloe Kindy
- 3rd - Ethan Jodoin

Thompson Middle School, Southfield

- 1st - Rachel Walker
- 2nd - Ezana Dejene
- 3rd - Carlena Toombs

Timberland Charter Academy,
Muskegon

- 1st - TaLaunda Robinson-Washington
- 2nd - Shamara Tumblin
- 3rd - Anthony Garcia

Traverse City Christian School,
Traverse City

- 1st - Olenka Alekseyenko
- 2nd - Clary Walker
- 3rd - Grant Maurer

Traverse City East Junior High School,
Traverse City

- 1st - Allison Costello
- 2nd - Patrick Galante
- 3rd - Kelly Peregrine

Traverse City West Junior High School,
Traverse City

- 1st - Claire Denton
- 2nd - Allyne Maxwell
- 3rd - Megan Griffin

Trillium Academy, Taylor

- 1st - Breashia Brunelle
- 2nd - Zia Williams
- 3rd - Lynnae Hudson

Trinity Lutheran School,
Clinton Township

- 1st - Hannah Carson
- 2nd - Jeffrey Davis
- 3rd - Danielle Uppleger

Trinity Lutheran School, Monroe

- 1st - Timothy Grove
- 2nd - Sarah Holtzen
- 3rd - Dana Pasiwk

Trinity Lutheran School, Reese

- 1st - Cody Brown
- 2nd - Michael Bittner
- 3rd - Chris Ratajczak

Trinity Lutheran School, St. Joseph

- 1st - Karah Meier
- 2nd - Samantha Rock
- 3rd - Leah Wojahn

Trinity Lutheran School, Bay City

- 1st - Morgan Hill
- 2nd - Zach Garwick
- 3rd - Jacob Foret

Trinity Lutheran School, Jackson

- 1st - Lacey Ebersole
- 2nd - Kayla McVey
- 3rd - Jonah Genthner

Trinity Lutheran School, Berrien Springs

- 1st - Amanda Forraht
- 2nd - Emily Forraht
- 3rd - Joshua Siewert

Trinity Lutheran School, Utica
1st - Matthew Smith
2nd - Sara Hayes
3rd - Austin Levering

Ugly Junior High School, Ugly
1st - Alex Camp
2nd - Trevor Dropiewski
3rd - Jennifer Gentner

Unionville-Sebewaing Area Middle School,
Sebewaing
1st - Katie Jones
2nd - Olivia Wanless
3rd - Molly Conden

University of Detroit Jesuit Acad & HS,
Detroit
1st - Ryan Byrd
2nd - Mac Bellovich
3rd - Owen Faust

Upton Middle School, St. Joseph
1st - Eve Berndt
2nd - Mikhayla Dunaj
3rd - Kurt Egelhaaf

Vanderbilt Area School, Vanderbilt
1st - Sierra Williams
2nd - Valorie Peters
3rd - Brett Smith

Verona Mills Elementary School,
Bad Axe
1st - Isabel Humphrey-Phillips
2nd - Danielle Booms
3rd - Tiffany Jawarski

Vestaburg Middle School, Vestaburg
1st - Cammi Williamson
2nd - Nathan Fierke
3rd - Heather Fishburn

Waldron Area Schools, Waldron
1st - Alicia Roney
2nd - Autumn Bailey
3rd - Cassie Wines

Waldron Middle School, Fowler
1st - Kalli Feldpausch
2nd - Jordyn Rademacher
3rd - Nicholas Schmitt

Walnut Creek Middle School,
West Bloomfield
1st - Calista Brunett
2nd - Emma Pratt
3rd - Justin Radin

Walton Charter Academy, Pontiac
1st - Isabella Garces
2nd - Sofia Gamez
3rd - Isaias Cruz

Warren Woods Christian School,
Warren
1st - Hannah Davenport
2nd - Aarron Boleyn
3rd - Nick Fecteau

Warren Woods Middle School, Warren
1st - Sydney Kruse
2nd - Michelle Westrick
3rd - Samantha Terrill

Washtenaw Christian Academy, Saline
1st - McKenzie Denton
2nd - Savannah Moore
3rd - Amber Shelby

Waverly Middle School, Lansing
1st - Grace Jansen
2nd - Chloe Sanford
3rd - Julian Melton

Wayland Union Middle School, Wayland
1st - Riley Shepherd
2nd - Jacob Henderson
3rd - Briana Cronk

West Hills Middle School,
West Bloomfield
1st - Mandy Lu
2nd - Claudia Cooper
3rd - Amelia Klass

West Intermediate School, Mt. Pleasant
1st - Michael Roehmer
2nd - Gabriella Herren
3rd - Kaleb Osbeck

West Middle School, Plymouth
1st - Nick Harwell
2nd - Karissa McCarthy
3rd - Charlotte Clark

West Village Academy, Dearborn
1st - Holly Bryant
2nd - Kaylynn Jackson
3rd - Tonoya Robinson

Westside Christian Academy, Redford
1st - Mishal Washington
2nd - Yvonne Hines
3rd - Breeann Hall

Whitefish Township Middle School,
Paradise
1st - Hunter Elenbaas

Whitmore Lake Middle School,
Whitmore Lake
1st - McLaine Schofield
2nd - Hailey Johnson
3rd - Taylor Davies

Wilson SDA Junior Academy, Wilson
1st - Shannon DeGrave
2nd - Noah Howell
3rd - Morgan Priser

Wolfe Middle School, Center Line
1st - Houssen Yang
2nd - Kishwar Basith
3rd - Lauren Liles

Woodland School, Traverse City
1st - Cooper Boyden
2nd - Wyatt Miller
3rd - Dawson Rabb

Wyandot Middle School, Clinton
Township
1st - Sarah Battiston
2nd - Elena Lafata
3rd - Ryan Lorenger

Zion Christian School, Byron Center
1st - Nicholas Kuyers
2nd - Anna Carbone
3rd - Isaac Postma

Zion Lutheran School, Bay City
1st - Hannah Gradowski
2nd - Katie Rusch
3rd - Rachael Poppe

Zion Lutheran School, Harbor Beach
1st - Madison Kowaleski

Zion Lutheran School, Auburn
1st - Hannah Kregel
2nd - Jazlyn DiMattia-Turmell
3rd - Jarrett Gray

The background of the entire page is a low-angle shot of the American flag waving in the wind. The sun is shining brightly from behind the stars, creating a lens flare effect. The colors of the flag are vibrant, with the blue field of stars at the top and the red and white stripes at the bottom.

**FBI FARM BUREAU
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