

*My Personal*

**MICHIGAN**

**HERO**



Essays by the 10 statewide winners of the 50th anniversary contest year, 2018-'19

**AND**

A complete list of all participating schools and their local winners

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America & Me  
Essay Contest



*For Michigan 8th Grade Students*



# A TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN HEROES

For 50 years now, Michigan students have participated in the America & Me Essay Contest. Since 1968, they have skillfully written about their roles in America's future and, more recently, "My Personal Michigan Hero." America & Me showcases their talents and creativity.

This booklet highlights the 410 schools and 13,748 students that participated in the 2018-'19 contest. Inside these pages you'll find reprints of the ten best essays in the state, a list of all of the schools that participated, and the names of each local student winner from their respective schools.

We were proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of America & Me and the contributions of this year's finalists.

The students listed within, as well as the thousands around the state who submitted essays, did a tremendous job and provided a valuable service. They reminded us that there are heroes among us who make a difference every day.

Farm Bureau Insurance proudly sponsors America & Me because it honors Michigan heroes and the efforts of the students who wrote about them. This booklet serves as tribute to both. I hope you enjoy it.

Congratulations to everyone—teachers, parents, students and Farm Bureau Insurance agents—who participated this past year.



**Don Simon**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan



# TOP ESSAYS

From the 2018-'19  
America & Me Essay Contest

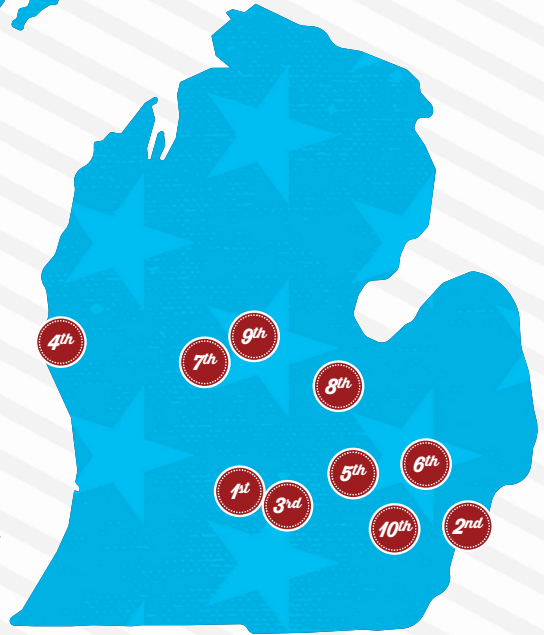


*Highlights*

# 2018-'19 AMERICA & ME ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



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**FIRST PLACE: Alexis Davenport**

Island City Academy, Eaton Rapids  
*Agent Sponsor: Jim McDaniels*

**SECOND PLACE: Debarati Roy**

Hamtramck Charter Academy, Hamtramck

**THIRD PLACE: Kailyn Friese**

Leslie Middle School, Leslie

**FOURTH PLACE: Maisie Schultz**

Nellie B. Chisholm Middle School, Montague  
*Agent Sponsor: Rachel Levine*

**FIFTH PLACE: Audrey Davey**

Parker Middle School, Howell  
*Agent Sponsor: Joe Gabriele*

**SIXTH PLACE: J. Holt Ware, Jr.**

Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School, Waterford  
*Agent Sponsor: Steve Robak*

**SEVENTH PLACE: Sadie Quackenbush**

Montabella Jr./Sr. High School, Blanchard

**EIGHTH PLACE: Dominick Hernandez**

Chesaning Middle School, Chesaning  
*Agent Sponsor: Eric Zyber*

**NINTH PLACE: Rylee Sisco**

Beal City Public School, Mt. Pleasant  
*Agent Sponsor: Krista Brickner*

**TENTH PLACE: Sumedha Sethi**

Canton Charter Academy, Canton

1<sup>st</sup>



## MY PERSONAL MICHIGAN HERO

Being the only kid in school who stutters is hard. Having five speech therapists, three bullies, and even three schools throughout my lifetime just adds to the toughness that is life. I struggled with insecurities with my stuttering and had low confidence at times. I felt so alone being the only one in school who felt “different.” Having a condition that makes your voice heard in a different way than others just makes you not want to speak at all. I’ve experienced way too many “Spit it out’s!” “Why do you talk like that?” “You aren’t alone. I stuttered when I was a kid, also.” It was hard for people to understand about why I felt so alone. Luckily, there was someone who didn’t make me feel alone.

Some people think what makes a hero is some tall, strong, mighty figure. But mine is a five-foot-one woman named Julie Raynor. She has not only helped me, but even more kids who have speech impediments, too. She is a co-founder of the camp I go to called Camp Shout Out, a camp for stutterers like me, in Muskegon, Michigan. When I first heard of Camp Shout Out, I fell in love with the idea. The idea that kids my age come to hang out, talk about their speech impediments and insecurities (and ways to overcome them) made me overjoyed, yet nervous. I was anxious because I heard that everyone there was very close and were best friends. But, once I got familiar with everyone, I quickly realized I should not be nervous. These people would be my friends for life. Not only has camp given me best friends, it has given me five key ideas to live by: to be attentive, assertive, confident, effective and proactive. Julie has not only empowered me with confidence, but she has also helped other campers gain confidence.

I could say that Julie has built my confidence. She had established a program for speech therapists and graduate students. They come to study and help the campers with their speech impediments. During the three years I have been going to camp, I can say that they both had helped tremendously with my courage to speak.

The dictionary definition of a hero is a person who is admired for courage and outstanding achievements. Because of her dedication to this camp, she fits right into the definition. She has won awards from MEA Exceptional Person in Community Service, Michigan Lottery Excellence in Education, and National Life Group LifeChanger of the Year.

To sum it up, I love seeing Julie and everyone at camp. I get filled with confidence. It is a remarkable feeling knowing that there are other people out there who know what I have been going through. I’d like to not only thank Julie, but all of the people who get together for a week in the beginning of August to become the best version that we can be. The only reason it’s possible is because of My Michigan Hero, Julie Raynor.



## MY SUN

The world is unbelievably vast. The U.S. alone has 352.7 million people and then some. Over the years, I've realized that I'm only a tiny speck in a sea of dust, irrelevant. Clearly, I've never been an optimist. I typically turn to the bad side of my problems and bask in gloom. There's only been one person in my life who's always made me smile, even at my worst points. That person is my older cousin, Sourav Roy. Sourav, whom I call Dadamoni, is by far the happiest person I know—even though his life is probably one of the hardest.

Being born with Down syndrome is hard, but I've never seen Dadamoni let people's judgmental stares ruin his day. I recall going to a gathering and seeing a group of adults talk about him disparagingly. They said, "Why did God make him like that?" and "How does his family deal with it?" I wanted to ask them why they aren't willing to see him for who he is. Why they cared so much about a life that isn't their own. As tears welled in my eyes, I saw Dadamoni embrace them with a hug. It's his way of showing love to the world, even if the world doesn't love him back. Through everything that's happened, he will always do what he does best—stay positive. He has a place in my heart that no one else can fill, a place made for him.

One cursed day in 2011, Dadamoni was taken to a doctor because he had a persistent cough. We all thought it was going to be a normal appointment, but what was to await us was much worse. That very day, Dadamoni was diagnosed with Burkitt Lymphoma, the fastest spreading human tumor, and was rushed to a hospital. He immediately underwent chemotherapy for over a year and lost most of his hair.

That year was the hardest year of my family's life. All of us were affected by it. And even though I was a small child, I understood the danger Dadamoni faced and was terrified. Seeing the tears in his father's eyes and the fear in mine, Dadamoni comforted us. Even lying on a hospital bed with an IV plugged into his arm, he turned to us and shined his big smile and gave us a thumbs up—as if to prove to the world again that no one could bring him down.

I can't imagine a world without Dadamoni in it. He allows me to see the world in more vibrancy, by uncovering the beauty in both people and life. He completes my family, and I love him for it. He is priceless and irreplaceable. Dadamoni is my ray of sunshine, even on the cloudiest of days. Dadamoni makes me feel like I'm more than just dust. He makes everyone he meets feel like they are more than just another person—he makes them feel loved. Dadamoni is, forever and always, my hero.



## MY AMERICAN HERO

My dad, my hero, is my best friend who will be here from the beginning to the end. A dad is a protector, provider, Mr. Fix It and a little girl's world. My dad, Patrick Friese, learned and lived through several life lessons. After being raised by people he believed were his parents, he learned that they were his babysitters. His parents left him and never came back. His real mother and father never gave him the opportunity to settle and build stability. In my dad's early teen years, he decided that he wanted more out of life. He was determined to become a better person than the situation he was raised in.

Life has never been perfect for dad, but his ability to adapt to whatever situation he is handed is unbelievable. This man has raised four girls and one boy on his own for five years, ages 9 to 21 years old. He's a pro at putting in a ponytail and he knows how to say the right things when times are tough.

My dad built himself from a child who had to learn how to lead his own way, and protect himself, into an adult who models working hard and testing limits. Mixed martial arts is my dad's passion. Hitting the gym and preparing to step into the ring is my dad's release. I have watched my dad repeatedly prepare to fight, test his endurance, and test his strength while being dedicated to his team, opponents, and coaches.

My mom and dad were together for 11 years before my mother unexpectedly passed away. It takes a hero to pick up and continue with life when you feel like the weight of the world is on your shoulders. My dad has supported us on every trying day and every good day we have had since my mother passed. My dad has taught us as a family that love can take us anywhere. I know there are days that my dad would like to crumble. We push him to every limit that a parent can be pushed, but we know he is a man that would lay his life down for us.

Every little girl dreams of their dad being a hero. I don't just dream it, I know it. Do we have a bond due to our unexpected circumstances with my mom? Maybe, but my dad is my best friend. I tell him everything, even things I am sure he probably doesn't want to know! My dad fills both the role of my mom and dad, creating an unbreakable bond.

There are many reasons my dad is my hero. Not that I want life to quickly pass by, but I can't wait until my hero is teaching me to drive, sending me off to prom, dropping me off to college, and walking me down the aisle. I am lucky to have my dad, my hero, and my best friend from now until the end.



## FROM OUR FARM TO YOURS

In a world where things seem to go wrong and natural disasters strike frequently, there are always people working to make a positive difference. When lightning strikes a spark and fires spread uncontrollably, animals are displaced, crops burn, and agricultural farmers' annual profit rates plummet substantially. Farmers struggle to make a living and some face the risk of bankruptcy. Normally, after wildfires, people think about the homes and lives lost, but not commonly about how one lightning strike could be a life changing bolt of electricity.

When a wildfire causes chaos in the continental United States, my cousin Todd, the owner of Brink Show Cattle, knows how one natural disaster can change the future for farmers. Todd and many men, women, and families who are part of Todd's agriculture community take hay bales, barbed wire, grain, milk replacers, fence posts, and other necessities to areas affected by wildfire destruction. Todd organized a large convoy in April 2017, with help from a Sand Lake farmer. This convoy consisted of 23 rigs and additional trucks pulling flatbed trailers.

Todd doesn't do this alone. The Allegan County Fair in Michigan raised over \$5,000 to cover fuel expenses for Todd and his crew. The Hopkins Future Farmers of America raised over \$5,000 for the convoy's journey to Oklahoma and Kansas. The farming supplies helped farmers who were victims of a wildfire that spread over 1.5 million acres.

Todd is my Michigan hero. His heart is overflowing with selfless acts for people he doesn't personally know, and he allows others to be a part of his experience. I aspire to be like him. While in planning he told few of his plans, but never once asked for help or money. Todd rarely tells about his adventures. This isn't because he is ashamed, but for fear he would come off as arrogant. His heart is destined to help others no matter what his position in life is. Even though in the year 2017, he lost a large amount of his animals, meaning he also lost money, he organized a trip to help others—for the good of others and not himself.

The Grand Haven Tribune wrote a news report about the convoy. In the article, a driver for the organization, Kelly Tucker, stated Todd's mission, "Our hope is that the goods we are delivering will help ease their burden for now and give them a boost to start again."

Todd and his drivers also wanted people to understand, "It's not about us...it's about those farmers and ranchers in Kansas and Oklahoma. This is such a small part of what we can do to help. This agriculture community is such a tight-knit community. When something happens, we join together." The West Michigan convoy was an act of pure love. Giving what they had and using their skills to help others. I believe the world could be filled with many more people like this, if we all considered others' situations.





## MY PERSONAL MICHIGAN HERO

Ascending the ladder, Amy fastened the rope around her waist, pulling it snug. She surveyed the barn floor below, though sprinkled with hay, it was unforgiving and hard. Then she turned to her brother and nodded. With a push, sure and true, she was soaring. But to fly like a bird, airborne on a summer breeze! Her hair fluttered, and the rafters above her creaked. With a rush of exhilaration she sang out. But her flight was short lived, for soon enough her boots hit the platform and she collapsed into a pile of crisp hay, breathing in heavily the sweet scent. Now there was only the matter of getting back to the other side.

This is but one of the many fantastic stories told to me by My Personal Michigan Hero, as my class and I gathered around her and perched. For many minutes we would sit, entranced as she told us of golden memories from a childhood gone by, but still lived on in the heart. My Michigan Hero is one of many, but is undoubtedly the most dear to my heart. Mrs. Bell, my third grade teacher, was the person who truly helped me develop my deep passion for literature. I am confident that there are few things in this world more cherished by Mrs. Bell than her stories, and her love for them helped us learn to love them equally. It is true that there are many incredible teachers, or whom to draw inspiration from, but in my eyes, Mrs. Bell is the most glorious of all.

Upon recalling memories of my beloved teacher, the first to come to mind is one that not many can share; an adventure to be certain. Mrs. Bell held Rosie the Riveter in high regard, so it was thrilling when she invited me to accompany her to a rally in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Our purpose? To save the Willow Run World War II Bomber Plant. That day we had a experience of a lifetime, making a Guinness World record as the largest ever congregation of women dressed as Rosie, a whopping 3,734 ladies. In among our company of thousands of jolly women, decked in blue jumpers, were 57 genuine World War II Rosie's.

What a time we had! I recollect that as we toured original World War II bombers, chatted, and purchased small treasures, many smiling faces would delay us briefly, asking for a photograph taken, or to take one with us. I do not lie when I say I have never since seen so many lovely, amiable people in one place, and I found I made many acquaintances. Soon after the rally concluded, we left for a nearby Costco, to parade about in our costumes and enjoy a warm meal. After that day, exploring an intriguing new side of life, and meeting new people, all while beside my favorite teacher, Mrs. Bell, I had a definite Michigan Hero, and an experience I will never forget.



## MY PERSONAL MICHIGAN HERO

When I look up in the sky at the shape of the clouds or the stars shining bright, I see those that have passed looking down on me. Alice Sophie (Gluchowski) Stieber born February 23, 1917, is not here with us anymore. She went to her glory on April 6, 2018 at 101 years young here in Michigan. My great grandma was the perfect example of how to live life in a way that impacted, as well as influenced those around her. She was completely devout, compassionate, crazy about working hard, selfless, and full of joy.

Say your prayers, wash your hands, do your exercises, help others, don't be afraid to get dirty, and do some yard work are the words that define my great grandma. She refused to say no to the simple question of "Would you like a Pepsi?" whether you wanted one or not was not heard of. At 101, she still felt the need to serve others and, most importantly, listen to others. She was always asking questions about my day, my school, my friends, my sports, and my church. Great Grandma Alice led life by example.

As Grandma Alice neared triple digits in age, her short-term memory began to fade. She still lived on her own in her own house, she still worked in the yard, she still shoveled her walk, and she still prayed and exercised daily. One of my many memories of her was when I was in 4th grade. Our football team played a playoff game and we lost. We made a surprise visit to her after the game and I was still in my uniform. "Oh, what a surprise! You are in a uniform. Did you win or lose? Tell me all about it!" I shared with her how the game went and how we lost and I was sad about it. Within five minutes she again noticed I was in my football uniform and excitedly asked, "Oh joy, you are in uniform did you win or lose? Tell me all about it!" I again shared with her how our team did. This happened a few times over our short visit. I never cared that she continued to ask me the same question, because I knew she really did want to know how I felt, and she attentively listened to me every time.

They say life is short, but for Grandma Alice life was long. If angels lived with us on this earth, Grandma Alice was one of them. She could take any type of situation and make it okay, somehow even joyful. How many people in your life do you know that can do that? My Great Grandma lived through World War I, World War II, the Great Depression and all of the other horrid things our country has gone through. Throughout it all, she stayed positive and she stayed strong. Strong in her religion, strong with her daily rosary, strong with her exercises, strong with her work ethics (she could outlast her grandkids working on her lawn and garden). To me that is what a hero is. A woman of the hour is one of the definitions of a hero. My Great Grandma is a woman of



every hour, of every minute, of every day. She truly made those around her leave with a smile and want to be a better human being.

Although she is not here with us anymore, I can still hear her. I still smile and feel joy when I think of her. She is a hero by the way she lived life. She taught me by example to work hard at all I do, care more, listen always, pray with your heart, say your rosary, go to church and always take home a goodie bag.

7<sup>th</sup>



**SADIE  
QUAKENBUSH**  
Montabella Jr./Sr. High School  
Blanchard

## MY PERSONAL MICHIGAN HERO

Fast.

That's what time can sometimes feel like. One minute you're writing your name for the first time, just starting out Kindergarten as an innocent five-year-old and the next minute you're entering adolescence as an 8th grader. The point is that time can seem to go so fast—that you wonder what the unwritten rules of it are—and what it really means to “grow up.” Out of all the people in my life, only one person, my dad, could show me that growing up isn't something to be feared.

One of the experiences that I had with my dad that I'll never forget was his 50th birthday. But before I go on to tell you about this life-changing ordeal, it's important to note that before this day on December 14, 2016, I was scared of growing up, because to me, growing up meant letting go of your childhood. Before this event, I saw adults as people who didn't understand anything from a kid's viewpoint. I saw every adult that way, except for my dad.

To celebrate his birthday, we stayed in Detroit to see the Lions play. I awoke that morning to the sight of my dad dancing around our hotel room. As we drove to find our spot in a parking garage, I listened to my dad's raucous singing to the static-y FM radio. During the game, I could sense his childlike excitement as he focused all his attention on the game. Even though the opposing team won, he still walked out of the stadium with a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. Later that day, we walked to downtown Detroit and found a public ice skating rink. In the blink of an eye, my dad and I strapped on skates and we were out there having the time of our lives.

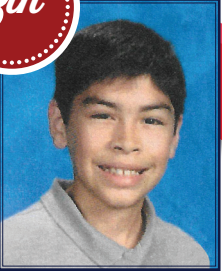
As I tucked myself in that night, I reflected on that day with a smile. Just as I was about to close my eyes, I felt a worrisome premonition rush into my mind. There was no time to brace myself as the thought of seeing my dad become elderly and old took my smile and made it a frown. Of all the thoughts that entered my mind, this one never even stood before the tall gates guarding my mindscape. Imagining my dad with frail skin and white hair made me shudder. I knew that sooner or later this would become a reality, and I would no longer be able to see my dad ice-skate or walk very far, lift me up on his shoulders, or even dance like there's no tomorrow. I started to do the math in my head, calculating how many years till I would no longer be able to see his spontaneous mindset be reflected in his actions. I knew that time seemed to get faster as you get older. I had already experienced that.



Tears started rolling down my cheeks as I began to imagine myself growing up. The thought of saying goodbye to my childhood made me shiver; I didn't want to let go. Then it hit me. I had been missing it the entire time, but my dad, is still a kid at heart. The dancing, the singing, even the ice skating, these are all things kids would do. This entire time I was so oblivious, but my dad never said goodbye to his childhood, because on behalf of the fact that you're getting older, doesn't mean that you have to expel all your early memories from your mentality. I then realized that there were no unwritten rules regarding time or childhood, I could keep it forever and still grow up. My dad wasn't going to change the way he acted just because he was getting older.

My dad is my hero because he showed me that I can't control time, but I can control how it affects me.

8th



**DOMINICK  
HERNANDEZ**  
Chesaning Middle School  
Chesaning

## THE PRICELESS INDIVIDUAL

Out of the vast population of the entire human race, God looked down and took Shelly Hernandez, my mother, away from my company. Away from everyone's company. She was gone forever. I was just a miniscule, helpless and feeble baby. She left me at the age of nine days. Not years, not months, not weeks...days! Unable to comprehend the immense sorrow that the rest of my family did, I was ignorant of her absence. Now, at the age of 13, I can now fathom her unintended truancy from humanity. I never knew my mother, and can't grasp the concept of losing her, but I can still learn about her and express gratitude for the greatest thing that she has taught me, even in death. Life is the most precious thing in this universe, so you must savor every moment even if it is seemingly insignificant.

I left my mother's womb on September 9th, 2005. On September 18th of that same year is when the tragic event of my mother's passing occurred. Even though she was only with me for nine days, she cherished every nanosecond we spent together. This has taught me that life is short, so you must use every small amount of time that is given to you.

My mother was a very kind-hearted person. (At least that's what the rest of my family has said.) She took very great care of me and my sister with the help of my father. That, of course, was before she passed. In this, she has shown me that you should love people and show an abundance of compassion towards the human race.

Every so often, my family visits my mother's grave. Once, I walked up to her grave and tried to imagine her standing right in front of my very eyes. Being at her grave makes me reflect upon my mother's life. I always think about if she had more time, if she would still be alive, what if...? I wonder what my mom was like and what it would be like if she was still present in my life. This teaches me about the fragile nature of human life. How you can hurt people with just a word, and you can damage others even more with your actions. How people have a hurt inside but need a friend to talk to, to help them express their emotions. This is one of the most valuable life lessons that you can learn and they won't teach in schools. This is vital to human existence.

Shelly Hernandez, 1971 – 2005, is the person I look up to most. She has taught me things that are very important in the everyday world, but can have a lasting imprint on someone's life. These things are as simple as showing compassion to others and valuing human life. But when you explore their extreme capabilities, can mean so much more. My mother, Shelly, is my personal Michigan hero.



## THE GIRL IN THE STORM

Imagine a giant, thrashing sea. Ten foot tall waves are crashing into one another, sending water flying into the air like sparks from a wildfire. Now, see yourself in the middle of it all, your lungs throbbing with pain as you search for something, anything to save you. But there is nothing. Right as you are about to give up and let yourself drown in the storm and allow your heart to be filled with sorrow and despair, a warm, loving hand reaches into the hatred of it all and saves you, loving you for who you are and never letting you go. This is my story about how this all became a reality in my world.

In seventh grade, I saw a poster for my school's talent show. I felt a sudden burst of fireworks in my chest as I became determined to prove everyone who said I was worthless and would never get anywhere in life, wrong. I had such a drive and motivation to put myself out there, and to stop being the girl nobody knew, that I hadn't even thought twice about doing it. When I auditioned that night, I was unprepared and my knees felt weak. My voice was shaky and I hadn't even chosen a song. But, when I thought all hope was lost, Ms. Holt picked me up and gave me a song to learn and had me audition again the next day. I was so grateful that she had seen potential in me that I practiced it until it was perfect. I sang it beautifully for her the next day.

The next day I waited anxiously for the results of who was chosen to perform. My heart was pumping like thunder in my chest, but the real storm was in my head. Should I have done this? What if I don't get chosen? These thoughts were so overwhelming and negative that I was about to relinquish and leave. But, as if on cue, Ms. Holt called my name. I had gotten in! I was so proud of myself for not giving in to the darkness. She gave me hope and managed to bring me out of my shell, which was not an easy process.

Ms. Holt gave me a second chance, something which not many people have ever entrusted me with. She taught me not to look into the negative side of things, to never give up, and to always strive for my dreams. Ms. Holt became my beacon of light in the storm.



## MY PERSONAL MICHIGAN HERO

In the eyes of a 13-year-old, the world is an extraordinary place. We see the world as a humongous place with tons of opportunities. As 13 year-olds, we are oblivious to what is going on around us because we are immersed in ourselves to strive to be the best we can be. That is not always a terrible thing, but eventually can be. Let's face it; many of us don't watch or read the news. But it is not all our fault, most of the time we barely get told about what is going on. I know our teachers and parents do not want us to feel frightened, but we should know so we can take action rather than do nothing about the crime. It's true that some of us may be scared, but we cannot hide from it since it is the reality. Instead, we need to face our fear and figure out a way to stop it. This is where my Michigan Hero, Officer Patty Esselink, plays a role.

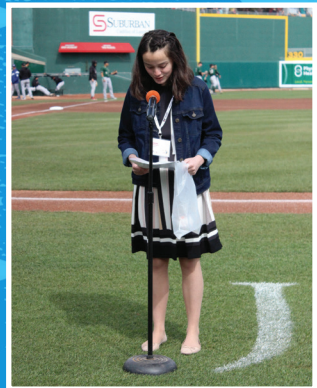
The first time I met Officer Esselink was at my school. She seemed like a determined, bold and energetic woman. Back in seventh grade, she was here to talk to us about cyber-bullying, gun violence, and lockdowns, which were happening around the country. The principal decided someone needed to speak to us about this topic, because it was a heavy topic; she made an excellent choice. Officer Esselink spoke with tremendous confidence and explained everything in great detail. Her words impacted us emotionally and encouraged us to take action about this. She made a remarkable first impression. A few weeks later, there was an event at the local library. A lot was happening in Canton around that time, there was also a bank robbery a few weeks before the event. Officer Esselink was one of the people speaking at the event. This time, she was explaining the topic to a crowd full of younger kids. I was impressed with her once again. She also talked about gun violence and the lockdowns going on near us.

This past summer, the Canton Police and Fire Department held a one-week camp. The program was held for teenagers 13 - 17 years old. We were taught the daily activities of the safety department, how to work as a team, and how to perform CPR. Officer Esselink and many other officers and firefighters worked collaboratively to provide us with a memorable experience. She would interact with us and make the most tedious topics interesting. I had a great time!

Officer Esselink hosts many other events like Coffee with a Cop, art programs in a mobile home park, Lead Like A Girl, and Partner in Your Safety. Officer Esselink inspires me to help my community and participate in local events as much as I can. I believe she has impacted my life a lot and has taught me many valuable life lessons which I will forever remember.



# PICTURES FROM OUR 2018-'19 EVENT CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!



## A SALUTE TO EACH OF OUR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND LOCAL WINNERS

Aside from the statewide winners whose essays appear in this book, we want to recognize this year's local winners from each school.

On the next several pages, you will find a listing of all the schools that participated in the **2018-'19 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 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**  
A Michigan Company

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **A.D. Johnston Junior High School, Bessemer**

1st place - Zachary Weitzel  
2nd place - Hailee Mattson  
3rd place - Katelyn Miskovich

## **AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School, Southfield**

1st place - Katrina Azar  
2nd place - Maksym Grygorkiv  
3rd place - AnnMarie Kirma

## **Akron-Fairgrove Junior/Senior High School, Fairgrove**

1st place - Brendan Durham  
2nd place - Michael Reid  
3rd place - Sara Dunn

## **All Saints Catholic School, Canton**

1st place - Isabella Merucci  
2nd place - Kylar Hansen  
3rd place - Alexandria Tomajko

## **All Saints Central Middle School, Bay City**

1st place - Eleanor Warren  
2nd place - Nicole Spencer  
3rd place - Lauren Potvin

## **Almont Middle School, Almont**

1st place - Hope Owens  
2nd place - Genuine Jenkins  
3rd place - Jacob Strykowski

## **American International Academy, Inkster**

1st place - Aleece Johnson  
2nd place - Brandin Wyley  
3rd place - Donyea Watkins

## **Anchor Bay Middle School North, New Baltimore**

1st place - Drew Guntzviller  
2nd place - Alyssa Akers  
3rd place - Micayla McGee

## **Anchor Bay Middle School South, New Baltimore**

1st place - Isabella Flaherty  
2nd place - Shayn Clay  
3rd place - Eliana Melia

## **Anderson Middle School, Berkley**

1st place - Seth Manter  
2nd place - Donovan Fobbs  
3rd place - Alexis Tuell

## **Ann Arbor Christian School, Ann Arbor**

1st place - Olivia Palmbos

## **Armada Middle School, Armada**

1st place - Nolan Hill  
2nd place - Emma Dossin

## **Ashley Community Schools, Ashley**

1st place - Erin Renee Viles  
2nd place - Macy Seifert  
3rd place - Bailey Crocker

## **Aspen Ridge Middle School, Ishpeming**

1st place - Robin Lequia  
2nd place - Andrew King  
3rd place - Mollie Stille

## **Assumption School, Belmont**

1st place - Lainey Roth  
2nd place - Ava Soltysiak  
3rd place - Emma Simmons

## **Athens Jr./Sr. High School, Athens**

1st place - Jocelyn Hall  
2nd place - Sierra Williams  
3rd place - Kaylie Beal

## **Auburn Hills Christian School, Auburn Hills**

1st place - Michael Chappell II  
2nd place - Aniyah Wiley  
3rd place - Royce Winters

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Autrain-Onota Public School, Deerton**

1st place - Austin Mannisto  
2nd place - Rayna Neuber

## **Bad Axe Junior High School, Bad Axe**

1st place - Alexis King

## **Baldwin Junior High School, Baldwin**

1st place - Zackary Martinez  
2nd place - Bre'Indel Watkins  
3rd place - Gabriel VanderGeld

## **Baraga Area Schools, Baraga**

1st place - Adam Duguette  
2nd place - MaKayla Smith  
3rd place - Kaci Coronado

## **Baseline Middle School, South Haven**

1st place - Camborley Gleason  
2nd place - Ilona Fiedorowicz  
3rd place - Mashia Shelton

## **Bath Middle School, Bath**

1st place - Emma Jacobs  
2nd place - Xasia Villareal  
3rd place - Elaine Harlan

## **Bay City Academy, Bay City**

1st place - Logan Wallace  
2nd place - Lucia Mills  
3rd place - Alex Greenhoe

## **Beal City Junior High School, Mt. Pleasant**

**1st place - Rylee Sisco**  
2nd place - Kaylee Locke  
3rd place - Addyson Zuker



## **Bellaire Middle School, Bellaire**

1st place - Alison Cartwright  
2nd place - Gillian Lovett  
3rd place - Abigail Cartwright

## **Bentley Middle School, Burton**

1st place - Katherine Ford  
2nd place - Samarah Bailey  
3rd place - Payton Bitterman

## **Berrien Springs Middle School, Berrien Springs**

1st place - Jonathan Kertawidjaja  
2nd place - Ahnecea Williams  
3rd place - Danielle Gittens

## **Beth Haven Baptist Academy, Sheridan**

1st place - Grace Wright  
2nd place - Belinda Vrielink  
3rd place - Hope Snyder

## **Beth Jacob School, Oak Park**

1st place - Malkie Scheinberg  
2nd place - Chaya Bausk  
3rd place - Chinia Nechama Margareten

## **Bethel Baptist Christian School, Manistique**

1st place - Jeremy Crowder

## **Bethlehem Lutheran School, Saginaw**

1st place - Aylin Kiziltan  
2nd place - James McLeod  
3rd place - Rachel Piechotte

## **Beverly Hills Academy, Beverly Hills**

1st place - Sarah Magid  
2nd place - Jana Alnajjar  
3rd place - Tala Abdelrazzag

## **Big Rapids Middle School, Big Rapids**

1st place - Emmalyn Doering  
2nd place - Zoe Jancek  
3rd place - Rylie Haist

## **Blissfield Community Schools, Blissfield**

1st place - Mariela Cueto  
2nd place - Abigail Gilmore  
3rd place - Lilli Kastel

## **Bloomfield Hills Middle School, Bloomfield Hills**

1st place - Olivia Valbuena  
2nd place - Blessing Nwamgbe

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Borculo Christian School, Zeeland**

1st place - Megan Mokma  
2nd place - Brianna Milller

## **Boulan Park Middle School, Troy**

1st place - Sanjana Sunilkumar  
2nd place - Aleena Malik  
3rd place - Miranda Siegan

## **Boyne City Middle School, Boyne City**

1st place - Maggie Miller  
2nd place - Lilly Freeman  
3rd place - Benjamin Harmeling

## **Brandon Middle School, Ortonville**

1st place - Brenna Sans  
2nd place - Allison Ressler  
3rd place - Elizabeth Manion

## **Breckenridge Community School, Breckenridge**

1st place - Julie Becker  
2nd place - Arieanna Wiklanski

## **Brookview School - Int'l Montessori Academy, Benton Harbor**

1st place - Jonathan Kwan  
2nd place - Stella Rusk  
3rd place - Animesh Shintre

## **Brown City Jr./Sr. High School, Brown City**

1st place - Jonathan Fisher  
2nd place - Carley Kalbfleisch  
3rd place - Claire Srodawa

## **Brownell Middle School, Grosse Pointe Farms**

1st place - Ava Carr  
2nd place - O'hara Diamond  
3rd place - Catherine Poleski

## **Bryant Middle School, Dearborn**

1st place - Elayana Bazzi  
2nd place - Fatimah Hamka  
3rd place - Aidan Oakley

## **Byron Center Christian School, Byron Center**

1st place - Rylee VanZoest  
2nd place - Jacob DeHaan  
3rd place - Gina Boomsma

## **Byron Center Middle School, Byron Center**

1st place - Mahrle Miller  
2nd place - Jada O'Neill

## **C.B. Sabbath Middle School, River Rouge**

1st place - AaKhirah Reicl  
2nd place - Christen Ward-Lewis

## **Cabrini Elementary Catholic School, Allen Park**

1st place - Grace DeBerardino  
2nd place - Marin Genaw  
3rd place - Joshua Perez

## **Cadillac Heritage Christian School, Cadillac**

1st place - Caleb Downey  
2nd place - Desirae Vrieze  
3rd place - Riley Husted

## **Calvary Bible Academy, Dowagiac**

1st place - Jeremy Neinas

## **Canton Charter Academy, Canton**

**1st place - Sumedha Sethi**  
2nd place - Neha Rao  
3rd place - Veda Chandrasekar



## **Capac Junior-Senior High School, Capac**

1st place - Madison Rund  
2nd place - Autumn Grace  
3rd place - Ava Dub

## **Carrollton Middle School, Carrollton**

1st place - Nathalia Olivarez  
2nd place - Syeira Staves  
3rd place - Kennedy Campos

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Carter Middle School, Clio**

1st place - Ashleigh Schriener  
2nd place - Vivian Talford  
3rd place - Sydney Folcik

## **Cass City Middle School, Cass City**

1st place - Elizabeth McCormick  
2nd place - Cameron Gottschalk  
3rd place - Cassie Brown

## **Central Academy, Ann Arbor**

1st place - Shatha Thabata  
2nd place - Alizeh Kashif Bari  
3rd place - Yasmeen Nemer

## **Centreville Junior High, Centreville**

1st place - Logan Weis  
2nd place - Nathan Hartong  
3rd place - Markus Miller

## **Charlevoix Middle School, Charlevoix**

1st place - Haidyn Bissell  
2nd place - Delaney Boehm  
3rd place - Aiden Boop

## **Cherryland Middle School, Elk Rapids**

1st place - Sophia Christian  
2nd place - Abigail Petersen  
3rd place - Annabel Sumerix

## **Chesaning Middle School, Chesaning**

**1st place - Dominick Hernandez**  
2nd place - Caleb Chalco  
3rd place - Lauren Grimm



## **Chippewa Middle School, Okemos**

1st place - Julian Weinrick  
2nd place - Pramika Bodeddula  
3rd place - Ming Thompson

## **Christ Lutheran School, Stevensville**

1st place - AnnaLise Beck  
2nd place - Garrett Damron

## **Christ the King Lutheran School, Sebawaing**

1st place - Olivia Jubar  
2nd place - Rainey Schuette  
3rd place - Danielle Hartman

## **Clinton Middle School, Clinton**

1st place - Dawson Mull

## **Coleman Community Jr./Sr. High School, Coleman**

1st place - Brayden Servis  
2nd place - Ian Johnson  
3rd place - Shane Cole

## **Coloma Junior High School, Coloma**

1st place - Addyson Milnickel  
2nd place - Yohaly Estrada-Alvarez  
3rd place - Savanah Pratt

## **Colon Jr. / Sr. High School, Colon**

1st place - Brooke Stewart  
2nd place - Tatum Cline  
3rd place - Rylee Sobczak

## **Concord Academy, Petoskey**

1st place - Izaac Lingg  
2nd place - Indira Bersonnet

## **Coopersville Middle School, Coopersville**

1st place - Ty Anthony

## **Copper Country Christian School, Chassell**

1st place - Clayton Downs  
2nd place - Evelyn Austin  
3rd place - Jasper Lee

## **Cornerstone Christian Academy, Fremont**

1st place - Grace Jones  
2nd place - Bethany Geeting  
3rd place - Jaxon Olin

## **Corpus Christi Catholic School, Holland**

1st place - Matthew LaPorte  
2nd place - Leah O'Connell  
3rd place - Gavin Maurer

## **Cramer Junior High, Essexville**

1st place - Haley Hunt  
2nd place - Lisa Hernandez  
3rd place - Dasia Johnson

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Cranbrook Boys Middle School, Bloomfield Hills**

- 1st place - Parsa Afshar
- 2nd place - Yiannis Papadakos
- 3rd place - Charles Huang

## **Crescent Academy International, Canton**

- 1st place - Mariam Shalaby
- 2nd place - Takiyah Ali

## **Cross of Glory Lutheran School, Washington**

- 1st place - Caleb Munson
- 2nd place - Kyle Loeffler
- 3rd place - Joshua Gifford

## **Davis Middle School, Hillsdale**

- 1st place - Alivia Turner

## **Davison Middle School, Davison**

- 1st place - Calliandra Scura
- 2nd place - Mark Tedrick
- 3rd place - Allison Ferguson

## **DeTour Arts and Technology Academy, DeTour Village**

- 1st place - Lilly Plowman
- 2nd place - Trista Bupp
- 3rd place - Bryton Bailey

## **Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills**

- 1st place - Krisha Ramani
- 2nd place - Emily Liao
- 3rd place - Patrick O'Callaghan

## **Detroit Waldorf School, Detroit**

- 1st place - Penelope Griffioen
- 2nd place - Maliyah Drain
- 3rd place - Janik Olszewski

## **Divine Child Elementary School, Dearborn**

- 1st place - Leona Wisniewski
- 2nd place - Mia Duque
- 3rd place - Chris Cadena

## **Dossin Elementary School, Detroit**

- 1st place - James Wright
- 2nd place - Amira Rue

## **Dowagiac Middle School, Dowagiac**

- 1st place - Ella Wilson
- 2nd place - Millie Hartsig
- 3rd place - Piper Ruff

## **Dundee Middle School, Dundee**

- 1st place - Liam Bressler
- 2nd place - Sara Marek
- 3rd place - Liberty Ostrander

## **Dutton Christian Middle School, Caledonia**

- 1st place - Kelsey Harkema
- 2nd place - Ashley Raredon
- 3rd place - Alli VanderHeide

## **Dwight Beach Middle School, Chelsea**

- 1st place - Sarah Capper
- 2nd place - Julia Kause
- 3rd place - Trevor Ford

## **E.F. Rittmueller Middle School, Frankenmuth**

- 1st place - Kennedy Sutherland
- 2nd place - Isaac Hapworth
- 3rd place - Grant Conger

## **East Hills Middle School, Bloomfield Hills**

- 1st place - Sonia Hussain
- 2nd place - Emma Trozak
- 3rd place - Avery Lynch

## **East Jackson Middle School, Jackson**

- 1st place - Kiarie Williams
- 2nd place - Kyleigh Snyder
- 3rd place - Emma Mapes

## **East Jordan Middle School, East Jordan**

- 1st place - Connor Florenski
- 2nd place - Mailey Hamilton
- 3rd place - Sophie Snyder

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **East Middle School, Farmington Hills**

1st place - Janay Duncan  
2nd place - Sellina Vasha  
3rd place - Alysa Saperstein

## **East Rockford Middle School, Rockford**

1st place - Olivia Humphrey  
2nd place - Alissa Vezikov  
3rd place - Sophia Cilek

## **Eau Claire Middle School, Eau Claire**

1st place - Julia Kurland  
2nd place - Jayce Arend  
3rd place - Diana Bonilla

## **Eccles School - Sigel Township S.D. #4, Harbor Beach**

1st place - Forrest Krager  
2nd place - Ian Morley

## **Edwardsburg Middle School, Edwardsburg**

1st place - Hanna Kertes  
2nd place - Anna Jerdon  
3rd place - Samantha Baker

## **Ellsworth Community School, Ellsworth**

1st place - Kelan Pletcher  
2nd place - Meghan Harmon  
3rd place - Annabell Bartman

## **Emanuel Lutheran School, Lansing**

1st place - Katelyn Olson  
2nd place - Dawson Kaiser  
3rd place - Olivia Black

## **Emerson Middle School, Livonia**

1st place - Kiera Hura  
2nd place - Owen Hawley  
3rd place - Eric Hobson, Jr.

## **Emmanuel Lutheran School, Dearborn**

1st place - Andrew McDonald  
2nd place - Sanamar Rice  
3rd place - Daniel McDonald

## **Engadine Consolidated Schools, Engadine**

1st place - Bryce Zdebski  
2nd place - Lauren King  
3rd place - Conrad Spieles

## **F.C. Reed Middle School, Bridgman**

1st place - Angel Santiago  
2nd place - Brooklyn DeMuth  
3rd place - Gracyn Shoaf

## **Factoryville Christian School, Athens**

1st place - Pamela Mowry  
2nd place - Steven Covell

## **Faith Lutheran School, Bay City**

1st place - Addison Smith  
2nd place - Ella Foster  
3rd place - Claire Katenhus

## **Farber Hebrew Day School, Southfield**

1st place - Eliyahu Stein  
2nd place - Judah Lopatin

## **Fennville Middle School, Fennville**

1st place - Bailey Zuroske

## **Flagship Academy, Detroit**

1st place - Tykesha Boyer  
2nd place - Rashaun Massey-Johnson

## **Freedom Christian School, Pittsford**

1st place - Faith Staal  
2nd place - Emmy Ambrose  
3rd place - Daniel Du Vall

## **Freeland Jr./Sr. High School, Freeland**

1st place - Pritesh Ravi

## **Fremont Christian School, Fremont**

1st place - Kiarrah Bridges  
2nd place - Caleb Pell  
3rd place - Sydney Wagenmaker

## **Gaylord Middle School, Gaylord**

1st place - Jason Peterson  
2nd place - Maggie Galacz  
3rd place - Gage Phillippy



# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Genesee STEM Academy, Flint**

1st place - Jazlyn Brown  
2nd place - Anthony White  
3rd place - Kamarah Humter

## **Gerald R Ford Academic Center, Grand Rapids**

1st place - Myaja Dunning  
2nd place - Ayden Pagan

## **Gladstone Middle School, Gladstone**

1st place - Monica Thibault  
2nd place - Cameron Lee  
3rd place - Hannah Litts

## **Glen Lake Middle School, Maple City**

1st place - Riley Loeffler  
2nd place - Opal Pousho  
3rd place - Blake O'Connor

## **Gobles Junior Academy, Gobles**

1st place - India Thomson  
2nd place - Ryleigh Bergmann  
3rd place - Anna Rybachek

## **Gobles Middle School, Gobles**

1st place - Elyssay Tarkkanen  
2nd place - Alanna Pierce  
3rd place - Mina Buchkowski

## **Goodrich Middle School, Goodrich**

1st place - Abigail Schell  
2nd place - Sophia Bowers  
3rd place - Sydney Stonerock

## **Grand Blanc East Middle School, Grand Blanc**

1st place - Elisa Doudna  
2nd place - Abigail Keyes  
3rd place - Aspen Van Leuven

## **Grand Blanc West Middle School, Grand Blanc**

1st place - Jillian Smith  
2nd place - Grace Walker  
3rd place - Rachel Singer

## **Grandville Middle School, Grandville**

1st place - Josh Kinzler  
2nd place - Kayla Helferich  
3rd place - Aidan Moes

## **Grant Middle School, Grant**

1st place - Kolton Bazzett

## **Grass Lake Jr./Sr.. High School, Grass Lake**

1st place - Kierstin Norris  
2nd place - Casey Doyle  
3rd place - Jack Pine

## **Great Oaks Academy, Warren**

1st place - Sumaiya Oishee  
2nd place - Zanaiya Sorzano  
3rd place - Angeliqwe Owusu-Kyei

## **Greater Lansing Adventist School, Lansing**

1st place - Sofia Hall  
2nd place - Aliah Lounds  
3rd place - Rebekah Metz

## **Greenville Middle School, Greenville**

1st place - Cassidy Kennedy  
2nd place - Brooklyn Vanoeffelen

## **Grosse Pointe Academy, Grosse Pointe**

1st place - Allie Larpenteur  
2nd place - Griffin Adams  
3rd place - Angelina Randazzo

## **Guardian Lutheran School, Dearborn**

1st place - Lucas Peetz  
2nd place - Trevor Bowser  
3rd place - Macey Eland

## **Hamtramck Charter Academy, Hamtramck**

1st place - **Debarati Roy**  
2nd place - Fatema Anika  
3rd place - Brojananda Paul



# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Handy Middle School, Bay City**

1st place - Katrina White  
2nd place - Anna Grotelueschen  
3rd place - Jami Particka

## **Hanover-Horton Middle School, Horton**

1st place - Emma Kuhl  
2nd place - Makenzie LaFountain  
3rd place - Cole Bahlau

## **Harbor Beach Middle School, Harbor Beach**

1st place - Kurtis Guza  
2nd place - Brooke Liebeskind  
3rd place - Angela Marentette

## **Harbor Springs Middle School, Harbor Springs**

1st place - Teagan Inglehart  
2nd place - Alexa Southwell  
3rd place - Caroline Collins

## **Hart Middle School, Hart**

1st place - Mariana VanAgtmael  
2nd place - Aspen Boutell  
3rd place - Amelia Tuinstra

## **Hartford Middle School, Hartford**

1st place - Raven Ledesma  
2nd place - Adrianna Moreno  
3rd place - Ciara Fuller

## **Hartland Middle School at Ore Creek, Hartland**

1st place - Reagan Aylor  
2nd place - Michael Yarber  
3rd place - Evan Busby

## **Haslett Middle School, Haslett**

1st place - Ella Duffield  
2nd place - Emily Homan

## **Hayes Middle School, Grand Ledge**

1st place - Selena Contreras  
2nd place - Audrey Burgess  
3rd place - Anna Zander

## **Heritage Christian Academy, Kalamazoo**

1st place - Kayla Bartell  
2nd place - Kylie Gernaat  
3rd place - Gracie Burnham

## **Hillman Jr./Sr. High School, Hillman**

1st place - Zac Loveless  
2nd place - Amelia Burwell  
3rd place - Mercedes Bales

## **Hillsdale Preparatory School, Hillsdale**

1st place - Hailey Bates  
2nd place - Maya Hamilton  
3rd place - Emilia Lopez

## **Holland Middle School, Holland**

1st place - Dylan Chmura  
2nd place - Lillian Ryden  
3rd place - Bella Itoney

## **Holland SDA School, Holland**

1st place - Makayla Peart  
2nd place - Cindy Kaiyarth  
3rd place - Ella Pittman

## **Holton Middle School, Holton**

1st place - Skylar Larson  
2nd place - Vanessa Peltoniemi  
3rd place - Kylea Baxter

## **Holy Cross Lutheran School, Saginaw**

1st place - Andrew Iliff  
2nd place - Hanna O'Deay  
3rd place - Cara Eschmann

## **Holy Family Catholic School, Grand Blanc**

1st place - Emily Yousif  
2nd place - Audrey Perani  
3rd place - Amelia Bennett

## **Holy Family South Campus, Rochester Hills**

1st place - Abby Archey  
2nd place - Emilia Honingford  
3rd place - John Larocca

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Holy Ghost Lutheran School, Monroe**

1st place - Matley Rose  
2nd place - Omar Syed  
3rd place - Ben Elliott

## **Holy Name Catholic School, Escanaba**

1st place - Mari Bink  
2nd place - Carney Salo  
3rd place - Matthew Dykema

## **Holy Name School, Birmingham**

1st place - Colleen Conroy  
2nd place - Allison Flynn  
3rd place - Hannah Ahmad

## **Holy Redeemer Grade School, Detroit**

1st place - Eric Perales  
2nd place - Soledad Cortes  
3rd place - Maria Solis

## **Holy Trinity School, Comstock Park**

1st place - Noah Cook  
2nd place - Rose Merriman  
3rd place - Logan Sauline

## **Hopkins Middle School, Hopkins**

1st place - Makenna Pendock  
2nd place - Alexis Koopman

## **Houghton - Portage Township Middle School, Houghton**

1st place - Cameron Cischke  
2nd place - Amelia Kamm  
3rd place - Max Wei

## **Houghton Lake High School, Houghton Lake**

1st place - Alfredo Garcia  
2nd place - Hailey Watson  
3rd place - Ireland Selfridge

## **Howardsville Christian School, Marcellus**

1st place - Alayna Brown  
2nd place - Andrea Hoagenbuch  
3rd place - Karu Uhl

## **Huda School & Montessori, Franklin**

1st place - Adnan Khan  
2nd place - Aminah Lawal  
3rd place - Raneen Alsubee

## **Huron Valley Catholic School, Ypsilanti**

1st place - Alessandra Pedinelli

## **Ida Middle School, Ida**

1st place - Clarie Cogan  
2nd place - Stephanie Collino  
3rd place - Kylee Burkey

## **Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Ira**

1st place - Jonathan Opolski  
2nd place - Katerina Weaver  
3rd place - Elizabeth Mackenzie

## **Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Academy, Warren**

1st place - Yulian Romanchuk  
2nd place - Nina Olszewski  
3rd place - Chrystyna Zavadenko

## **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Grand Rapids**

1st place - Leland Edelyn  
2nd place - Adam Wandzel  
3rd place - Ava Kelly

## **Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Lansing**

1st place - Dinamic Kubengana  
2nd place - Sarah Corey  
3rd place - Austin Gates

## **Immanuel Lutheran School, Bay City**

1st place - Kayleigh LaPlant  
2nd place - Sarah Mills  
3rd place - Cole Van Paris

## **Immanuel Lutheran School, Macomb**

1st place - Brianna Brozich  
2nd place - Natalie Wargo  
3rd place - Rocco Roman

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Immanuel Lutheran School, Saginaw**

1st place - Owen Brechtelsbauer  
2nd place - David Nicklyn

## **Immanuel St. James Lutheran School, Grand Rapids**

1st place - Brekkon Godbold  
2nd place - Sofia Sheldon  
3rd place - Ellery Younts

## **Ionia Middle School, Ionia**

1st place - Alanah Emmons  
2nd place - Kobe Hixon  
3rd place - Indica Klinger

## **Iron Mountain Central Middle School, Iron Mountain**

1st place - Isabella Tregillis  
2nd place - Shyanne Pearce  
3rd place - Elle Lofholm

## **Island City Academy, Eaton Rapids**

**1st place - Alexis Davenport**  
2nd place - Ginger Byrd  
3rd place - Nolan Ostrowski



## **Jackson Christian Middle School, Jackson**

1st place - Kayley McCollum  
2nd place - Liam Carter  
3rd place - Anaya Browmer

## **Jackson Preparatory & Early College, Jackson**

1st place - Mercedes Myers

## **JKL Bahweting Middle School, Sault Ste. Marie**

1st place - Morgan Brow  
2nd place - Julie Innerebner  
3rd place - Ava Donmyer

## **John E. Owens High School, Reading**

1st place - Jacob Hamilton  
2nd place - Brady Hull  
3rd place - Zoe Blythe

## **John Paul II Catholic School, Lincoln Park**

1st place - Giuliana Aranda  
2nd place - Nicholas DiSanto  
3rd place - Trevor Coleman

## **Juniata Christian School, Vassar**

1st place - Nathan Karpovich  
2nd place - Andrew Flanders  
3rd place - Abygail Meyer

## **Kalamazoo Christian Middle School, Kalamazoo**

1st place - Annika Systma  
2nd place - Bridget Colatruglio  
3rd place - Connor Tuin

## **Kalkaska Middle School, Kalkaska**

1st place - Matthew Jenkins  
2nd place - Anabelle Horton  
3rd place - Delaney Denike

## **L'Anse Creuse Middle School East, Chesterfield**

1st place - Ava Schaefer  
2nd place - AnnDee Geddes  
3rd place - Hailey Krassa

## **Laingsburg Christian School, Laingsburg**

1st place - Rosalie Brown  
2nd place - Nick Johnson  
3rd place - Ava Hendricks

## **Lake City Middle School, Lake City**

1st place - Samuel Baron  
2nd place - Kyndle Carpenter  
3rd place - Ethan Dulzo

## **Lakeview High School, Lakeview**

1st place - Allison Davis  
2nd place - Cadence Kroeze  
3rd place - Alexis Justice

## **Lakeville Middle School, Otisville**

1st place - Katie Baldermann  
2nd place - Brett Raible  
3rd place - Taylor Cole

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Lakewood Middle School, Woodland**

1st place - Emma Lancaster  
2nd place - Ryan Alford  
3rd place - Elijah Girvin

## **Lamont Christian School, Coopersville**

1st place - Emma Zemaitis  
2nd place - Samantha Meerman  
3rd place - Ainsley Sherd

## **Landmark Academy, Kimball**

1st place - Emma-Leigh Lewis  
2nd place - Halie Hines  
3rd place - Brett Cole

## **Lansing Christian School, Lansing**

1st place - Eliana Jahjah  
2nd place - Emma Cooper  
3rd place - Corinne Ritter

## **Legacy Christian School, Grand Rapids**

1st place - Ava Timmer  
2nd place - Lydia Tolsma  
3rd place - Caroline Schaaft

## **Lenawee Christian School, Adrian**

1st place - Zoey Breznik  
2nd place - Olivia Durbin  
3rd place - Heidi Smith

## **Leslie Middle School, Leslie**

**1st place - Kailyn Friese**  
2nd place - Annabelle Dieter  
3rd place - Zandra Mitchell



## **Libertas Christian School, Hudsonville**

1st place - Evelyn Buller  
2nd place - Dineo Motaung

## **Lincoln Middle School, Ypsilanti**

1st place - Paige Topping  
2nd place - Lillian Majeske  
3rd place - Declan Westphal

## **Lowrey Junior High School, Dearborn**

1st place - Malak Ali

## **Ludington Area Catholic School, Ludington**

1st place - Carissa Scheckel  
2nd place - Sophia Grierson  
3rd place - Cian O'Brien

## **Luther L. Wright Junior-Senior High School, Ironwood**

1st place - Emily Martinson  
2nd place - Dezsirae Schueler  
3rd place - Brodie Ellsworth

## **Mackinaw City Public Schools, Mackinaw City**

1st place - Anna Julian  
2nd place - Britanya Clayton  
3rd place - Cooper Whipkey

## **Mancelona Middle School, Mancelona**

1st place - Ryenn Farabaugh

## **Manistee Catholic Central School, Manistee**

1st place - Kaylyn Johnson  
2nd place - Ashley VanAelst  
3rd place - Abigail Logan

## **Manistee Middle School, Manistee**

1st place - Phillip Scheffler  
2nd place - Aubrey Anderson  
3rd place - Robert Schmidt

## **Manton Middle School, Manton**

1st place - Teagin Moffit  
2nd place - Rachel Kongeal  
3rd place - Amornin Lutke

## **Maple Valley Jr. High School, Vermontville**

1st place - Jessica Steury  
2nd place - Ethan Boldrey  
3rd place - Ashton Ripley

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Mar Lee School, Marshall**

1st place - Piper Balmer  
2nd place - David Wallace  
3rd place - Karlie Gould

## **Marcellus Middle/High School, Marcellus**

1st place - Gabriella High  
2nd place - Estevan Rodriguez  
3rd place - Maddie Smith

## **Marlette Jr./Sr. High School, Marlette**

1st place - Ava Wilkinson  
2nd place - Elysabet Santiago  
3rd place - Logan Milligan

## **Marquette Seventh-Day Adventist School, Negaunee**

1st place - Sadie Hildebrand

## **Marysville Middle School, Marysville**

1st place - Ella Webb  
2nd place - Syrina Wisner  
3rd place - Meghan Winston

## **Mason County Eastern Junior/Senior High, Custer**

1st place - Kaitlyn Mickevich  
2nd place - Hannah Winegar  
3rd place - Vada Malstrom

## **McBain Rural Agricultural Schools, McBain**

1st place - Analiese Fredin  
2nd place - Aaryn VanBrocklin  
3rd place - Elizabeth Martin

## **Mendon Middle School, Mendon**

1st place - Lauren Schabes  
2nd place - Alexis Ames  
3rd place - Rosa Argueta

## **Merrill Middle School, Merrill**

1st place - Sawyer Jordan  
2nd place - Brooke Breasbois  
3rd place - ReAnna Stopjik

## **Mesick Middle School, Mesick**

1st place - Lorelai Albertson  
2nd place - Mia Roby  
3rd place - Fabian Martinez

## **Michigan Islamic Academy, Ann Arbor**

1st place - Ahmed Haider  
2nd place - Huda Khan  
3rd place - Salma Elsaïd

## **Michigan Math & Science Academy, Warren**

1st place - Makayla Jenkins  
2nd place - Alana Bell  
3rd place - Alisha Jaman

## **Milan Middle School, Milan**

1st place - Savannah Kisselburg  
2nd place - Justin Yarger  
3rd place - Katelyn Lindemann

## **Milwood Middle School, Kalamazoo**

1st place - Anna Edlefson  
2nd place - Olivia Polderman  
3rd place - Sierra Armstrong

## **Mio-AuSable Junior High School, Mio**

1st place - Tyler Obermiller  
2nd place - Liberty Harper  
3rd place - David Rickett

## **Moline Christian School, Moline**

1st place - Anna Huitema  
2nd place - Alea Winkle  
3rd place - Hannah Scholten

## **Montabella Middle School, Blanchard**

**1st place - Sadie Quackenbush**  
2nd place - Lily Lobert  
3rd place - Ella Kotenko



## **Most Holy Trinity School, Fowler**

1st place - Faith Phillips  
2nd place - Emma Riley  
3rd place - Drew Armbrustmacher

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Muskegon Catholic Central Middle School, Muskegon**

1st place - Claire LaVigne  
2nd place - Mackenna Pratt  
3rd place - Mara Long

## **Nellie B. Chisholm Middle School, Montague**

**1st place - Maisie Schultz**  
2nd place - Katherine Nuttall  
3rd place - Sophia Brewer



## **New Bedford Academy, Lambertville**

1st place - Sarah Turvey  
2nd place - Katelyn Rable  
3rd place - Leah High

## **Newaygo Middle School, Newaygo**

1st place - McCaiden Rienstra  
2nd place - Iris Herrera  
3rd place - Grace Painter

## **North Dickinson School, Felch**

1st place - Caidyn MacFadyen  
2nd place - Siera Derke  
3rd place - Samantha Lucas

## **North Pointe Christian Middle School, Grand Rapids**

1st place - Aleena Vande Vegte  
2nd place - Gibson Adema  
3rd place - Heidi Brandt

## **North Rockford Middle School, Rockford**

1st place - Lucas Orlebeke  
2nd place - Kate Dulak  
3rd place - Kara Gordon

## **Northview SDA School, Cadillac**

1st place - Ella Schwartz

## **Norway Vulcan Area School, Norway**

1st place - Braedan Bal  
2nd place - Kyle Napientek  
3rd place - Riley Vivio

## **Novi Christian Academy, Novi**

1st place - Kaelen Stewart  
2nd place - Rylie Madison  
3rd place - Ashton Dubuc

## **Novi Middle School, Novi**

1st place - Mya Vuljaj  
2nd place - Laila Crawley  
3rd place - Deniz Soysal

## **O.J. DeJonge Junior High, Ludington**

1st place - Nathan Biggs  
2nd place - Kaylee Malt  
3rd place - Jada Lucas

## **Oakland Christian School, Auburn Hills**

1st place - Lauren Lindsey  
2nd place - Gabriella Yatooma  
3rd place - Marlena Munch

## **Olivet Middle School, Olivet**

1st place - Jacob Waffle  
2nd place - Hogan McCleary  
3rd place - Bryce Heisler

## **Onekama School, Onekama**

1st place - Grace Servinski  
2nd place - Johnathan DeVoll  
3rd place - Hanaa Fraly

## **Our Lady of Lake Huron School, Harbor Beach**

1st place - Tori Hurren  
2nd place - Nichole Gornowich  
3rd place - Regan Emming

## **Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School, Farmington**

1st place - Salvatore Simon  
2nd place - Isabella Jappaya  
3rd place - Viviana Kindseth

## **Our Lady of the Lakes Middle School, Waterford**

**1st place - J. Holt Ware, Jr.**  
2nd place - Alison Anthony  
3rd place - Natalie Llewellyn



# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Our Lady of Victory School, Northville**

1st place - Nathan Hooker  
2nd place - Joseph Watson  
3rd place - Devyn McGow

## **Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School, Beverly Hills**

1st place - Kathryn Byrne  
2nd place - Michelle Hickey  
3rd place - Arthur McCarthy

## **Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Grosse Pointe Woods**

1st place - Nick Fleming  
2nd place - Lauryn Rendzikowksi  
3rd place - Eryn Cosgrove

## **Our Savior Lutheran, Lansing**

1st place - Samuel Shuler  
2nd place - Evy Cummins  
3rd place - Brady Rush

## **Our Savior Lutheran School, Grand Rapids**

1st place - Colin Carlson  
2nd place - Nathanael Bell  
3rd place - Trenton Rembert

## **Our Shepherd Lutheran School, Birmingham**

1st place - Isabelle Aquilina  
2nd place - Jeremiah Henry  
3rd place - Max Vollmert

## **Ovid-Elsie Junior High, Elsie**

1st place - Faith Rogers  
2nd place - Gavin Confer  
3rd place - Amelia Hibbler

## **Owendale-Gagetown Area School, Owendale**

1st place - Allison Haldane  
2nd place - Emily Schultz  
3rd place - Amber Haldane

## **Owosso Middle School, Owosso**

1st place - Mya Carie  
2nd place - Abby Dryer  
3rd place - Kate Grinnell

## **Oxford Middle School, Oxford**

1st place - Kyle DiMalanta  
2nd place - Adnan Khambaty  
3rd place - Sarah Kollenberg

## **Parchment Middle School, Parchment**

1st place - Hayley Betterly  
2nd place - Will Kovi  
3rd place - Kate Roelof

## **Parker Middle School, Howell**

**1st place - Audrey Davey**  
2nd place - Aiden Niemiec  
3rd place - Ally Johnson



## **Parkway Christian School, Sterling Heights**

1st place - Anna Shea  
2nd place - Aimee Greenwood  
3rd place - Audrey Hosmer

## **Patrick Henry Middle School, Woodhaven**

1st place - Cara Creutz  
2nd place - Ramsha Virk  
3rd place - Mehak Chohan

## **Peace Lutheran School, Livonia**

1st place - Natalie Malczyk  
2nd place - Elisabeth Kenworthy

## **Peace Lutheran School, Saginaw**

1st place - Ethan Rauschert  
2nd place - Gavin Girard  
3rd place - Keagan Gerow

## **Pellston Middle School, Pellston**

1st place - Emily Coffell  
2nd place - Maddison Myroniuk  
3rd place - Zoie Paquet

## **Petoskey Middle School, Petoskey**

1st place - Michael Denhoff  
2nd place - Will Scott  
3rd place - Jackson Jonker



# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Pewamo-Westphalia Junior High, Westphalia**

1st place - Melissa Bernal-Ponce

## **Pinconning Area Middle School, Pinconning**

1st place - Joslynn Humphrey

2nd place - Alex Gonzalez

3rd place - Elaina Huiskens

## **Plymouth Christian Academy, Canton**

1st place - Chiney Anwunah

2nd place - Lana Burger

3rd place - Taylor Janigian

## **Plymouth Christian High School, Grand Rapids**

1st place - Olivia Knibbe

2nd place - Melanie TenElshof

3rd place - Olivia Dykema

## **Portage West Middle School, Portage**

1st place - Joseph Beuker

2nd place - Zoe Whelham

3rd place - Kanani Carpenter

## **Portland Middle School, Portland**

1st place - Gabriel Parker

## **Powell Middle School, Washington**

1st place - Grace Yaklin

2nd place - Rebecca Hoder

3rd place - Lexie Ponce

## **Prairie Baptist School, Scotts**

1st place - Emma Gibson

2nd place - Rebecca Gray

3rd place - Nathan Kammeraad

## **Reach Charter Academy, Roseville**

1st place - Caitlyn Eddings

2nd place - Dekyra Stinson

3rd place - Asiah Hooper

## **Reformed Heritage Christian, Kalamazoo**

1st place - Melanie Hoeksema

2nd place - Victoria VandeGiessen

## **Resurrection School, Lansing**

1st place - Clare Lavagnino

2nd place - Peter Dudley

3rd place - Ava Fountain

## **Riverside Middle School, Grand Rapids**

1st place - Brandon Bechtold

2nd place - Gloria Tapia

3rd place - Malayah Garrison

## **Rogers City Area Schools, Rogers City**

1st place - Isabella Pitts

2nd place - Lily Clement

3rd place - Niya Hoffman

## **Romeo Middle School, Romeo**

1st place - Brikelle Berger

2nd place - Makayla Pedrick

3rd place - Maxxin Guinn

## **Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor**

1st place - Joey Lopez

## **Ruth Fox Middle School, North Branch**

1st place - Ethan Mercer

2nd place - Isabella Duckert

3rd place - Kara Winslow

## **Sacred Heart Academy, Mt. Pleasant**

1st place - Samantha Reid

2nd place - Jacob Pickens

3rd place - David Hunter

## **Sacred Heart School, Dearborn**

1st place - Keira Nadolsky

2nd place - Adam Saleh

3rd place - Gabriel Sikora

## **Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, Saginaw**

1st place - Ethan Williams

2nd place - Joseph Crachiola

3rd place - Veena Bulusu

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Saint Thecla Elementary School, Clinton Township**

1st place - Kate Gentry  
2nd place - Dean Oakie  
3rd place - Adrianna Lucido

## **Salem Lutheran School, Owosso**

1st place - Grace Perry  
2nd place - LJ Johnson

## **Saline Middle School, Saline**

1st place - Spencer Lynn  
2nd place - Grace Johnson  
3rd place - Max Watkins

## **Sandusky High School, Sandusky**

1st place - Kiera Waligorski  
2nd place - Jozlen Brinker  
3rd place - Amelia Huysentruyt

## **Schoolcraft Middle School, Schoolcraft**

1st place - Remy Kasten  
2nd place - Abigail Curtis  
3rd place - Catherine Wright

## **Scranton Middle School, Brighton**

1st place - Ella Reynolds  
2nd place - Parker Alexander  
3rd place - Jennifer Formica

## **Shelby Middle School, Shelby**

1st place - Briseida Brito  
2nd place - Kassie Bisard  
3rd place - Lexis Vega

## **Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran School, Brighton**

1st place - Natalie Danko  
2nd place - Payton VanDeven  
3rd place - Abigail Kraft

## **Simpson Intermediate School, Flat Rock**

1st place - Omar Muheisen  
2nd place - Peyton Mysliwicz  
3rd place - Brianna Raetzl

## **South Pointe Scholars, Ypsilanti**

1st place - Michael Theisen  
2nd place - Kailah Sanderson  
3rd place - Kaleigh Edwards

## **Spiritus Sanctus Academy, Plymouth**

1st place - Anthony Pucillo  
2nd place - Elizabeth Putlock  
3rd place - Owen Dorweiler

## **Spring Lake Junior High School, Spring Lake**

1st place - Abigail Uganski  
2nd place - Grayson Carpenter  
3rd place - Eli Wentz

## **Springport Middle School, Springport**

1st place - Tori Wilson  
2nd place - Chase Caudill  
3rd place - Kadence Nelson

## **SS. Peter and Paul School, Ionia**

1st place - Paul Meyer  
2nd place - Samuel Meyer  
3rd place - Jules Weller

## **St. Mary, Charlotte**

1st place - Nick Tennes  
2nd place - Jillian Nowlan  
3rd place - Brooke Buggia

## **St. Anselm School, Dearborn Heights**

1st place - Yasmina Fadlallah  
2nd place - Julian Djurasaj  
3rd place - Oswaldo Nava

## **St. Anthony of Padua School, Grand Rapids**

1st place - Randle Kado  
2nd place - Gianna Hathaway  
3rd place - Margaret McKeiver

## **St. Augustine Catholic School, Kalamazoo**

1st place - Alexandra O'Brien  
2nd place - Niklas Johansson  
3rd place - Sarah Kwapis

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **St. Augustine School, Richmond**

1st place - Luke Horlocker  
2nd place - Abigail Hoppe  
3rd place - Daniel Redlawski

## **St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, Coldwater**

1st place - Brysen Tappenden  
2nd place - Manny Ortiz  
3rd place - Ethan Woodcox

## **St. Charles School, Greenville**

1st place - Sophie Holmes  
2nd place - Fox DeWitt  
3rd place - Megan Lindeman

## **St. Charles School, Newport**

1st place - Emerson Cinglie  
2nd place - Riley Mitchell  
3rd place - Daniel Ozog

## **St. Clair Middle School, St. Clair**

1st place - Xavier Schoen  
2nd place - Molly Wiegand  
3rd place - Sophia Smith

## **St. Clare of Montefalco School, Grosse Pointe Park**

1st place - Kamryn Pearson  
2nd place - Blake Hern  
3rd place - Jaxson Graham

## **St. Edith School, Livonia**

1st place - Chris Cameron  
2nd place - Celina DiPonio  
3rd place - Emma Wollenweber

## **St. Elizabeth Area Catholic School, Reese**

1st place - Rachel Sirianni  
2nd place - Ashley Stuart  
3rd place - Ashlyn Wolschleger

## **St. Fabian Catholic School, Farmington Hills**

1st place - Kayla Yaldo  
2nd place - James Tringale  
3rd place - Katie Kowalyk

## **St. Francis of Assisi School, Ann Arbor**

1st place - Kemi Bailey  
2nd place - Isabeli Buendia  
3rd place - Aisling Brannock

## **St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, Petoskey**

1st place - Audrey Gietzen  
2nd place - David Johnston  
3rd place - Nate Thomas

## **St. Gerard School, Lansing**

1st place - Brian Magaswaran  
2nd place - Sophia Elliot  
3rd place - Zee Simpson

## **St. Joan of Arc School, St. Clair Shores**

1st place - Emma Miller  
2nd place - Grace Colombo  
3rd place - Mia Stephanoff

## **St. John Lutheran School, Bay City**

1st place - Hannah Soule  
2nd place - Travis Scharich  
3rd place - Cameron Jacobs

## **St. John Lutheran School, Fraser**

1st place - Declan Greene  
2nd place - Maya Pelletier  
3rd place - Daniel Morris

## **St. John Lutheran School, Rochester**

1st place - Anna Bochenek  
2nd place - Sarah Scharfenberg  
3rd place - Michael Schultz

## **St. John Lutheran School, Rogers City**

1st place - Brianne Alexander  
2nd place - Alyssa Hein  
3rd place - Morgan Bruing

## **St. John Vianney Catholic School, Flint**

1st place - Jude Streby  
2nd place - Hudson Mazurek  
3rd place - Isabel Tosto

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **St. John Vianney Catholic School, Wyoming**

1st place - Amelia Deibis  
2nd place - Caleb Cook  
3rd place - Allie Coppock

## **St. John's Lutheran School, Bay City**

1st place - Tyler Berchem  
2nd place - Gabe Smith  
3rd place - Christian Novellino

## **St. John's Lutheran School, Westland**

1st place - Samantha Emery  
2nd place - Colin Last

## **St. Joseph Catholic School, Erie**

1st place - Aleigha Parrack  
2nd place - Mallory Dietsch  
3rd place - Wade Joseph

## **St. Joseph Catholic School, Howell**

1st place - Rachel Luomala  
2nd place - Emma Luomala  
3rd place - Kylie Steffee

## **St. Joseph School, Lake Orion**

1st place - Alana Scolari  
2nd place - Alexis Kuyoth  
3rd place - Elena Moore

## **St. Joseph School, West Branch**

1st place - Sierra Grezeszak  
2nd place - Zachary Fernelius  
3rd place - Raina Bonus

## **St. Lawrence School, Utica**

1st place - Joseph Iacona  
2nd place - Zachary Femminineo  
3rd place - Caroline Weir

## **St. Lorenz Lutheran School, Frankenmuth**

1st place - Abbi Peterson  
2nd place - Amelia Schmitt  
3rd place - Emily Techentien

## **St. Mary / McCormick Catholic Academy, Port Huron**

1st place - Sylvie Schrader  
2nd place - Sharon Ward  
3rd place - Isabella Locricchio

## **St. Mary Cathedral School, Gaylord**

1st place - Alivia Zaremba  
2nd place - Emma Glasby  
3rd place - Ava Schultz

## **St. Mary Catholic School, Pinckney**

1st place - Miranda Hall  
2nd place - Zach deBeauclair  
3rd place - Hope Bezzeg

## **St. Mary School, Mt. Clemens**

1st place - Samantha Benford  
2nd place - Jack Cook  
3rd place - Nina Olivieri

## **St. Mary School, Spring Lake**

1st place - Zeb James  
2nd place - Robyn Hunt  
3rd place - Maddox Schaner-Follett

## **St. Matthew Lutheran School, Walled Lake**

1st place - Megan Tiedje  
2nd place - Madeline Tinskey  
3rd place - Carson Millspaugh

## **St. Michael Lutheran School, Portage**

1st place - Layla Wallace

## **St. Michael Lutheran School, Richville**

1st place - Hunter Krause  
2nd place - Hannah Reinhardt  
3rd place - Gavin Haley

## **St. Michael Lutheran School, Wayne**

1st place - Natalie Smith  
2nd place - Adam Rakovalis  
3rd place - Miriam Ruth

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **St. Michael School, Livonia**

1st place - Abigail Koch  
2nd place - Lauren Smiley  
3rd place - Gianna Schubert

## **St. Monica Catholic School, Kalamazoo**

1st place - Nina Husovska  
2nd place - Sam Kerby  
3rd place - Olivia Ashton

## **St. Patrick School, Ada**

1st place - Andy Dzik  
2nd place - Gracie Cooper  
3rd place - Alyssa Spanbauer

## **St. Patrick School, Carleton**

1st place - Madeleine DeSana  
2nd place - Madison Bruck  
3rd place - Mackenzie Niedermeyer

## **St. Patrick School, White Lake**

1st place - Madeleine Schouman  
2nd place - Katie Leuker  
3rd place - Aidan Kinsella

## **St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, Grosse Pointe Farms**

1st place - Lynne Romanelli  
2nd place - Noah Stiyer  
3rd place - Alex English

## **St. Paul Catholic School, Owosso**

1st place - Olivia Savage  
2nd place - Tyler Hufnagel  
3rd place - Katherine Haun

## **St. Paul Lutheran School, Bay City**

1st place - Max Behmlander  
2nd place - Maggie Behmlander  
3rd place - Chessa Bourdow

## **St. Paul Lutheran School, Millington**

1st place - Weston Reinig  
2nd place - Levi Ostrander  
3rd place - Aaron Trask

## **St. Paul Lutheran School, Stevensville**

1st place - Zachary Uhrik  
2nd place - Paige Martin  
3rd place - Natalie Ritter

## **St. Paul's Lutheran, Ann Arbor**

1st place - Hannah Schultz  
2nd place - Michael Varvara  
3rd place - Benjamin Orlando

## **St. Paul's Lutheran School, Saginaw**

1st place - Greta Kopp  
2nd place - Willaim Eubank  
3rd place - Mya LaGalo

## **St. Peter Lutheran School, Eastpointe**

1st place - Skylar Ehresman  
2nd place - Jacob Seeburger  
3rd place - Samantha Robinson

## **St. Peter Lutheran School, Hemlock**

1st place - Karissa Hill  
2nd place - Adam Beyersdorf  
3rd place - Ryleigh Sullivan

## **St. Peter Lutheran School, Macomb**

1st place - Anthony Morga  
2nd place - Emily Barker  
3rd place - Lillian Burke

## **St. Pius X Catholic School, Flint**

1st place - Vincent Mathew  
2nd place - Edith Pendell  
3rd place - Lana Elia

## **St. Pius X School, Southgate**

1st place - Patrick Guentner  
2nd place - Liliana Avis-Lopez  
3rd place - Joseph Sawicki

## **St. Regis School, Bloomfield**

1st place - Grace Stenger  
2nd place - Catherine DuBay  
3rd place - Ava Gorga

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **St. Robert School, Flushing**

1st place - Marissa Cipriani  
2nd place - Caelen Meuhlen  
3rd place - Andy O

## **St. Stanislaus School, Dorr**

1st place - Megan Williams  
2nd place - Anna Fein  
3rd place - Joe Murphy

## **St. Stephen Catholic School, East Grand Rapids**

1st place - Reilly Stay  
2nd place - Yasmine Meza  
3rd place - Sam Hoekstra

## **St. Stephen Lutheran School, Adrian**

1st place - Caleb Brockway  
2nd place - Dakota Schlorf  
3rd place - Drew Wiedyk

## **St. Stephen School, New Boston**

1st place - Emma Randles  
2nd place - Leonard Fritz  
3rd place - Elsie Bodary

## **St. Thomas the Apostle School, Grand Rapids**

1st place - Michael App  
2nd place - Mary Clare Olive  
3rd place - Lucy Wadaga

## **St. Valentine School, Redford**

1st place - Kyle Butler  
2nd place - Aleah Patton  
3rd place - Jaxon Baehr

## **St. William Catholic School, Walled Lake**

1st place - James Dulzo  
2nd place - Luke Collias  
3rd place - Madeline Lally

## **Standish-Sterling Junior High, Standish**

1st place - Rylee Bentley  
2nd place - Isabelle Begres  
3rd place - Kaydryn Kraska

## **Stanton Township Public Schools, Atlantic Mine**

1st place - Madalynne Collins

## **Stephenson Middle School, Stephenson**

1st place - Evalyn Labs  
2nd place - Taylor Anger  
3rd place - Trina Bedgood

## **Sturgis Middle School, Sturgis**

1st place - Ian Earl  
2nd place - Evelyn Cruz  
3rd place - Olivia Sudduth

## **Swan Valley Middle School, Saginaw**

1st place - Rylei Muter  
2nd place - Rachel Resio  
3rd place - Makilynn Berden

## **Tahquamenon Area Schools, Newberry**

1st place - Rachel Knoertzer  
2nd place - Lola Depew  
3rd place - Mackenzie Dunbar

## **Tawas Junior High School, Tawas City**

1st place - Madison Burgess  
2nd place - Miranda Nickell  
3rd place - Stephan Neiser

## **Tekonsha Middle School, Tekonsha**

1st place - Olivia Shapow  
2nd place - Taylor Sayles  
3rd place - Collin Hagedorn

## **The Chatfield School, Lapeer**

1st place - Megan Essenmacher  
2nd place - Cassie Verellen  
3rd place - Lauren Johnson

## **The Midland Academy, Midland**

1st place - Alexandria Budnick  
2nd place - Emily Saladine  
3rd place - Kiara Kiely

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Thompson Middle School, Southfield**

1st place - J'Prince'Ce'A Simpson  
2nd place - Anthony Borum  
3rd place - Joel Justice

## **Thurston Middle School, St. Charles**

1st place - Ava Morse  
2nd place - Brooklyn Fear  
3rd place - Aidan Kelley

## **Timberland Charter Academy, Muskegon**

1st place - JaifLinia Oliver  
2nd place - DeAsha Collins  
3rd place - Dontell Coleman

## **Traverse City Christian School, Traverse City**

1st place - Taylor Tebben  
2nd place - Ava Wendel  
3rd place - Brienna Slikkers

## **Traverse City West Junior High School, Traverse City**

1st place - Anna Sperry  
2nd place - Ben Doriot  
3rd place - Henrik Buttleman

## **Trinity Lutheran School, Bay City**

1st place - Sofia Morrone  
2nd place - Mallory Harrelson  
3rd place - Morgan Schwanbeck

## **Trinity Lutheran School, Berrien Springs**

1st place - Jaebie Camacho  
2nd place - Sarah Adams  
3rd place - Tori Johnson

## **Trinity Lutheran School, Clinton Township**

1st place - Kylie D'Andrea  
2nd place - Kaitlyn Olivares  
3rd place - Benjamin Hardy

## **Trinity Lutheran School, Monroe**

1st place - Merin Merkle  
2nd place - Isabella Cicero  
3rd place - Evelyn Short

## **Trinity Lutheran School, Paw Paw**

1st place - Hunter Trumbull  
2nd place - Philip Gowell  
3rd place - Gavin Cole

## **Trinity Lutheran School, Reed City**

1st place - Olivia Moore  
2nd place - Rachel Van Syckle  
3rd place - Kaiden Burgess

## **Trinity Lutheran School, Reese**

1st place - Nicole Raymond  
2nd place - Emma Wendland  
3rd place - Joel Laursen

## **Trinity Lutheran School, St. Joseph**

1st place - Audra Cuchinski  
2nd place - Gabriella Wiskow  
3rd place - Cheyenne Bridgman

## **Trinity Lutheran School, Traverse City**

1st place - Emily Rasmussen  
2nd place - Daniale Lakanen  
3rd place - Kenneth Gryc

## **Trinity Lutheran School, Utica**

1st place - April Alexander  
2nd place - Noah Felten  
3rd place - Bradley Teeple

## **Triumph Academy, Monroe**

1st place - Madison Cregar  
2nd place - Jude Stamper  
3rd place - Ashley Ray

## **Union City Middle School, Union City**

1st place - Kyla Burdick  
2nd place - Sydney Fraley  
3rd place - Tyler McCowan-Stevens

## **Unionville-Sebewaing Area Middle School, Sebewaing**

1st place - Carson Holland  
2nd place - Emily Faber  
3rd place - Jailyn Zuzga

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Universal Learning Academy, Westland**

1st place - Reham Althalemi  
2nd place - Anandita Khaliza  
3rd place - Aaliyah Awada

## **University of Detroit Jesuit Academy & High School, Detroit**

1st place - Myles de Jongh  
2nd place - Todd Perkins  
3rd place - Andrew English

## **Verona Mills Elementary School, Bad Axe**

1st place - Xavier Sands  
2nd place - Logan Kanaski  
3rd place - Aleigha Krueger

## **Vicksburg Middle School, Vicksburg**

1st place - Allison Bowlds  
2nd place - Elizabeth Bonds  
3rd place - Vanessa Kelly

## **Waldon Middle School, Lake Orion**

1st place - Angelina Filias  
2nd place - Lily Rasbach

## **Walker Charter Academy, Walker**

1st place - Nolan Droski  
2nd place - Ava Bazuin

## **Walkerville Middle School, Walkerville**

1st place - Elizabeth Tebbetts  
2nd place - Isabella Storm  
3rd place - Henrik Quist

## **Warner Middle School, Farmington Hills**

1st place - Abbey Gray  
2nd place - Nidhi Mistry

## **Warrendale Charter Academy, Detroit**

1st place - Kaitlyn Jordan  
2nd place - Oluwakorede Onakanmi  
3rd place - Grace Ashaolu

## **Washtenaw Christian Academy, Saline**

1st place - Jaslynn Thomas  
2nd place - Amaris Sandu  
3rd place - Joshua Herman

## **Wayland Union Middle School, Wayland**

1st place - Summer Morrison  
2nd place - Mahala Wierenga  
3rd place - Clara Hawley

## **West Hills Middle School, West Bloomfield**

1st place - Alexa Kessler  
2nd place - Rachel Berris  
3rd place - Elihaj Cook

## **West Iron County Middle School, Iron River**

1st place - Natalie Pigeon  
2nd place - Gracie Mylchreest  
3rd place - Alyssa Johnson

## **West Middle School, Plymouth**

1st place - Ambreen Sidhu  
2nd place - Jenna Badger  
3rd place - Sofia Poulos

## **Western Michigan Christian High School, Norton Shores**

1st place - Kendal Young  
2nd place - Hannah Woller  
3rd place - Sophie Hendrie

## **Western Middle School, Auburn**

1st place - Alyssa Burger  
2nd place - Hannah Beardsley  
3rd place - Katie Mullin

## **White Middle School, Allegan**

1st place - Titus Smith  
2nd place - McKenna Morrie  
3rd place - Grace Clearwater

## **White Pine Middle School, Saginaw**

1st place - Kennedi Thomas  
2nd place - Carlos Lopez  
3rd place - David Walsh



# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS *and* LOCAL WINNERS

## **Whitefish Township Community Schools, Paradise**

1st place - Dominic Nalette

## **Wilkinson Middle School, Madison Heights**

1st place - Aneta Boutros

## **Williamston Middle School, Williamston**

1st place - Julia Kruger

2nd place - Isabelle Holden

3rd place - Jessey Adams

## **Woodland School, Traverse City**

1st place - Kadia Bielaczyc

2nd place - Sadie Smith

3rd place - Ella Walter

## **Yale Junior High School, Yale**

1st place - Jordyn Williams

2nd place - Julia MacDonald

3rd place - Brooklyn Bartmanski

## **Zion Christian School, Byron Center**

1st place - Alex VandenToorn

2nd place - Alayna Leestma

3rd place - Morgan Schipper

## **Zion Lutheran School, Auburn**

1st place - Sawyer Whalen

2nd place - Faith Hurst

3rd place - Chloe Wittbrodt

## **Zion Lutheran School, Bay City**

1st place - Farrah Hodgkinson

2nd place - Paige Jurik

3rd place - Analece Beam

## **Zion Lutheran School, Harbor Beach**

1st place - Brittany Scoviak

2nd place - Aubri Layer

3rd place - Noelle Rick

# 2018-'19 AGENT PARTICIPATION



AGENTS STEVE ROBAK, RACHEL LEVINE, JIM MCDANIELS, JOE GABRIELE AND ERIC ZYBER WITH DON SIMON AND MATT TAYLOR



AGENT JIM MCDANIELS



AGENT ERIC ZYBER

The following **79 agents**, 106 Michigan schools had the privilege of being sponsored by an agent during last year's essay contest.

The agents in red on the following page were sponsors for **6 of the 10 top ten** statewide student winners during the 2018-'19 contest year.

There are several reasons why you should consider being sponsored by your local Farm Bureau Insurance agent.

- The agent, serves as the go-between with the school and the Farm Bureau corporate office.
- An agent sponsor will sign up the school, forward completed essays to the Farm Bureau corporate office for judging, and present awards to local winners.
- The agent will pay for the cost associated with adding the 1st place school winners name to the school plaque.
- Your name is connected with an effective, well-respected educational program.
- We are pleased to announce that again this year, if your school has a top ten statewide winner and has been sponsored by a Farm Bureau Insurance agent, your school will receive an additional \$500!

Contact your local Farm Bureau Insurance agent for sponsorship or contact [lfedewa@fbinsmi.com](mailto:lfedewa@fbinsmi.com) for an agent near you.



Agents with top ten Winners appear in **Red** and agents who sponsored multiple schools appear in **bold**

John Aird

Bill Angerbrandt

**Tim Barry**

**Tony Beachler**

**Michael Bennett**

Steve Berg

Ryan Blanchett

**Krista Brickner**

Tammy Brown

Wayne Brown

Kim Butcher Tacey

Jacey Carner

Andrew Ceo

Barbara Costello

**John Crinnion**

Rich Dagenais

**Lynn Denton**

Kate DeRue

Bradley Dobberstein

**Colleen Dyer**

Rick Eder

Brian Edwards

**Steve Ellis**

Scott Fair

**Joe Gabriele**

Tony Gaideski

**Tracy Germain**

Wayne Golden

Mike Hall

Michael Hayes

Ron Hicks

Jerrid Hisler

Marcus Huisman

Reggie Ignash

**Jill Irish**

John Jaboro

**Casey Jahn**

Carl Jefts

**Rick Jensen**

Larry Johnson

Randy Kenney

Steven Kinney

Josh Klee

Kaleb Klotz

**Matt Knizacky**

**Deborah Kroswek**

**David Landheer**

Ron Lapland

Dan Lee

Heather LeSage

**Rachel Levine**

Carlos Lozano

Richard Mackie

Randy McCoy

**Jim McDaniels**

Pat McGuire

Mike Neely

Jeff Neumann

Kelly Obenauf

Kim Phillips

John Pistulka

**Pete Quakkelaar**

**Steve Robak**

Denny Roy

Marty Rudlaff

Diane Rzeppa

Scott Sanders

Jeremy Schultz

Joe Schultz

**Melissa Schultz**

Angela Shannon

Brian Songer

Dalton Stanage

Carol Theile

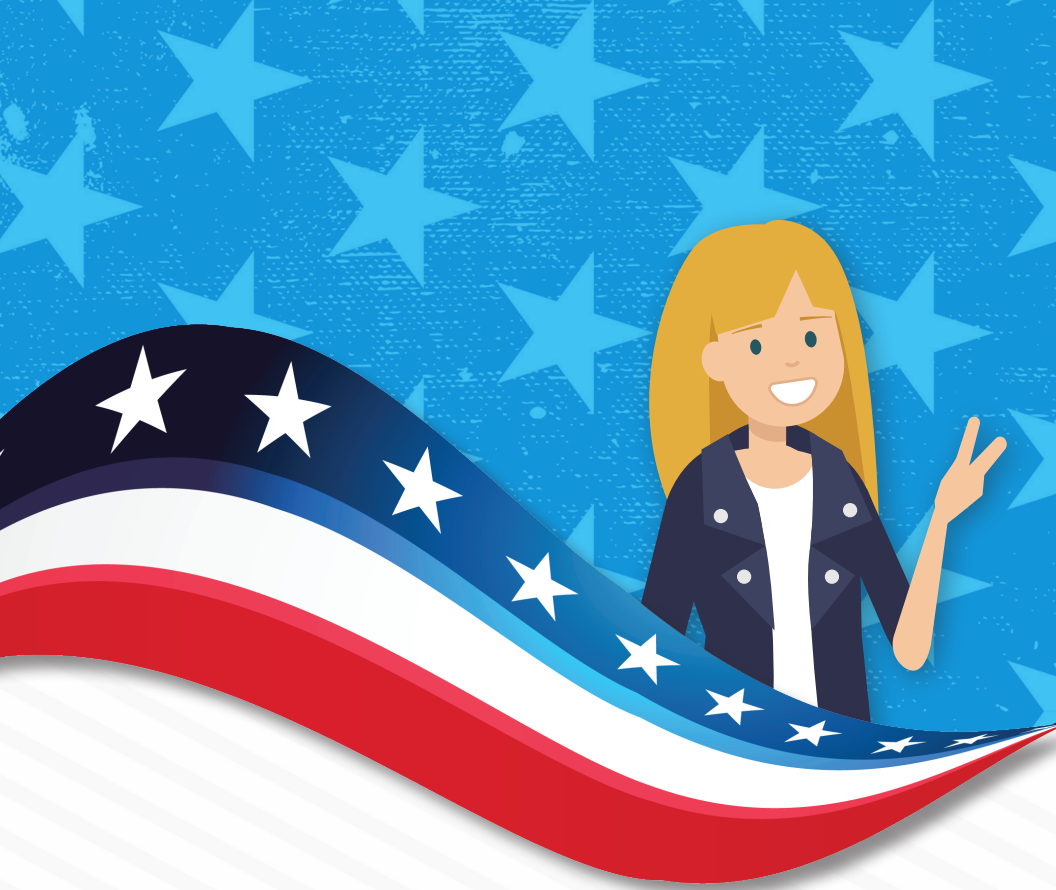
Jessica Thompson

Michael Vereecke

Ryan Welsner

Gary Wery

**Eric Zyber**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

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