

Celebrating Our Patriotism



District-Wide Writing Contest

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section I – General Rules

From Thursday, October 15, 2009 through Friday, October 23, 2009 (the “*Contest Period*”), the North Colonie Central School District will conduct a writing contest in the schools of Shaker High School, Shaker Junior High School, Blue Creek Elementary School, Boght Hills Elementary School, Forts Ferry Elementary School, Latham Ridge Elementary School, Loudonville Elementary School, Maplewood Elementary School, and Southgate Elementary School, focusing on what the significance of Veterans Day and what Patriotism means to individual students (the “*Contest*”). To enter, students will submit a writing piece that follows the Submission Guidelines as detailed in Section III. As further detailed in Section VII, entrants agree to accept and be bound by all terms of these Official Rules and Regulations and to accept and be bound by the decisions of the North Colonie Central School District, whose decisions are final with respect to all matters of the Contest.

Only one entry per student is permitted. Entries that are incomplete, are submitted late, contain information other than as requested, or otherwise do not comply with these Official Rules and Regulations will not be accepted. By entering the Contest, entrants and their sponsoring teachers agree that the North Colonie Central School District will own and administer 100% of the copyright in all pieces of writing submitted, with the perpetual right to use such writing pieces and that said writing pieces are solely the work of the entrant for whom they are submitting a writing piece. The North Colonie Central School District may edit for grammar, modify for style only, and distribute the submitted writing piece with no additional notification or permission of the entrant or submitting teacher. Writing pieces will only be used to further the educational mission and goals of the North Colonie Central School District (please see Section VI for a Privacy Statement).

Section II – Eligibility

The Contest is open to all students enrolled in the North Colonie Central School District, grades K-12.

Section III – Submission Guidelines

Each writing piece must adhere to the topic “*Celebrating Our Patriotism*” and should fully respond to the following respective categories. The student’s name and the school of attendance should be clearly denoted on the writing piece.

Grades Kindergarten through 2

- Create a greeting card to thank a veteran

Grades 3 through 6

- Write a letter of thanks to a veteran (may or may not be directed toward a specific individual)

Grades 7 and 8

- Create a poem based on the theme of patriotism

Grades 9 through 12

- Write a 250 word response to the question: “*What does patriotism mean to you?*”

*** *Writing pieces must be submitted to Mr. Weaver, Shaker High School by Friday, October 23, 2009* ***

Section IV – Judging and Timing

After the Contest Period, the judges selected by the North Colonie Central School District will review and select finalist writing pieces from all the eligible entries received. The judges will then select the prize-winning writing pieces in each grade-level contest (K-2, 3-6, 7-8, and 9-12). Entries will be evaluated based upon the following criteria: adherence to the Submission Guidelines (as stated in Section III), originality, organization, writing style, and depth of analysis. Judging will be completed on or around October 30, 2009, at which time all finalists will be notified. *Winners will be announced at the District’s Annual Veterans Day Celebration on November 4, 2009.*

The North Colonie Central School District reserves the right in their sole administration of the Contest to disqualify any individual they find or believe to: (a) be tampering with the entry process or the administration of the Contest; (b) be acting in violation of these Official Rules and Regulations; or (c) plagiarizing content in any form.

The selection of the judges is within the sole and absolute discretion of the North Colonie Central School District. The judges who are selected by the North Colonie Central School District will not have a direct connection to the student who has written the writing pieces or be in a position to affect the objectivity and impartiality of any judge with respect to a submitted writing piece.

Section V – Awards

Winners will be announced on November 4, 2009 at the District's Annual Veterans Day Celebration.

Plaques will be given to the top winners (first place) for each category: K-2, 3-6, 7-8, and 9-12. In addition, certificates will be given to runners-up for each category (second and third place).

Section VI – Privacy Statement

Upon submission of a writing piece, the writing piece becomes the property of the North Colonie Central School District. By entering the Contest, entrants and their submitting teachers grant the North Colonie Central School District the right, unless prohibited by law, to use their names and school of attendance for the express purpose of advertising and publicity of the Contest in any and all media, now or after. Entrants and their submitting teachers also grant the North Colonie Central School District permission to use their name and writing piece to further its educational mission.

Section VII – Availability Disclaimer

The administration of the Contest, including, without limitation, determining the eligibility of a student or writing piece, selecting of a judge, evaluating any submitted writing piece, and awarding of the prizes, is within the sole and absolute discretion of the North Colonie Central School District. No student or teacher, or person or organization related thereto, has a right to appeal, contest, dispute, or otherwise challenge any aspect of the administration of the Contest, and any decision of the North Colonie Central School District is final in all respects.

No responsibility is assumed for incorrect or inaccurate entry information whether caused by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized by this contest or by any human error which may occur in the processing of entries into this contest. The North Colonie Central School District is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, or delayed entries or any problems or technical malfunctions of any telephone network or lines, computer on-line systems, servers or providers, computer equipment, software, failure of players on account of technical problems, or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any website or combination thereof.

If, for any reason, the Contest is not capable of running as planned, including infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes beyond the control of the North Colonie Central School District, which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of this contest or for any reason the North Colonie Central School District deems it necessary, the North Colonie Central School District reserves the right to cancel, modify, or delay the Contest.

Section VIII – Non-Discrimination Policy

In administering the Contest, the North Colonie Central School District will not discriminate in any manner, including on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin, and each eligible essay submitted will be evaluated upon the merit of its contents as further described in Section IV.