

Baltimore County Public Schools

BROTHERHOOD / SISTERHOOD COMPETITION

Date: January 16, 2009

To: All Principals

From: Office of Equity and Assurance

Once again, Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) joins in the nationwide observance of Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week. The recognition, which has been forwarded by the National Conference of Community and Justice, occurs from February 16th through 22nd this year. The emphasis at this time is that all people treat each other with dignity, respect, and caring, regardless of differences. Although these values are highlighted during this week, they are universal and timeless.

In recognition of Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week, BCPS, in partnership with the BCPS Diversity and Achievement Steering Committee, is featuring a competition in which students at elementary, middle, and high school levels may participate. The competition consists of essay, poetry, and poster contests for each of the above levels. Every student who enters this competition will receive an award. First, second, and third place students at elementary, middle, and high school levels will receive plaques and be honored at the Board of Education Recognition Ceremony. **All students** who enter the competition **will receive a certificate of merit.**

To participate, students should submit an essay, poster, or poem that relates to a theme. The theme this year is — **“Brothers and sisters united to make a better world.”** Directions for the competition are provided on the entry forms. A master for these forms is attached. Schools are asked to make duplicates of this form and distribute them to interested students.

The kickoff for the competition is Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week, and all entries must be submitted to the Office of Equity and Assurance, Greenwood, by Friday, March 13, 2009. Due to the size of posters, participating schools are asked to assist by having a staff member collect and bring them to Greenwood. Entries will not be returned.

Please note again that any student who enters will receive a special certificate acknowledging his/her participation.

If there are any questions, please call Merry C. Macer at extension 2444.

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STUDENT ENTRY FORM

Baltimore County Public Schools and the BCPS Diversity and Achievement Steering Committee join with The National Conference of Community and Justice in the nationwide celebration of Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week. During this week, February 16 - 22, 2009, people all over the country are asked to remember to treat others with dignity and respect regardless of racial, ethnic, and religious differences.

As part of its recognition, Baltimore County Public Schools provides students at elementary, middle, and high school levels the opportunity to participate in a competition about brotherhood/sisterhood. The program consists of essay, poster, and poetry competitions for each of the above levels. There will be first, second, and third place winners in each competition area (essay, poster, poetry) at each level. First, second, and third place students at elementary, middle, and high school levels will receive official plaques.

All winners will be recognized at a Board of Education Recognition Ceremony. Every student who enters will receive a certificate of merit for his or her work.

Directions for Students:

1. To participate, a student may write a composition or a poem, or draw a poster about the following topic or theme:

“Brothers and sisters united to make a better world.”

Whether it is a poem, an essay, or poster, it must demonstrate or display how people from different backgrounds and cultures can join with one another to make the world better. Sub-themes related to the theme can focus on topics such as peace, reducing poverty, helping with world hunger, or global climate and the environment, or any issues where people can join together to make the world better.

2. A student may enter only one competition—essay, poster, or poetry. A student may submit only one entry in one competition area.

3. Compositions and poems may be typed or handwritten. All entries must be double spaced.

4. Posters should be at least 18 inches by 24 inches large. Students should use colors to help show the theme. Students may also use paints, crayons, pastels, pictures, photos, and words.

5. Students should complete the information below and submit this form with their entries. In addition to submitting the form, students should include their name, school, and grade on their entries. All entries must be submitted to the Office of Equity and Assurance, Greenwood, by **Friday, March 13, 2009**.

Entries will not be returned.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

School Name: _____

Check One: Essay Entry Poster Entry Poetry Entry