



# NEWS RELEASE

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## BCPS 2023 Haiku Contest begins accepting entries on Thursday, Feb. 16

*A picture is worth  
a thousand words, or maybe  
a haiku by you*

TOWSON – They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Baltimore County Public Schools is only seeking 17 syllables.

For the [BCPS 2023 Haiku Contest](#), each student is invited to choose from among [10 pieces of student artwork](#) and to write a haiku inspired by that artwork. Entries for the annual BCPS Haiku Poetry Contest will be accepted from 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, February 16, through 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, March 2.

"We are excited that this year's haiku contest has a new twist," said BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams. "Rather than asking students to write haiku on a single theme, we are giving students options to use their interpretive skills to analyze and react to student artwork. I am always interested to see what students are thinking and how they will express their ideas and feelings. The contest is a welcome opportunity to celebrate student writing, student art, and student voice."

A haiku is a Japanese poem that consists of three lines. The first line has five syllables, the second line has seven syllables, and the third line has five syllables. BCPS uses the [How Many Syllables](#) website to check syllable counts. Each student may enter only one haiku, and it must be an original poem. Haiku found to be plagiarized will be disqualified. Students are encouraged to be creative in their use of imagery and vocabulary.

All haiku must be original and must be submitted using the [online 2023 Haiku Contest Form](#). Each student may only submit one haiku. A winning haiku will be chosen at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Winners will be announced on Monday, April 17, International Haiku Poetry Day, and will receive prizes.

As in prior years, the winning poems and additional selected haiku will be compiled into an online book with student artwork. Each school library will receive a print copy.

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).