



# NEWS RELEASE

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## New online haiku book celebrates student writing inspired by student artwork

Towson, MD — The judges' favorite entries to this year's Team BCPS Haiku Contest have been compiled into a [new online book](#). Print copies of the book are being distributed to all Baltimore County Public Schools' school libraries.

For the 2023 haiku contest, for the first time, rather than challenging BCPS students to write haiku related to a word or concept, students were asked to write in response to a student artwork selected from among [10 pieces](#). Nearly 2,200 entries were received from 111 schools, centers, and programs – including the Virtual Learning Program.

Contest judges, including award-winning student writers and BCPS staff members from the Office of English Language Arts and Department of Communications and Community Outreach, selected three contest winners: Elliana Cunningham, Grade 5, Sparks Elementary School; Graham TerBeek, Grade 7, Dumbarton Middle School; and Paige Mathias, Grade 11, Eastern Technical High School. The judges also selected an additional 162 haiku to be included in the book, which also features the 10 artworks that inspired the poetry.

"I encourage community members to take a few minutes to review our students' writing," BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams said. "The haiku created by our students showcase their intelligence, insight, creativity, and humor. We thank every student who participated, and we recognize the support and encouragement our student writers receive from their teachers and families. Every year, this contest affirms Team BCPS' strong commitment to literary arts and self-expression."

*(Editor's note: An [image of the book cover](#) can be found on Flickr.)*

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 22nd 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](#).