



NEWS RELEASE

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Three winners selected from nearly 1,700 entries in Team BCPS Haiku Contest

*Winning poets attend Jacksonville Elementary, Arbutus Middle, George
Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology*

TOWSON – The three winning poems of the 2021 Team BCPS Haiku Contest address the COVID-19 global pandemic, the outcry for social justice and change, and the longing for growth.

Nearly 1,700 haiku flowed in from 108 schools and centers – the highest number of participating schools and centers ever. Responding to the theme “change,” students wrote about their own physical and emotional growth and about the aging and passing of loved ones. They wrote about pocket change, climate change, and seasons changing. And they wrote about the inevitability of change and the unexpected rewards it sometimes brings.

After a lengthy debate, a panel of judges selected just three winners. The contest winners are:

Elementary School Winner

Walks in with no cure
Takes all the toilet paper
Stays for a whole year

Aubrey Suljak, Grade 5
Jacksonville Elementary School
Kimberly Kelch, Grade 5 teacher

Middle School Winner

I watched it happen
the people chanting for change

fists high in the air

Madilyn Senisse, Grade 8
Arbutus Middle School
Rebecca Bowers, English language arts teacher

High School Winner

us and the trees stand
both stark naked and waiting
beaming thoughts of bloom

Noah Colosino, Grade 10
George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology
Rebecca Mlinek, English language arts teacher

The three winners of the 2021 contest will each receive as prizes: gift cards from [The Charmery](#) and [The Ivy Bookshop](#), and a framed poster of their haiku from BCPS.

“Every year, through their entries, our students show us how deeply they think and how creatively they express themselves,” said Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams. “This year’s winning haiku are well-crafted and invite thought and interpretation. I congratulate Aubrey, Madilyn, and Noah for their excellent writing, and I thank every student from Kindergarten through Grade 12 who entered and every teacher who encouraged his or her students to write. Writing, like every skill, requires practice, and it is exciting that the entire BCPS community embraces this opportunity to focus on developing as writers.”

The haiku were judged by a panel of 14, including staff members from the Office of English Language Arts and the Department of Communications and Community Outreach, and student poet Madeline Carlson, Grade 10, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology.

(Editor's note: Photos of the three haiku contest winners accompany this release.)

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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](#).