Power of the Pen 2016
Informational Meeting * Thursday, October 8th 2:05

7th & 8th Grade Team Writing Try Outs
Tuesday, October 13th @ 2:05 - 3:00
Bring a PEN, an OPEN MIND, and a SMILE

Qualified Tournament Team Writers will be announced the week of October 19th
The first of our weekly team meetings will begin on Tuesday, October 27th at 2:05-3:00 and will continue on Tuesdays unless otherwise announced.

WHAT: Power of the Pen is an excellent experience for students to awaken and strengthen their creative voice as well as prepare them for state mandated testing. There will be more than 500 schools from over 80 counties participating in one or more tournaments. Power of the Pen helps students to gain a confident writing voice via creative expression using the elements of good writing verses expository writing focusing on mechanics. Since creativity cannot be “taught,” it is our hope to inspire and nurture creativity which enables students to take pride in their work, improve mechanics, and develop a love for language.

WHEN: Power of the Pen Teams will meet after school every Monday (and Wednesday starting in January) to practice and to discuss writing prompts, generate ideas, and share written work. *It is important that ALL Power of the Pen members attend the practice sessions since alternates may be moved up to be into a competing slot on the team.

HOW: The TEAM will consist of six writers and two alternates per grade level (7th and 8th only). We will practice weekly to prepare for competition(s). The following are the scheduled tournament dates for this year:

DISTRICT Saturday, Jan. 16th 8:30 - 3 pm @ J A Garfield Middle
➢ The WHOLE TEAM will participate at District…therefore you need to be available to complete at the first tournament in order to be considered for the team.

REGIONAL Saturday, Feb. 27th 8:30 - 3 pm @ Kent State University
➢ Then, those who qualify will then advance to the Regional, and finally, those who qualify there will then advance to State.
➢ Team members who don't qualify for this level may sign up to be “runners” at the Regional tournament - volunteering for Power of the Pen is lots of fun!!

STATE* May 26th & 27th * 2 day event @ The College of Wooster*
➢ Team members who qualify will spend the day at the College of Wooster on Friday, May 27th to complete against all State qualifiers in their grade

* FYI: This year's State Tournament falls not only on our LAST DAY of school but also during the 8th grade D.C. Trip... no student who qualifies for State will be required to attend and compete at this level; it will be optional.

PAY TO PARTICIPATE: The Twinsburg Pay to Participate cost for Power of the Pen is $60.00; this fee is required of all qualified team writers and qualified team and will need to be paid to the school no later than November 6th.
As a member of Power of the Pen, you are expected to:

➢ Attend all practice session that are held for team members.
➢ Show a willingness to accept constructive criticism and a willingness to improve your writing in all pre-tournament meetings that are held.
➢ Edit your written work as required by your Writing Team Coach.
➢ Practice outside of school several times a week on suggested practice prompts.
➢ Positively support all fellow team members prior, during, and post tournaments regardless of individual achievement

When competing on behalf of our school at tournaments, you will be expected to:

➢ Conduct yourself at all times in interscholastic competition as an official team representative for our school, and in a manner that will be a credit of our school, your coach, your fellow team members, and yourself.
➢ Be present at all tournaments that you are qualified to attend (except in the case of an unexpected illness and/or at this year's State Tournament). The dates and locations for the tournaments are:

District - **Saturday, January 16th** at J A Garfield Middle School
Regional - **Saturday, February 27th**, at Kent State University
State - **Thursday and Friday, May 26th & 27th**, at The College of Wooster

I understand what is expected of me, and I will do my best to fulfill my responsibilities as a Power of the Pen Team Member, if I should qualify.

Student Signature

Student Email: _____________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent Email: _____________________________________________

Parent Contact Number: ___________________________________