

January 12, 2018

Dear Georgetown Families:

The 2018 Young Authors Program at Georgetown School is officially underway!

Georgetown's program is part of the Illinois Young Authors program, which is now in its 44th year and culminates with a statewide conference in May at Illinois State University. Our school will choose one representative to send on behalf of Georgetown School to the one day conference at Illinois State University on May 19, 2017.

This program is intended to generate appreciation and recognition of children's writing. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are encouraged to participate in the Young Authors Program by writing and submitting an original story, essay, or collection of poems.

It is our goal at Georgetown School to recognize all Young Authors. Every child who creates a book becomes a District #204 Young Author and will receive a participation acknowledgement. **ALL** participants will have the opportunity to have their manuscript displayed in the LMC.

Attached to this are all the details you need to participate in the Young Author's program. Please follow the guidelines carefully. Entries that do not follow the established guidelines are subject to disqualification from the judging process.

We're proud of the creative minds we have at Georgetown and look forward to reading all of the good writing!

If you have any questions, please contact the LMC at Vicki_Pattermann@ipsd.org OR 630-375-3456.

Young Author Timeline

- ❑ Now - February 16th: Students work on writing at home
- ❑ February 16th: Entries are due to Georgetown LMC
- ❑ Winner is announced and awards are presented in early March.
- ❑ May 19th: Georgetown's Young Author representative attends the state's Young Author's conference at Illinois State University in Normal, IL.

Guidelines for Development

- ❑ All writing will be done voluntarily outside of school time, and will be done with minimal parent assistance. This is not a graded assignment. Adults may point out mechanical errors or areas of concern without specifically telling students what to write.
- ❑ The work must be original; the child must conceive the entire story. Other stories CANNOT be copied. Adults may offer encouragement and criticism but may not act as “ghost writers.”
- ❑ Acceptable styles of writing are story, essay or poetry. Try expository, narrative or persuasive writing! Let your imagination run wild and be creative.
- ❑ Dictated books may be typed or handwritten by an adult but must be in the student’s own “voice”.

How will I be judged on my Young Author's Entry?

When creating your Young Author's entry, consider that the following things will be looked at when it is judged:

- ❑ Ideas and Content
 - ❑ Is your entry focused on one main idea with supporting details?
- ❑ Interest to the reader
 - ❑ Do the ideas you've written about hold your interest?
- ❑ Impact to the senses
 - ❑ Does the text leave you with an impression you can see, hear and/or feel?
- ❑ Overall quality of the writing
 - ❑ Neatness, spelling, punctuation, etc.

- ❑ If a story or essay-
 - ❑ Follow through to conclusion
 - ❑ Does the story have a beginning, middle and end? Is there is a logical series of events leading to a conclusion?
- ❑ If a collection of poems-
 - ❑ Imagery (Mental image as created by imagination or memory)
 - ❑ Originality and vivid descriptions through the use of figures of speech
 - ❑ Continuity (Uninterrupted development of theme)
 - ❑ Technical Detail (Craftsmanship) Includes aptness of phrase, assonance, alliteration, freshness of rhyme, balance of lines against one another, rhythmic quality