



Herbert Henderson Office *of* Minority Affairs

Project on Racism Contest

The Project on Racism Contest, presented by the Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission and the YWCA Wheeling, was open to any student from grades 1-12 attending public, private, parochial, or home school in West Virginia and included categories of essays, music, and five-minute films.

All entries focused on the following quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.: *"Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a constant attitude."*

2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR EACH CATEGORY ARE LISTED BELOW.

Essay Award Recipients:

For the K-5th Grade Essay Competition, Wheeling Country Day School made a statewide clean sweep.

Grade K-5 Essay Contest Winners:

1st Place

Audrey Ilovar, Wheeling Country Day School, 5th Grade

2nd Place

Lyric Hill, Wheeling Country Day School, 5th Grade

3rd Place

Ember Herbert, Wheeling Country Day School, 5th Grade

For the 6-8th Grade Essay Competition, Triadelphia Middle & Bridge Street came away victorious.

Grade 6-8 Essay Contest Winners:

1st Place

Jayden Johnson, Triadelphia Middle School, 7th Grade

2nd Place

Amari Smith, Triadelphia Middle School

3rd Place

Piper O'Connell, Bridge Street Middle School, 8th Grade

For the 9-12th Grade Essay Competition, South Charleston High & Wheeling Central Catholic came away victorious.

Grade 9-12 Essay Contest Winners:

1st Place

KeiMoni Williamson, South Charleston High School, 12th Grade

2nd Place

Hayden Lovejoy, South Charleston High School, 11th Grade

3rd Place

Jacob Perry, Wheeling Central Catholic High School, 12th Grade

The 6-8th Grade Song/Music Competition had one overall winner from Andrew Jackson Middle School.

Song/Music Overall Award Recipient:

Kylie Curnutte, Andrew Jackson Middle School, 7th Grade

The 6-8th Grade Five Minute Film Competition had one overall winner from Andrew Jackson Middle School.

Film Award Recipients:

Five Minute Film Contest Grades 6-8

Lydia Skeens, Sophia Martin, & Claire Lemasters, Andrew Jackson Middle School, 7th Grade

The 9th-12th Grade Five Minute Film Competition, Wheeling Catholic Central and Wheeling Park both had winners.

Five Minute Film Contest Grades 9-12

1st Place

Wheeling Central Catholic High School multimedia department (Period 5)

2nd Place

Wheeling Park High School multimedia department

3rd Place

Wheeling Central Catholic High School multimedia department (Period 7)