

Students Honored at 16th Annual Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition Ceremony

DOVER – Students from across the state gathered Saturday at the Delaware Public Archives to celebrate the winners of the 16th Annual Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition and to be recognized for their knowledge of the First State’s influential role in crafting the United States Constitution.

(NOTE: Delaware Day is observed each year on Dec. 7, the date that Delaware ratified the U.S Constitution and earned its nickname, The First State. This event was scheduled to take place in early December, but was postponed due to inclement weather.)

More than 1,100 students from 22 schools were given two  months to prepare informative displays illustrating Delaware’s role in the creation and ratification of the Constitution, integrating creative elements such as artwork, poetry, songs and cartoons. This year’s competition featured 35 separate entries, the most in the program’s history.

“Delaware Day is our time to celebrate just how important our state was in the early days of the nation,” said Secretary of State Jeff Bullock. “As always, the projects our fourth graders presented were outstanding tributes to this legacy, and I congratulate them for their efforts and the time they devoted to learning about the history of the First State.”

More than 13,500 students have participated in the annual Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition since the start of the program in 2001.

Each year, awards are given to schools with the most creative and historically accurate projects. Named in honor of

Delaware's five signers of the U. S. Constitution, the awards recognize schools in each county plus the city of Wilmington as well as a private school. Representatives from the Department of State judge the projects focusing on three main areas: historical accuracy, spelling and creativity.

Projects also are evaluated by the Delaware Division of the Arts and the Newark Arts Alliance. Select projects are presented with an Artistic Merit Award in recognition of the students' creative use of visual art as well as design and composition.

The winners of the 2017 Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition are:

- **George Read Award:**

Eastside Charter School, Wilmington

- **Gunning Bedford, Jr. Award:**

TIE – Keene Elementary, Christina School District
Gallaher Elementary, Christina School District

- **John Dickinson Award:**

North Dover Elementary, Capital School District

- **Richard Bassett Award:**

North Laurel Elementary, Laurel School District

- **Jacob Broom Award:**

4-WAY TIE – Epworth Christian School, Laurel
Christ the Teacher Catholic School, Glasgow
Learning Express Academy, Newark
Wilmington Friends School

- **Artistic Merit Awards:**

North Laurel Elementary, Laurel School District
Bunker Hill Elementary, Appoquinimink School District
Epworth Christian School, Laurel
Gallaher Elementary, Christina School District

North Dover Elementary, Capital School District

For more information, visit the [Annual Delaware Day Competition website](#).