

For Immediate Release

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**Teen writers/artists share prose, canvas through
'The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards' at HCDE**

Regional winners 2012 hail from Harris County public, private, charter schools

Art and writing entries from talented teens throughout Harris County are being showcased at receptions and venues as Harris County Department of Education announces the regional winners of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards 2012.

Fourteen school districts, four charter schools and 15 private schools earn Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in Gold Key, Silver Key and honorable mention art and writing categories. A total of 1,073 Gold Key, Silver Key and honorable mention recipients are being honored throughout the county from approximately 3,000 entries. A total of 260 Gold Key art and writing awardees advance to represent Harris County in the national competition in New York City.

For a complete list of winners, go to
<http://www.hcde-texas.org/default.aspx?name=cpdisCollabAwards>

The 89-year-old "The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards" gives young artists in grades 7-12 the opportunity to showcase their work as it identifies and documents their outstanding achievements. The competition's mission is to bring outstanding visual art and writing created by teens to a national audience. The intention is to highlight student art and writing work to encourage their creativity and career development.

Former Scholastic Art & Writing winners include icons such as Andy Warhol, Joyce Carol Oates, Truman Capote and Robert Redford.

At the regional level, special awards are given by Harris County Department of Education, the Art League of Houston, Texas Art Supply, Women in the Visual and Literary Arts and individual donors.

Districts with regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards recipients include: Aldine, Alief, Clear Creek, Cypress-Fairbanks, Deer Park, Galena Park, Goose Creek Consolidated, Houston, Humble, Katy, Klein, Pasadena, Spring Branch and Tomball. Private schools with awardees are Annunciation Orthodox School, Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, Emery/Weiner School, Episcopal High School, Grace School, Houston Christian High School, Presbyterian School, River Oaks Baptist, St. Agnes Academy, St. John's School, St. Thomas Episcopal, Second Baptist, The Banff School, The Kinkaid School and The Village School. Charter school winners are from KIPP Academy Middle, KIPP Houston High, KIPP Sharpstown College Preparatory and KIPP Sunnyside.

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Gold Key art and writing winners advance to the national level in New York City, and national winners are announced in March. Both students and their sponsoring teachers are invited to the awards ceremony in June at Carnegie Hall.

Art and writing student portfolios are also recognized with coveted awards. Regional Gold Key portfolio awardees are eligible for scholarship awards at the national level.

List of receptions and showcases for writers and artists:

Art League Houston, 1953 Montrose, showcases Scholastic Art & Writing Gold Key art awardees through Feb. 8.

Harris County Department of Education, 6300 Irvington Blvd. honors The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Gold Key art and writing winners at the following receptions:

Scholastic Gold Key Art awardees:

Feb. 13, 7-8:30 p.m. (all schools)

Scholastic Gold Key Writing awardees:

Feb. 14, 7-8:30 p.m. from the following districts, schools: Aldine ISD, Alief ISD, Annunciation Orthodox School, Clear Creek ISD, Cy-Fair ISD, Deer Park ISD, Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, Episcopal High School, Goose Creek Consolidated ISD, Galena Park ISD, Houston ISD, Houston Christian High School, Humble ISD, Katy ISD

Feb. 16, 7-8:30 p.m. from the following districts, schools: Klein ISD, River Oaks Baptist School, Second Baptist School, St. Agnes Academy, St. John's School, The Emery/Weiner School, The Kinkaid School, The Village School, Tomball ISD

For more information about HCDE's Scholastic Art & Writing regional competition, e-mail Melba Kent, Scholastic Art & Writing coordinator at sawaw@hcde-texas.org (writing) or sawaa@hcde-texas.org (art).

About Scholastic Art & Writing Awards: The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards celebrates 89 years of presence in classrooms across the nation as it identifies and documents outstanding achievements of young artists and writers. Yearly, 75,000 students in grades 7-12 participate through regional programs. About 25,000 students advance to national competition in New York City. At the national level, Gold Portfolio Award recipients take home \$10,000 in scholarships. Harris County Department of Education is a regional sponsor of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

About HCDE: Harris County Department of Education provides education services to the general public and 26 school districts throughout Harris County and beyond. Services include adult education, programs to promote safe schools, after-school programs, therapy services, professional development for educators, special schools, alternative certification for principals

and teachers, and Head Start programs. We offer contract procurement, grant development, program research and evaluation, records management, and school finance support. Since 1889, our services continue to evolve to meet the needs of our education public. Visit us at www.hcde-texas.org.

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