

NEWS RELEASE

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Gwinnett students sweep Hispanic Heritage essay awards

The Hispanic Advisory Committee of Gwinnett has announced nine Gwinnett students as the big winners of their “Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest.” **Gwinnett County Public Schools’** students were invited in August to participate in the writing contest as part of the county’s annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

This year’s winners are:

Elementary school level:

- First place --- Kristal Portugal, Norcross Elementary, 4th grade
- Second place --- Alejandro Bocanegra, Norcross Elementary, 5th grade
- Third place --- Kathy M. Lopez, Norcross Elementary, 5th grade

Middle school level:

- First place --- Celene Cervin, Picnkneyville Middle, 8th grade
- Second place --- Sergio Ortiz, Louise Radloff Middle, 8th grade
- Third place --- Clarita Herrera, Trickum Middle, 6th grade

High school level:

- First place --- Stephanie Aguilar, Mill Creek High, 11th grade
- Second place --- Itzel Rivero, Mill Creek High, 12th grade
- Third place --- Isis O. Blanco, Norcross High, 10th grade

Students were invited to write an essay, poem, or song, using the theme “What Hispanic Culture Means to Me.” The contest was open to students of all backgrounds to be written in English or Spanish. Entries were judged in three different levels --- 3rd to 5th grades, middle school, and high school. Student winners were recognized at the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on October 14th.

All schools receive information about the contest. For more information about the contest, visit the county’s web site at www.gwinnettcountry.com



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