



PRESENTING SPONSOR



8TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

Leon County 8th graders are invited to enter the 2026 Best & Brightest Essay Contest.

2026 ESSAY PROMPT

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands: one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”

– Audrey Hepburn

Reflect on this quote and write an essay describing how involvement in community service can make a difference in your community and/or in your own life as you prepare to enter high school.

WINNER: \$500 RUNNER-UP: \$250 HONORABLE MENTION: \$100

DEADLINE: February 25, 2026

Participation Guidelines:

- The contest is open to 8th grade students in accredited schools in Leon County.
- Essays should be no more than 500 words, typed, and double-spaced in 12-point font.
- Essays will be judged on creativity and originality of content, grammatical accuracy, logic and clarity.
- One entry per student.
- The top three winning essays for each school will be submitted by the principal for county-wide consideration.

All school-based winners will be invited to attend the Btes & Brightest Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, where final winners will be announced and prizes awarded.

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