



O'Hara Catholic School

**Press Release
For Immediate Release
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O'Hara Catholic School 8th Grade Students Awarded for Patriotic Essays

December 11, 2009, Eugene, Oregon—Three eighth grades students at O'Hara Catholic School were recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Willamette Post, for their winning essays submitted to the Patriot's Pen program. At a banquet dinner on Thursday, December 10th, the students were each presented with a plaque and a financial award. The students placed first, second and third for the Willamette Post.

Patriot's Pen is a nationwide youth essay writing contest that gives middle school students the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. Designed to foster patriotism, contestants write a 300-400 word essay based on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme was "When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?" Annually, more than 115,000 students around the country participate in the contest.

All three O'Hara students have been selected as finalists for VFW District 13. They will be recognized at a lunch on December 19th at 11am at VFW Post 3473 in Cottage Grove and the first place winner will go on to the state competition.

Copies of the winning essays are available upon request.

About O'Hara Catholic School

O'Hara Catholic School serves students in Pre-School through 8th grade of all religious, racial, ethnic, and income backgrounds. For more information about the curriculum, admissions policies or registration, contact Principal Dianne Bert at (541) 485-5291 or visit www.oharaschool.org.