



Dear Educator and/or Special Needs Provider:

The Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest includes a special needs category. The award for this category bears the name of a talented contest participant, Nicholas Maxim, a student from Maine born without hands or lower arms.

The **Nicholas Maxim Award** is a fun, educational opportunity for your special needs students to show their best manuscript or cursive writing in a healthy competition among other special needs students. The contest focuses on your students' best efforts, in writing, paying special attention to the shape, size, and slant of each letter, as well as spacing between them. Your student will have a chance to compete for the honor of representing his/her school as the **Manuscript School Winner** or **Cursive School Winner!**

All students chosen as School Winners will move on to compete at the national level for the opportunity to be named the **Nicholas Maxim National Manuscript Champion** or **Nicholas Maxim National Cursive Champion**. Each of these two National Champions will be awarded a **\$1,000 cash prize and a trophy!**

To be eligible to participate in this contest category, your special needs student must have a cognitive, intellectual, physical, and/or developmental disability.

Student entries must be submitted in manuscript or cursive using the Nicholas Maxim Entry Form. **Entries must include a letter providing specific information about your students' handwriting challenge. Letters should be submitted on school or district letterhead and signed by the occupational therapist, special education provider, and/or principal.**

A Certificate of Participation (see enclosed blackline master) should be awarded to each student who enters. Only one manuscript and one cursive entry should be submitted per school.

Thank you for your interest in this year's **Nicholas Maxim Award**. We look forward to receiving your special needs students' contest entries!

Kathleen Wright
Program Advisor
Zaner-Bloser Handwriting



Contest Rules and Awards

All Nicholas Maxim Award Contest entries must be submitted in either manuscript or cursive. Entries are judged by a team of occupational therapists and educators utilizing metrics provided by the **Zaner-Bloser Keys to Legibility rubric of Shape, Size, Spacing, and Slant**. Additional consideration is given to the challenges each special needs student who enters must face with regard to their specific cognitive, intellectual, physical, and/or developmental disability. Nicholas Maxim National Champions in each category (Manuscript and Cursive) will be selected from schools that use the **Zaner-Bloser Handwriting** program or **Superkids Reading Program**. All decisions are final.

Student entries must be submitted in manuscript or cursive using the Nicholas Maxim Entry Form.

Entries must include a letter providing specific information about your students' handwriting challenge. Letters should be submitted on school or district letterhead and signed by the occupational therapist, special education provider, and/or principal.

Nicholas Maxim entries should be sent to **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest, PO Box 16764, Columbus, OH 43216-6764**. A School Information Form must accompany all entries. Entries must be received on or before January 23, 2017 (National Handwriting Day). Each of the special needs student eligible entries will receive either a Nicholas Maxim Manuscript School Winner certificate or a Nicholas Maxim Cursive School Winner certificate. From all of the eligible entries, **one National Champion in each category (Manuscript and Cursive) will be selected**. The school of the National Champion of the Nicholas Maxim Manuscript Award and the National Champion of the Nicholas Maxim Cursive Award will be notified by April 28, 2017, so that presentation assemblies can be scheduled and prizes can be awarded to the National Champions. National Champions in each category (Manuscript and Cursive) will receive a \$500 cash prize and an engraved trophy. Names, grades, and schools of the National Champions will be posted on Zaner-Bloser's website and may be released to the media.

Contest void where prohibited by law. All contest entrants and National Champions must be residents of one of the fifty (50) United States or the District of Columbia. Employees and the immediate family members of employees of Zaner-Bloser, Inc., or its affiliates are not eligible to submit an entry, compete, or win.