



2017 Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest Fact Sheet

- The **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest** is open to all students in grades K–8.*
- The **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest** attracted nearly 300,000 participants in 2016, the 25th anniversary of the contest.
- Zaner-Bloser estimates that approximately four million students have participated in the contest since its inception.
- Students in grades K–2 submit manuscript (print) entries; students in grades 3–8 submit cursive handwriting entries.
- The contest entries, both manuscript (print) and cursive, are judged according to the Zaner-Bloser Keys to Legibility: Shape, Size, Spacing, and Slant.
- The sentence all students are required to write on their entry form was chosen because it contains every letter of the alphabet: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.
- Winners of the **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest** are selected from both public and private school categories.
- State Grade-Level Winners from each category (public and private) compete against each other to become one of the 18 National Grade-Level Semifinalists.
- The 18 National Grade-Level Semifinalists compete to be chosen as one of nine Grand National Grade-Level Champions.
- In 2011 Zaner-Bloser created the Nicholas Maxim Award to recognize special needs students who excel in manuscript and cursive. The award is named in honor of a student who entered the contest despite having been born without hands. This category is open to students with a cognitive, intellectual, physical, or developmental disability.
- Zaner-Bloser awards cash prizes and educational materials to winner students, teachers, and schools that participate in the annual contest. For example, each Grand National Champion earns a large trophy, \$500 cash, and educational materials valued at \$1,000 for his/her school. In addition, the teacher of each Grand National Champion is awarded with a trip to the International Literacy Association Annual Conference.

*The contest is open to everyone in the United States (excludes U.S. territories).

For media inquiries, contact:

Celina Fabrizio

Cell: 614.745.9462

E-mail: cfabrizio@paulwerth.com