



*****NEWS ITEM*****

ASD STUDENTS DELIVER AT MIDDLE SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

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BRIEFLY: Twelve Allentown School District middle school students competed in the District's Oratorical Contest held on March 12, 2005. Each ASD middle school held its own competition and the winners squared off in the district competition. One student from each of the three grade levels in four middle schools competed.

"This year's talent and competition was one of the best ever," says Dianne Mascari, ASD English Language Arts Curriculum Coordinator, who coordinated the contest. "The students were articulate, passionate, informative, and poised. We were all so proud of their tremendous abilities."

The students had a 2-5 minute time frame in which to speak as well as the option to address any of 25 topics. Judges watched for speaking skills, content addressed, and the overall effectiveness of the speech. This year's winner was Raub Middle School 8th grader, Stephanie Lamb. Stephanie chose to speak on the topic of "What is the biggest social issue facing the world today; and how would you improve it?" Her speech focused on the lack of empathy for fellow human beings as the biggest social issue.

This year's judges were ASD School Director, Jeanette Eichenwald; ASD Coordinator of Gifted Education, Jo Ann Lane; and William Allen 11th grade English teacher, Susan Bieber.

Oratorical Participants

GRADE 6 - Mercedes Reynolds (HMMS), Brandon Newton (SMMS), Adrienne Paey (Raub), Claire Carbonetto (Trexler)

GRADE 7 – Jasalynn Romero (HMMS), Kara Beck (SMMS), Kristen Focht (Raub), Alina Marhefka (Trexler)

GRADE 8 – Ghamar Bitar (HMMS), Erika Davis (SMMS), Stephanie Lamb (Raub), Michael Dweck (Trexler)

AWARD WINNERS: Claire Carbonetto (grade 6), Kara Beck (grade 7), Stephanie Lamb (grade 8 and grand champion)