

**Blessed Sacrament School**  
**Young Authors 2017-2018 Program**  
*Sponsored by the BSS Parent/School Association*

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January 11, 2018

Dear Students,

It's that time, again---time to write!

B.S.S. is once again participating in the Illinois Young Authors program by sponsoring a writing competition for all grade levels. The goal of our participation is to make it fun and give each student a unique opportunity to practice writing.

The Illinois Young Authors program has a long history. It is a celebration of the written work of children in kindergarten through eighth grades. The purpose of the statewide program, sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Language and Literacy Council, is to support classroom teachers in their efforts to encourage and improve students' abilities in writing, reading, listening and sharing, and to recognize the accomplishments of young authors.

Students in kindergarten through second grade may participate in our school-wide Young Authors on a voluntary basis. Third through eighth grade students will be creating manuscripts as a class assignment. Classroom teachers will choose homeroom winners in grades 3-8, and then outside judges will choose three winners from each of the following age levels: K-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8.

Other than meeting the deadline (Thursday, March 1, or earlier, if your teacher chooses), there are very few requirements for your manuscript, unless your teacher informs you of additional guidelines. You can write about anything you desire, in any form you wish. Your manuscript might be a first-person account of a wonderful experience, a story that you made up, an exciting mystery or a set of poems you created. You can illustrate your manuscript, but you don't have to do so. It has to have a cover, but you can design it on your own.

I encourage each of you to participate. (I know some of you have already starting working on your manuscripts in your classrooms!) We will support you throughout the process, so don't hesitate to ask your teacher, or any other teacher, for guidance.

Happy writing!

Mrs. Wear