The Pestka Family, in memory of their father and grandfather, Henry Pestka, a Holocaust survivor, is proud to bring Holocaust awareness and education to West Michigan students in grades 6–12 through an art and poetry contest. This contest is designed for students who have completed the Michigan state requirement on Holocaust education and enables them the opportunity to process and reflect on the concepts they learned through writing or art.

Entries may be prose, poetry, or art.


Open to 6th-12th grade students living in a West or Southwest Michigan County.

Finalists will be notified in early March of 2023.

PRIZES
FOR EACH GRADE

1st Place $150
2nd Place $100
3rd Place $50

The top 10 finalists in each grade will have their work displayed, and be invited to attend and be recognized at an event in April 2023. Finalists who attend the event will also receive a gift.

This year’s theme
Never Forget

This collection of lessons and resources is designed to prepare and support educators in teaching curriculum related to the Holocaust. Students are encouraged to use this content as the foundation for their projects.

The Henry Pestka Art and Poetry Contest is coordinated by The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership, which consists of: ADL Michigan, East Grand Rapids Public Schools, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, GVSU, The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, TPS Teachers Network and WGVU Public Media. The Partnership collaborated to curate a collection of resources and aligned the contest to support educators and students in meeting Michigan State Holocaust and Genocide Education Standards. Members of The Partnership with proximity to student entries, including EGRPS faculty and staff, will not be permitted to judge entries.