

For Immediate Release
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Students Across the Country Gear Up for the 2019 Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest

COLUMBUS, OHIO – It's that time of year when students across the country sharpen their pencils and their handwriting skills to compete in the [Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest](#). Now in its 28th year, the most prestigious and recognized national handwriting contest in the country offers students the opportunity to practice and perfect their handwriting with the potential to earn some serious bragging rights.

Students in kindergarten through second grade compete in the manuscript (print) category, while students in grades three through eight compete in the cursive category. All students write the required sentence, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog," because it contains every letter of the alphabet. Judges select winners based on the shape, size, spacing and slant of their letters.

Participating public and private schools choose a winner in each grade. School grade-level winners then compete against each other at the state level. State level winners in each grade move on to the national competition, where they vie for the chance to be named the [Grand National Champion](#).

The Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest also includes a category for students with special needs. In 2011, Zaner-Bloser created the Nicholas Maxim Special Award for Excellent Penmanship 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.

While the contest spotlights the art of handwriting, it also brings attention to the science behind learning and using cursive and manuscript. [Research](#) has shown a strong link between direct handwriting instruction and literacy skills.

"Students who have legible handwriting gain lifelong advantages in their daily school work, on standardized tests, and throughout their high school, college and career experiences," said Zaner-Bloser President Lisa Carmona. "Since we started this contest 28 years ago, the number of participants from schools across America has increased. That great response shows that teachers and their students recognize the advantages handwriting has on their overall academic success."

Zaner-Bloser estimates that more than 3.5 million students have participated in the contest since its inception.

The submission deadline for this school year's contest is Feb. 14, 2019. Teachers and families can learn more by visiting the [official website](#) and downloading the [Zaner-Bloser National](#)

[Handwriting Contest Entry Kit.](#)

Each grade-level Grand National Champion and Nicholas Maxim Champion earns a trophy, a \$500 check and educational materials for his or her school valued at \$500. In addition, Zaner-Bloser awards the teacher of each grade-level Grand National Champion a trip to the 2019 Staff Development for Educator's (SDE) Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

About Zaner-Bloser

Zaner-Bloser is an educational-solutions company that specializes in delivering explicit instruction and a solid academic foundation for pre-K through eighth grade students in reading, writing, spelling, handwriting and other language arts. With more than 125 years of experience, our resources include *Superkids*, *Spelling Connections*, *Word Wisdom* and *Zaner-Bloser Handwriting*, as well as additional products and services. As a member of the Highlights Family of Companies, we strive to always do what's right for children and to make a significant contribution to their education today – and in the future. Visit <http://www.zaner-bloser.com/> for more information.