PRESS RELEASE
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Students from across Vermont will compete in statewide Poetry Out Loud events

BARRE – Students from thirty-one Vermont high schools representing eleven counties will travel to the Barre Opera House on March 7 to recite poems on stage in the Vermont Poetry Out Loud 2019 Semifinals. They will vie for the state championship in this prestigious poetry recitation competition, which is administered by the Vermont Arts Council under the auspices of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. The state winner will advance to the National Finals in April.

“Integrating art into public school education is at the heart of the Council’s mission. Poetry Out Loud offers an imaginative and effective way to engage young people with great works of poetry, build self-confidence, and impart transferable skills,” said Troy Hickman, Vermont Arts Council education programs manager.

This year, thirty-eight high schools registered to bring poetry recitation into their classrooms through Poetry Out Loud, representing nearly fifty-five percent of Vermont high schools. More than five thousand students and one hundred forty teachers participated. Beyond the demonstrated impact on students, Poetry Out Loud also provides excellent instructional tools for high school teachers. The Arts Council provided funds to bring skilled teaching artists to classrooms across the state.

The winners from thirty-one school competitions will recite at the Semifinals in Barre. From there, ten students will be selected to compete in the statewide finals on March 19 at the Vermont PBS studio in Colchester. The finals will be streamed live on the Vermont PBS website. The winner of the Vermont State Competition then goes to the National Finals in Washington, D.C., to compete against champions from every state in the country.

Poetry Out Loud is supported in part by a generous grant from the George W. Mergens Foundation. The Council is also grateful to the sponsorship of the National Life Group.

More information about Vermont’s Poetry Out Loud Program.

The Poetry Out Loud program was created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Now in its 14th year, Poetry Out Loud has inspired hundreds of thousands of American high school students to discover and commit to memory classic and contemporary poetry.

The Vermont Arts Council envisions a Vermont where all people have access to the arts and creativity in their lives, education, and communities. Engagement with the arts transforms individuals, connects us more deeply to each other, energizes the economy, and sustains the vibrant cultural landscape that makes Vermont a great place to live. Since 1965, the Council has been the state's primary provider of funding, advocacy, and information for the arts in Vermont. www.vermontartscouncil.org.

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Schedule
Region one | 10 a.m. – noon
Schools listed in performance order

Burlington High School, Alyson Vigneau
Peoples Academy, Madeline Moffett
Oxbow High School, Lana Wood
Mount Mansfield, Sirena Sawyer
The Sharon Academy, Hailey Swett
Danville School, Liza Morse
Randolph Union High School, Ash Engelsman
Northfield High School, Alyssa Atwood
Thetford Academy, Eloise Silver Van Meter
Hazen Union School, Deanna Gann
Spaulding High School, Kai Morse
Bellows Free Academy, Fairfax, Alyese Caruso Randall
Champlain Valley Union High School, Magner Amsbary
Saint Johnsbury Academy, Sam Bulpin
South Burlington High School, Vera Escaja-Heiss
White River Valley High School, Kendrick Madore

Region two | 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Schools listed in performance order

Milton High School, Kathryn Schmidt
Woodstock Union High School, Celia Burrington
Poultney High School, Ruth Dailey
Killington Mountain School, Isabelle Jenne
Harwood Union High School, Sam Crafts
Burr and Burton Academy, Irén Hangen Vázquez
Mount Abraham Union High School, Owen Darling
Lyndon Institute, Abigail Ham
Rice Memorial High School, Anna Senesac
Vermont Academy, Yiwen "Eva" Wu
Arlington Memorial High School, Arianna Barrios
Proctor Jr.-Sr. High School, Miranda Martin
Mississquoi Valley Union High School, Grace Kinney
Bellows Free Academy, Saint Albans, Adsel Sparrow
Brattleboro Union High School, Ada Melton-Houghton