School Awards 2024-2025
Poet Laureate Contest

Poet Laureate Contest Awards

Every year, Providence challenges its Upper School students to pursue beauty in their writing, and one of the ways we do this is by encouraging them to submit their best poems to the Poet Laureate Contest. Poems may be either rhymed or free verse, and they are judged by a committee of faculty members based on the quality of the writing as well as the authenticity of the content.

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 winners! *(Read the winning poem below!)*

2025 Poet Laureate: Turner Young

Best Free Verse: Emarie Graham

Honorable Mention: Claire Lee, Ryan Wentz

Best Formal Poem: Henry Stevens

Honorable Mention: Sam Bachelder, William Bruce

Best Logic School Poem: Bree Hogan

2025 Providence Classical School Poet Laureate

"Ebenezer"
By Turner Young, 10th Grade

An old city of glass in bays of brass
With tall towers o'er fields of bright flowers
And mills of gas on hills of Johnson grass.

To ours in past it was, a citadel of pow'r,
'Tis once a gilded crown and market town,
It here, still lies, but cowers with wealth devour'd.

On slopes in midst of town, on hilly gowns
Lieth the trees of birch encircling a church
With stones to make a crown atop the mound.

Above, gargoyles do lurch for signs to search
In ranks of caste to find lost patrons past
Whose names that perched, nature hath besmirch'd.

Before the mass-led church are yards laid vast
With slabs of lime that mark a place in time
To hold them fast in a most mythic past.

In time, God bade the greenest vines to climb
Upon this oldest panoply of souls
And trained the clime to raze these runes of lime.

Between these rows of souls there lies a knoll,
The single lane askew that leads to pews,
That coal the patrons stroll that pays their toll.

The walkers few with graves in plainest view
Bear witness ere the cloud of saintly fair
Within the headstones hew'd for those unknew.

These stones no longer wear mortal affairs
Of names, timeframes, for they became
New wers* that bear God's loving care for heirs.

*Note: *Wer* is an Old English word for man.