



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

For Immediate Release:

February 22, 2019

Contact: Julia Corrigan, julia.corrigan@pennington.org, 609-737-6158

PENNINGTON, N.J., February 22 --- The Pennington School was one of only five schools in New Jersey to receive a “Superior” rating by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)’s Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) Award for Pennington’s 2018 literary magazine, *Pennyroyal*.

Teacher of English Jon Lemay served as the advisor for the magazine, and it was edited by students Caleigh Calhoun ’19 of Stockton, N.J., Shae Calhoun ’21 of Stockton, Corrine Coakley ’21 of Pennington, Megan Eckerson ’19 of Pennington, Ayanna Johnson ’18 of Ewing, Emily Moini ’19 of Princeton, and Julia Peters ’20 of Pennington.

Work on the literary magazine occurred during the 2017-18 school year: submissions were collected from October to March; formatting, designing, and editing the magazine took place from March until May; and the piece was sent to print in May 2018. Although the magazine does not have any thematic requirements, there are often commonalities among the pieces each year. According to Lemay, “We find that much of the work we accept for publication tends to deal with issues of identity; we are drawn to explorations of what it means to search for and find one's place in the world — which makes sense given the age range of the folks creating these works of art.” Lemay added that the magazine also features work that is “generated from the impulse to question the world around oneself and shine a light on society as it pertains to issues of race, gender, war, and sexual assault.”

Megan Eckerson '19, editor-in-chief of *Pennyroyal*, said, “There are not enough words to describe how wonderful it feels [for the magazine to be rated Superior]. I remember stepping into my role as editor-in-chief and feeling scared that I was not the right person for the job. This just proves I had nothing to be afraid of. Our incredible staff put so much work into this edition and I could not be more proud of all of us.”

According to the NCTE website, “the REALM program publicly recognizes excellent literary magazines produced by students with the support of their teachers. REALM is designed to encourage all schools to develop literary magazines that celebrate the art and craft of writing.”

The student literary magazine contest was open to all secondary and middle schools throughout the United States, Canada, and Virgin Islands. Schools could only submit one issue to be judged, based on a point system. The total points awarded to the magazines determined placement in one of the following categories: REALM First Class (93-100), Superior (86-100 points), Excellent (71-85 points), or Merit (70 or fewer points).



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

In addition to receiving a certificate denoting their award, the names of the student editors, literary advisor, and the School appeared on the NCTE website.

The Pennington School is an independent coeducational school for students in grades 6 through 12, in both day and boarding programs. The curriculum is college preparatory, with an emphasis on individual excellence, fostering the development of the whole student through academics, athletics, community service, and the creative and performing arts.

-30-

Caption for photo 1: Editors of *Pennyroyal* pose together to celebrate their Superior rating by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)'s Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) Award. From **left**, Caleigh Calhoun '19, Emily Moini '19, Lizzy Adams '21, Julia Peters '20, Shae Calhoun '21, Corinne Calhoun '21.

Caption for photo 2: Editor-in-chief Megan Eckerson '19 stands with the 2018 literary magazine, *Pennyroyal*.