



The following DCPS students were winners in the "Laws of Life" Essay Contest sponsored by Character Counts of the Midshore:

- Brendan Bromwell, Overall County Winner, South Dorchester School
- Loan, Dinh, North Dorchester High School
- Brooke Miller, North Dorchester Middle School
- Jessica Narr, Mace's Lane Middle School

# Laws of Life

## 24 Mid-Shore Students won this year's essay contest

Twenty-four students from 24 different schools in Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's and Kent counties were big winners in this year's Laws of Life Essay Contest on March 26.

The Laws of Life Essay Contest was created by businessman and philanthropist Sir John Templeton in 1987, and brought to Maryland's Mid-Shore region in 1998 when it became an activity of the Character Counts Mid Shore program.

This essay contest was made to motivate young people into reflecting on their own laws of life and write about the ideals and principles that mean the most to them. Along with the recognition of becoming a winning essayist, winning student and their teachers both receive cash awards for their efforts.

The winning student from each school receives \$200 and each sponsoring teacher receives \$100. In addition, a best overall middle school winner and a best overall high school winner each garner an additional \$300.

But the highest award of all, an award that can be given to a middle or high school student, is for the best essay written above and beyond all others. It is the Albert Kennerly Character Counts Award — a \$2,500 scholarship.

Since 2001, the contest has been introduced at all public and private middle and high schools in five Mid-Shore counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This year 1,471 essays were submitted and culled down to 24 winners from 24 schools.

Keynote speaker Marvin Page attempted to break the ice by joking and telling stories of his childhood in Baltimore. But ultimately, he congratulated the winners.

“There are no losers,” he said. “Everyone here is a winner because they put forth the effort to do this.”

For 2008, the Overall Middle School Winner was Jessica Crew of Sudlersville Middle School.

The Overall High School Winner was Christopher Dixon of North Dorchester High School.

The winner of The Albert Kennerly Character Counts Award — the \$2,500 scholarship — was Luke Mayhew of Easton High School.

As each of the three top winners was announced, they in turn read their essays to the enthusiastic crowd.

One of the essays that really touched the crowd was the essay read by North Dorchester High School’s Christopher Dixon, the Overall High School Winner, tearfully reading his essay on the lessons in fairness, he learned from an older student, the late Andy Perez.

Perez died in a motorcycle accident last July, and his parents were present at the Avalon Theatre to hear the essay.

A total of \$10,300 in prize money was given out to the 24 winners and their teachers, with most of that prize money made possible through donations from the community. No one left empty-handed.

“The fact that you are here makes you victorious,” said speaker Marvin Page.