

**First Saint John: One Church Two Facilities
Bishop Kenneth B. Spears, Pastor**

Black History Month Art and Essay Contest

**Honoring Our Past, Preparing Our Future:
Using the Achievements of Pioneering African
Americans
to Power Our Dreams**

**Sponsored by
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Black History Month Essay and Art Contest

Official Rules and Guidelines

Section I - General Rules

1. The Black History Month Essay and Art Contest is divided into four categories of competition as follows: 9th-12th Grade (High School), 6th -8th Grade (Middle School), 4th – 5th Grade and PK-3rd Grade.
2. **Entry Date and Deadline:** Information Packets will be available for distribution beginning Sunday, January 29, 2012. All entries must be either mailed, hand delivered or electronically submitted and received by Sunday, February 19, 2012. All hand delivered submissions must be received by 11:30 a.m. at the North Location or 1:30 p.m. at the South Location. All entries returned to the church should be returned to the Christian Education Ministry, Sister Clara Williams, contact person. All email submissions should be sent to community@thewfirm.com

Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to all students in grades Pk-3rd (Early Childhood Division), grades 4th -5th (Elementary Division), 6th -8th (Middle School Division) and 9th -12th (High School Division), who are enrolled in a public, private and home school.
2. Each contestant should read the rules and must complete an entry form.
3. All Contestants must be members of First Saint John Baptist Church-Bishop Kenneth B. Spears, Pastor.

Section III - Contest Rules

High School, Middle School and Elementary School Division Essay Rules

1. Contestants may submit only one essay entry.

First Saint John Baptist Church
Bishop Kenneth B. Spears, Pastor

2. Contestants must compose an original essay, specifically for inclusion in this competition.
1. Essay Topic: Honoring Our Past, Preparing Our Future: Using the Achievements of Pioneering African Americans to Power Our Dreams. Each essay should target a prominent African American, express how this prominent African American's achievements inspired you and how his/her achievements can be used to power your dreams.
2. Essay must be a minimum of 3 pages and a maximum of 5 pages in length.
3. Participants must write on the official topic.
4. Essays must be legibly hand-written on white paper (Elementary Student Entrants).
5. Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced on white paper. Essays should have one (1) inches margins on all sides and include a footer that contains both the title and page numbers (Middle School and High School Entrants).
6. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
7. Essays must be the work of the entrant, written in English and authenticated by a classroom teacher.
8. The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner.
9. The topic must be typed on the cover sheet. The cover sheet must also include the student's name, email address, phone number (cell/home), grade level, and school

Early Childhood Division Art Contest Rules

1. Contestants may submit only one poster entry.
2. Contestants must create an original drawing, specifically for inclusion in this competition
3. Art Prompt: Draw a picture of an African-American who inspired. Use your picture to express how they inspired you and how his/her goals have impacted your future.
4. Student must submit original, two-dimensional artwork.
5. Student artwork must be original, created by only the student.
6. Artwork may not be drawn from any existing artwork (photograph, advertisement, etc.) not created by the student.

First Saint John Baptist Church
Bishop Kenneth B. Spears, Pastor

7. Student artwork must measure 8 ½” by 11” and be created using any two-dimensional medium including: Drawing (pencil, crayon, graphite, etc.) or Painting (pastel, watercolor, spray paint, oils, etc.)

Section IV – Judging

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of five qualified judges.
2. Judges will not discuss or compare essays until all essays have been judged.
3. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Section V - Scoring of Contest

1. Scoring procedures will be identical for all divisions.
2. Originality and Creativity: 40 points
3. Cultural Knowledge and Research: 30 points
4. Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 20 points
5. Neatness: 5 points
6. Adherence to contest rules (prepared in the proper format): 5 points

Section VI – Awards

1. Winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded on Sunday, February 26, 2012 during the 10:45 a.m. service.
2. There will be one (1) first place winner and one (1) second place winner in each category.
3. Prizes are as follows:

9th -12th Grade (High School Division)

First Place: Dell Laptop

Second Place Kindle Fire

First Saint John Baptist Church
Bishop Kenneth B. Spears, Pastor

7th – 8th Grade (Middle School Division)

First Place Dell Laptop

Second Place Kindle Fire

4th – 6th Grade (Elementary School Division)

First Place-Kindle Fire

Second Place-\$100.00 Toys R' Us Gift Card

Pre-K -3rd Grade (Early Childhood Division)

First Place-\$100.00 Toys R' Us Gift Card

All Participants will receive a Prize

If you should have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to stop by the Black History Month Information Table immediately following service or call the church office at 817-534-0581 ask for the Black History Month Contest, and we will be glad to assist you.

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Official Entry Form

Please type or print clearly in ink and fill out the Entry form completely.

Student's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

School: _____ Grade Level: _____

Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Signature of Student _____

Signature of Parent/legal Guardian if student is under 18 years of age _____

Signature of Classroom Teacher at School _____