



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

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March 31, 2025  
**Bulletin #HP 25-284 CSCE**

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**Action By:**  
**April 17, 2025**

**TO:** High School Principals  
**FROM:** Sean Cooley / Chief Off Strat Comm & Engagmt  
**SUBJECT:** **2025 HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH ESSAY CONTEST**

The School District of Palm Beach County designates the month of May as Haitian Heritage Month (HHM). The HHM Celebration Committee is holding its annual essay contest to commemorate the valuable history and contributions of the Haitian community in Palm Beach County. Please distribute the entry form below to teachers and students in grades 9-12.

- Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to participate in the essay contest.
- The deadline for submissions is Thursday, April 17 at 5 p.m.
- The theme and essay prompt is: **Who is your Haitian hero and why?**

A committee composed of teachers and administrators will judge the essays based on a writing rubric that will assess content, originality, spelling, and grammar. Essay contest winners will be announced in the second week of May.

The following prizes will be awarded:

- First place – award certificate and a \$350 check.
- Second place – award certificate and a \$150 check.
- Third place – award certificate and a \$100 check.
- Fourth, fifth, and sixth place – each will receive a \$50 gift card.

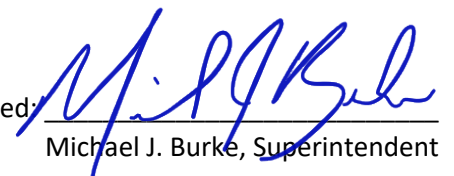
ESSAY CONTEST RULES / INFORMATION / RELEASE FORM

- Essays must be between 600 and 700 words in length.
- Entries must be typed in Microsoft Word and emailed to Bito David at bito.david@palmbeachschools.org, no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2025.
- The first page of each entry must include the Entry Form Information below.
- Entries must use a 12-point Arial font, with the text double-spaced.
- Submissions are final. Essays will be scored by a committee composed of teachers and administrators.
- Essays remain the property of the committee and will not be returned to their authors. Publication of the students' essays will be used for the promotion of the contest.
- Winners will be announced during the second week of May. They will be invited to participate in an event at the Main Library on Saturday, May 10 at 2 p.m. to receive their prizes and read their essays to the public, as part of the Haitian Heritage Month Celebration.

Students are asked to copy and paste the following entry form information onto the first page of their essay.

ENTRY FORM INFORMATION

Student Name:	
Grade:	
School:	
Student Email:	
Student Phone Number:	
Sponsoring Teacher:	

Approved:   
Michael J. Burke, Superintendent