



# WORDMASTERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2011

Two teams of students representing St. Francis of Assisi School recently won highest honors in the WordMasters Challenge—a national language arts competition entered by approximately 220,000 students annually, which consists of three separate meets held at intervals during the school year.

Competing in the difficult Blue Division of the Challenge, and coached by Pam Conway, the school's sixth graders placed **first in the nation** in the year's second meet, held in February, among 407 school teams competing at this grade level and in this division. At the same time, the school's eighth graders tied for **tenth place in the nation** among 301 competing teams.

Five of the school's students won highest honors for individual achievement as well: Sixth graders Cassie Drury, Lindsay Haffner, and Nathan Stromberg, seventh grader Jeremy Borden, and eighth grader Will Ringenberg all earned perfect scores in the meet, while in the entire country only seven sixth graders, only 93 seventh graders, and only 31 eighth graders did so.

Other students who achieved outstanding results included third grader Ruthie Belzo; fourth graders Jack Hummel and Henry Morgan; sixth graders Christine Lipscomb, Holly Zoeller, Rose Chancy, Matthew Logsdon, Griffin Pedigo, Michael Riehl, and Meredith Thieneman; seventh graders Andrew Jenkins, Hallie Riddick, Adriana Conway, Max Edmondson, Marcus Grady, Katie Harris, Claire Hook, Sean McDowell, Thomas Ostertag, Carlee Renneisen, Renee Spalding, and Elese Whiting; and eighth graders Lucy Duane, Chris Edelen, Jordan Lyons, Ja'zell Woddard, Katie Hennings, Rebecca Rhodes, and Adam Hommrich.

The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade level), and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the Challenge analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Though most vocabulary-boosting and analogy-solving activities have been created for high school students, the WordMasters materials have been specifically designed for younger students, in grades three through eight. They are particularly well suited for able and interested children, who rise to the challenge of learning new words and enjoy the logical puzzles posed by analogies.

The WordMasters Challenge has been administered for the past 24 years by a company based in Allendale, New Jersey, which is dedicated to inspiring high achievement in American schools. The students will participate in one more WordMasters meet during the coming months, and medals and certificates will be awarded in June to those who have achieved and/or improved the most in the course of the year.