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**Harrisburg Academy Student Wins American Freedom Essay Contest**

WORMLEYSBURG, PA – Zoe M. '23 has been selected as the winner of the 2017 American Freedom Essay Contest in the "Middle School" category. The winner of the contest receives a free field trip with The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia for his or her class.

"I am pleased that her work as been recognized by this outside group," said Lindsay Bowman, Middle School history teacher at Harrisburg Academy. "She worked diligently on her writing, sought my feedback in the process, and stayed true to their theme."

This contest, in honor of Constitution Day, challenges elementary, middle, and high school students to write a 300 word essay (100 words for the elementary category) on the importance of freedom in their lives. Zoe's essay was selected from more than 400 submissions in the middle school category. Entries were judged based on content and style, including originality of thought, clarity of expression, and analysis. Judging was conducted solely by The Constitutional Walking Tour.

Zoe and all of her 7<sup>th</sup> grade classmates from Harrisburg Academy will be traveling to Philadelphia for The Constitutional Walking Tour this spring. This guided tour features more than 20 historical sites, including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, National Constitution Center, and Betsy Ross House. Zoe's winning essay is available at <https://www.harrisburgacademy.org/file/zoe-m-american-freedom-essay.pdf>.

**About Harrisburg Academy:**

Established in 1784, Harrisburg Academy is the 17<sup>th</sup> oldest non-public school in the nation and Harrisburg's only independent school. Our coed, diverse school community inspires students from age three through 12<sup>th</sup> grade by providing an academically challenging and globally minded liberal arts education focused on dynamic classroom experiences, strong student outcomes, and a commitment to character development. The Academy proudly stands as the first school in the greater Harrisburg area to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and merit scholarship.

For more information about Harrisburg Academy please visit our website or contact Miranda Connelly at 717-763-7811 or via email at [connelly.m@harrisburgacademy.org](mailto:connelly.m@harrisburgacademy.org).

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