

Dear Educator:

Welcome to the 2016 **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest!** You and your students are in for an exciting learning experience!

Enclosed you will find materials for participating in this year's contest. Now in its 25th year, our **National Handwriting Contest** is an annual event that we sponsor to promote the benefits of legible handwriting. This contest is open to all students in Grades K–8.

Enter this year's contest and give your students the opportunity to win!

- **State Grade-Level Winners** will receive a prize package for themselves and their school.
- **Public and Private National Semifinalists** will receive a prize package for themselves and their school.
- Each student **Grand National Grade-Level Champion** will be awarded a \$1,000 cash prize and a large trophy.
- Each teacher of a **Grand National Grade-Level Champion** will be awarded a trip to the 2016 International Literacy Association Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.
- Each school of a **Grand National Grade-Level Champion** will receive educational materials valued at \$1,000.

To enter, please refer to the following enclosed materials:

1. **Contest Rules and Awards**
2. Three **Contest Entry Form** blackline masters:
 - **Manuscript**, Grades K–2
 - **Cursive**, Grades 3–4
 - **Cursive**, Grades 5–8
3. **Certificate of Participation** – blackline master to use to award each student who participates
4. **Family Letter** – blackline master to use to inform and involve the families of your students
5. **School Information Form** – form must be completed to accompany your entries

Also, see the enclosed information about the **Nicholas Maxim Award**, designed for special needs students with a cognitive, intellectual, physical, and/or developmental disability. Each winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and a trophy.

Thank you for your interest in this year's **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest**. We hope that you and your students will find this contest rewarding—and FUN!

Good luck!

Kathleen Wright
Program Advisor
Zaner-Bloser Handwriting



Contest Rules and Awards

I. Contest Rules

The contest is open to all students in Grades K–8. Winners will be selected from schools that use the **Zaner-Bloser Handwriting** program. Participating schools should select and submit **ONLY ONE WINNER PER GRADE PER SCHOOL** for Grades K–8. Entries should be sent to **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest**, PO Box 16764, Columbus, OH 43216-6764. Entries postmarked after **January 23, 2016 (National Handwriting Day)** will not be judged. Decisions by contest judges are final. Names, grade levels, and schools of winners may be posted on the Zaner-Bloser website and may be released to the media.

Contest void where prohibited by law. All contest entrants and Grand Champions must be residents of one of the fifty (50) United States or the District of Columbia. Employees and the immediate family members of employees of Zaner-Bloser, Inc., or its affiliates are not eligible to submit an entry, compete, or win.

2. How to Submit a Winning Entry

Impress upon your students the importance of legible handwriting. Give a copy of the appropriate form to each student who wishes to enter: Manuscript, Grades K–2; Cursive, Grades 3–4; Cursive, Grades 5–8. Allow students time to practice before writing their final entry on a clean form. Remember: Handwriting should be relaxed and natural, not traced—neatness counts. Reward each student who enters the contest with a copy of the Zaner-Bloser Certificate of Participation. Submit **ONE** winning entry for each grade level to represent your school along with the completed School Information Form. A School Information Form must accompany all entries. Mail the winning entries to **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest**, PO Box 16764, Columbus, OH 43216-6764 by January 23, 2016.

3. Judging and Awards

All entries will be judged according to the **Zaner-Bloser Keys to Legibility—Size, Shape, Spacing, and Slant**—which can be found on the reverse side of each entry form. Every student whose entry is submitted to the judges will receive a School Grade-Level Winner Certificate. All public and private schools with a winner will be notified by April 29, 2016, so that presentation assemblies can be scheduled and all prizes can be awarded. **State Grade-Level Winners**—Judges will select a Public and Private State Grade-Level (K–8) Winner for each state. There could be 18 State Grade-Level Winners for each state, one from each grade in both public and private school categories. Zaner-Bloser reserves the right not to choose a State Grade-Level Winner if the entries do not meet the legibility criteria. State Grade-Level Winners will receive a prize package for themselves and their school.

National Grade-level Semifinalists—Judges will select Public and Private National Grade-Level Semifinalists from the State Winners. There could be 18 Semifinalists, one from each grade (K–8) in both school categories. Zaner-Bloser reserves the right not to choose a Semifinalist if the entries do not meet the legibility criteria. National Grade-Level Semifinalists will receive a prize package for themselves and their school.

Grand National Grade-Level Champions—Judges will select nine Grand National Grade-Level (K–8) Champions from the 18 Public and Private Grade-Level Semifinalists. Zaner-Bloser reserves the right not to choose a Grand National Grade-Level Champion if the entries do not meet the legibility criteria. Each Grand National Grade-Level Champion will be awarded a **\$1,000 cash prize and a large trophy**. Each teacher of a Grand National Grade-Level Champion will be awarded a **trip to the 2016 International Literacy Association Conference in Boston, Massachusetts**. Each school of a Grand National Grade-Level Champion will receive educational materials valued at **\$1,000**.



School Information

FORM

Use this form when submitting all of your entries.

Please type or print legibly all responses.

1. Full name of school (as you would like it to appear on the student's certificate):

2. Street mailing address of school (UPS cannot deliver to PO boxes):

Address City State ZIP

3. Telephone number of school: () Fax: ()

4. Principal's first and last name: _____

5. Principal's e-mail address: _____

6. Name of current handwriting program: _____

7. How did you find out about the contest?

() Colleague () Zaner-Bloser website () Conference/Exhibit () Email () Mail
() Other () Sales Representative () TV () Social Media () Don't know

Should your student/s win, please check the box next to his/her name if you do NOT want their names listed on our website.

Grade		Student: First Name, Last Name	Teacher: First Name, Last Name, E-mail Address
K			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
Special Needs Award Manuscript Entry			
★			
Special Needs Award Cursive Entry			
★			



Dear Family:

We have exciting news! This year, your child's class will be participating in the 2016 **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest!**

This is an opportunity for your child to show his/her best handwriting in a healthy competition among other students. The contest focuses on legibility, paying special attention to the shape, size, and slant of each letter, as well as spacing between them. Your child will have a chance to compete for the honor of representing his/her school as a School Grade-Level Winner. All students chosen as School Grade-Level Winners will move on to compete at the state and national levels for the chance to be named one of nine Grand National Grade-Level Champions!

Grand National Champions will win a \$1,000 cash prize and a large trophy!

You can help your child prepare for this competition with handwriting practice at home.

Go to www.zaner-bloser.com/hwcontest and click on Practice Resources.

Free worksheet templates (for you to create and print) are available here using ZB FontsOnline Plus along with other helpful tools. And while you're on the National Handwriting Contest website, be sure to check out the video featuring past Grand National Grade-Level Champions.

We look forward to seeing your child's best handwriting among this year's contest entries.

2016 National Handwriting Contest
Celebrating 25 years of student success!



National Handwriting Contest

Manuscript Entry Form

Grades K-2

For information purposes only. Please print or type. Submit only one entry per grade.

Teacher's First, Last Name

Grade

Telephone

School Name

Public/Private (circle one)

School Address

City

State

Zip

Contact E-mail

Student's Full Name (written by student)

Copy the sentence below in your best handwriting.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

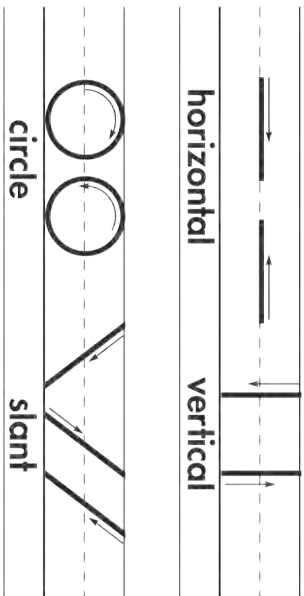
Using your best handwriting, answer the question below in your own words.
What do you like about handwriting?

Keys to Legibility Manuscript

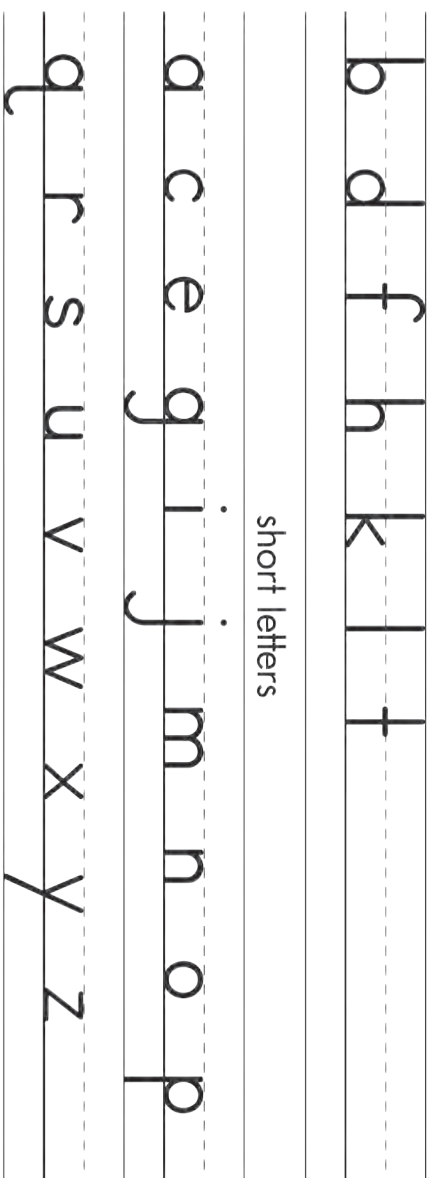
All entries will be judged according to the
Keys to Legibility—Shape, Size, Spacing, and Slant.



Manuscript letters are based on four kinds of lines. The shape of the letters is determined by these lines.

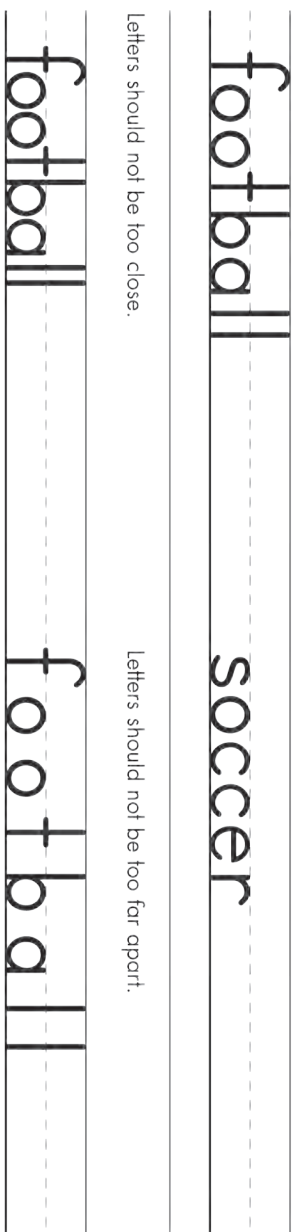


The size is correct when all letters of the same size are even in height and rest on the baseline.



Letters should not be too close.

Letters should not be too far apart.



There should be a one-finger space between words. Allow enough space for two fingers between sentences.



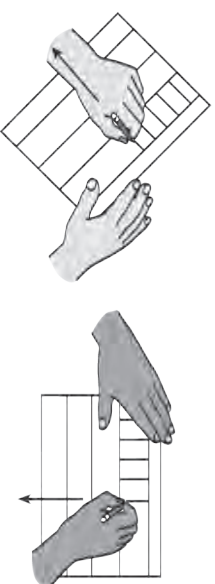
(vertical quality)

All manuscript letters are vertical in relation to the writing lines. Good vertical quality is achieved by **positioning the paper correctly, pulling the downstrokes in the proper direction, and shifting the paper as the writing line fills.**

Paper Position

left hand

right hand





National Handwriting Contest

Cursive Entry Form

Grades 3-4

For information purposes only. Please print or type. Submit only one entry per grade.

Teacher's First, Last Name _____ Grade _____ Telephone _____

School Name _____ Public/Private (circle one)

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact E-mail _____

Student's Full Name (written by student)

Copy the sentence below in your best handwriting.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Using your best handwriting, answer the question below in your own words.

How does your handwriting make you a better reader and writer, and why is this important?

Keys to Legibility

Cursive

All entries will be judged according to the
Keys to Legibility— Shape, Size, Spacing, and Slant.



The cursive letters are made up of four basic strokes.



slant



undercurve



downcurve



overcurve



The size is correct when all letters of the same size are even in height and rest on the baseline.

tall letters



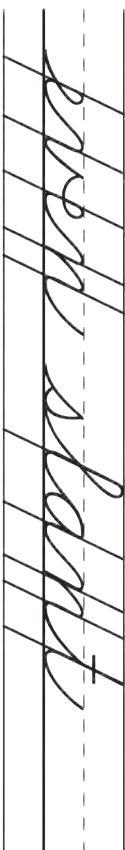
short letters



Spacing between letters, words, and sentences should be even. Between letters in a word there should be just enough space for a minimum-sized oval. For uniform spacing between words, the beginning stroke should start near the ending stroke of the preceding word. A slanted line (45°) drawn from the endpoint of the last stroke to the baseline should touch both words. Allow enough space for an uppercase **O** between sentences and two uppercase **O**'s for the indentation of a paragraph.



Cursive letters should have a forward slant. Correct slant is achieved by **positioning the paper correctly, pulling the downstrokes in the proper direction, and shifting the paper as the writing line fills.**



Paper Position

left hand

right hand





National Handwriting Contest

Cursive Entry Form

Grades 5–8

For information purposes only. Please print or type. Submit only one entry per grade.

Teacher's First, Last Name _____ Grade _____ Telephone _____

School Name _____ Public/Private (circle one)

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact E-mail _____

Student's Full Name (written by student)

Copy the sentence below in your best handwriting.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Using your best handwriting, answer the question below in your own words.

How does your handwriting make you a better reader and writer, and why is this important?

Keys to Legibility

Cursive

All entries will be judged according to the
Keys to Legibility— Shape, Size, Spacing, and Slant.



The cursive letters are made up of four basic strokes.

slant

undercurve

downcurve

overcurve



The size is correct when all letters of the same size are even in height and rest on the baseline.

tall letters

b d f h k l t

short letters

*a c e g i j m
n o p q r v w
x y z*

little



Spacing between letters, words, and sentences should be even. Between letters in a word there should be just enough space for a minimum-sized oval. For uniform spacing between words, the beginning stroke should start near the ending stroke of the preceding word. A slanted line (45°) drawn from the endpoint of the last stroke to the baseline should touch both words. Allow enough space for an uppercase **O** between sentences and two uppercase **O**'s for the indentation of a paragraph.

*is here
also took*



Cursive letters should have a forward slant. Correct slant is achieved by **positioning the paper correctly, pulling the downstrokes in the proper direction, and shifting the paper as the writing line fills.**

even slant

Paper Position

left hand

right hand





Dear Educator and/or Special Needs Provider:

The Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest includes a special needs category. The award for this category bears the name of a talented contest participant, Nicholas Maxim, a student from Maine born without hands or lower arms.

The **Nicholas Maxim Award** is a fun, educational opportunity for your special needs students to show their best manuscript or cursive writing in a healthy competition among other special needs students. The contest focuses on your students' best efforts, in writing, paying special attention to the shape, size, and slant of each letter, as well as spacing between them. Your student will have a chance to compete for the honor of representing his/her school as the **Manuscript School Winner** or **Cursive School Winner!**

All students chosen as School Winners will move on to compete at the national level for the opportunity to be named the **Nicholas Maxim National Manuscript Champion** or **Nicholas Maxim National Cursive Champion**. Each of these two National Champions will be awarded a **\$1,000 cash prize and a trophy!**

To be eligible to participate in this contest category, your special needs student must have a cognitive, intellectual, physical, and/or developmental disability.

Student entries must be submitted in manuscript or cursive using the Nicholas Maxim Entry Form. **Entries must include a letter providing specific information about your students' handwriting challenge. Letters should be submitted on School or District letterhead and signed by the Occupational Therapist, Special Education Provider, and/or Principal.**

A Certificate of Participation (see enclosed blackline master) should be awarded to each student who enters. Only one manuscript and one cursive entry should be submitted per school.

Thank you for your interest in this year's **Nicholas Maxim Award**. We look forward to receiving your special needs students' contest entries!

Kathleen Wright
Program Advisor
Zaner-Bloser Handwriting



Contest Rules and Awards

All Nicholas Maxim Award Contest entries must be submitted in either manuscript or cursive. Entries are judged by a team of occupational therapists and educators utilizing metrics provided by the **Zaner-Bloser Keys to Legibility rubric of Shape, Size, Spacing and Slant**. Additional consideration is given to the challenges each special needs student who enters must face with regard to their specific cognitive, intellectual, physical, and/or developmental disability. Nicholas Maxim National Champions in each category (Manuscript and Cursive) will be selected from schools that use the **Zaner-Bloser Handwriting** program. All decisions are final.

Student entries must be submitted in manuscript or cursive using the Nicholas Maxim Entry Form. **Entries must include a letter providing specific information about your students' handwriting challenge. Letters should be submitted on School or District letterhead and signed by the Occupational Therapist, Special Education Provider, and/or Principal.**

Nicholas Maxim entries should be sent to **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest, PO Box 16764, Columbus, OH 43216-6764**. A School Information Form must accompany all entries. Entries must be received on or before January 23, 2016 (National Handwriting Day). Each of the special needs student eligible entries will receive either a Nicholas Maxim Manuscript School Winner certificate or a Nicholas Maxim Cursive School Winner certificate. From all of the eligible entries, **one National Champion in each category (Manuscript and Cursive) will be selected**. The school of the National Champion of the Nicholas Maxim Manuscript Award and the National Champion of the Nicholas Maxim Cursive Award will be notified by April 29, 2016, so that presentation assemblies can be scheduled and prizes can be awarded to the National Champions. National Champions in each category (Manuscript and Cursive) will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and an engraved trophy. Names, grades, and schools of the National Champions will be posted on Zaner-Bloser's website and may be released to the media.

Contest void where prohibited by law. All contest entrants and National Champions must be residents of one of the fifty (50) United States or the District of Columbia. Employees and the immediate family members of employees of Zaner-Bloser, Inc., or its affiliates are not eligible to submit an entry, compete, or win.



Nicholas Maxim Award for Special Needs Entry Form

(Entry may be written
in manuscript or cursive)

For information purposes only. Please print or type. Submit only one manuscript and one cursive entry per school. Entry must be accompanied by a letter signed by the Occupational Therapist, Special Education Provider and/or Principal.

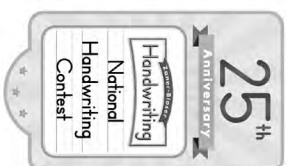
Student's Full Name (written by student)

Teacher's First, Last Name	Telephone
School Name	Public/Private (circle one)
School Address	
City	State Zip
Contact E-mail	

Copy the sentence below in your best handwriting.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Using your best handwriting, answer the question below in your own words.
What do you like about handwriting?



The Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest Certificate of Participation Awarded to

in recognition of your entry in the
Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest

Given this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

School _____

Grade _____

Teacher _____