

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

2008 Orange County Middle Schools

Laws of Life

Essay Contest

presented by



PASSKEYS FOUNDATION

Building A Nation Of Character

In cooperation with

ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Institute For Character Education

Dear Middle School Principals and Educators:

Your middle school is invited to participate in the **Orange County Laws of Life Essay Contest** sponsored by Passkeys Foundation in cooperation with the OCDE's Institute for Character Education.

2008 Laws of Life Essay Theme:

“Shaping A Significant Life With Self-Respect and Respect For Others”

Maximum 500 words

PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR PARTICIPATING MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Essay Contest is **conducted** at school sites during the 7-week period, **Jan. 28 -Mar. 14, 2008**.
- **No Cost** to participating schools. All essay resource materials are provided.
- **50-student minimum** is required at a participating school. All grade levels may participate.
- The school is **required** to create **all-class participation** in selected teacher classrooms.
- Each school-site **Essay Coordinator** receives a **\$100 stipend**.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place **essay contest winners** are awarded at **each** school. These winners receive a **\$50, \$35 or \$25** gift certificate from a selected bookstore. All student essayists receive a participation certificate.
- The **1st Place essayists** from all participating schools **compete** for the **all-OC Laws of Life Best Essays**.
- **1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners** from all schools, their parents, school Essay Coordinators and Principals **attend an April, 2008, recognition event** where all awards are presented.
- The **three schools** that produce the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place OC Laws of Life Best Essays **receive \$500, \$350 or \$250** for their Principal & Leadership Team to develop or support an existing all-school character education initiative. Principals & Leadership Teams from all other participating schools receive **\$100** for the same purpose.
- The **three OC Best Essayists** receive a recognition **proclamation** from the **OC Board of Supervisors** and **Disneyland Guest Passes**.
- The **three students** selected as the **all OC Middle School Laws of Life Best Essayists** and their parents are invited to attend the May or June, 2008, **OCDE Board Meeting** for public recognition.

The maximum participation for the 2008 Laws of Life Essay Contest is **40** OC middle schools. Participation is on a first-come, first-serve basis based upon the timely completion and submission of the AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE.

Sincerely,

Russell Williams

Russell Williams, President

PASSKEYS FOUNDATION

Jefferson Center for Character Education

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AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE

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maximum 500 words

AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE FORM-DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007

EARLY SUBMISSION IS RECOMMENDED / MAXIMUM 40 SCHOOLS

Return to P.O. Box 4137 Mission Viejo, CA 92690-4137

PLEASE TYPE

Please Provide All Information

Middle School _____ District _____

School Address _____
Street City Zip

School Phone Number _____ E-Mail of School Site Coordinator _____

Middle School Principal _____ School Site Essay Coordinator _____

OC Laws of Life Essay Contest Agreement

Signature by Principal and School Site Essay Coordinator

As representatives of our school we agree to participate in the all OC Middle School *Laws of Life* Essay Contest.

We commit to:

- **involving** a minimum of 50 student essayists participating from any grade level at our middle school.
- **promoting / recruiting / educating** selected teacher(s) and classrooms of students who will write a *Laws of Life* Essay as a classroom writing assignment consistent with California ELA standards and guidelines.
- **reviewing** all essays from our school and selecting the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Best Essays from our school with the use of an essay evaluation **rubric** provided by Passkeys Foundation.
- **submitting** the school's 1st Place Essay to Passkeys Foundation for the all-county essay competition.
- **attending** the all Orange County April, 2008 recognition event with your three school site Best Essayists.

Principal's Signature

Date

School Site Essay Coordinator's Signature

Date

Please Make a Copy of this Agreement for Your Records