



Essay Contest

You may know the Optimist club for our extensive, K-12 basketball program, but the Optimists do much more in our community. We provide students with opportunities to compete in both essay and oratorical contests. We encourage sportsmanship by recognizing athletes at our annual awards banquet. We also work with the Upper Arlington Police Department to provide awards for young people who demonstrate an understanding of and adherence to the law. We appreciate service learning with a middle school awards program. Finally, we work with the UAPD to arrange drug “take back” days to reduce the number of prescriptions sitting in medicine cabinets or being put into landfills and rivers.

Presently, we are inviting middle and high school students to participate in our annual essay contest. For detailed information and contest rules, please click [here](#) or visit www.optimist.org. Entrants are asked to write an essay between 700 and 800 words that addresses the prompt: **Is Optimism the Key to Achieving the Dream You Imagine?** Essays must be submitted by **February 7, 2020**, to Deborah Tarr. Deborah is a Language Arts teacher at Jones Middle School and can be reached via email, dtarr@uaschools.org, or phone, 614.497.5240, for questions. Submissions may be hand-delivered to Jones, submitted electronically using Google Docs sharing, or as an email attachment. Please refrain from including personally identifying information on your essay, but do include it in a separate cover sheet.

Cash prizes are awarded to our middle school winners and our high school winners. First place receives \$300, second place \$200, and third place, \$100. The overall winner of the contest will compete in a district competition where the winner receives a \$2500 college scholarship. All winners will be recognized at our annual spring banquet in April. We sincerely hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to engage with the UA Optimist Club.

Warm Regards,
Deborah Tarr, Essay Contest Chairperson
Paul Boyer, President, UA Optimist Club

This activity is not sponsored by Upper Arlington Schools.