

**ANNUAL COMPASSION ESSAY CONTEST**  
**Sponsored by:**  
**St. Vrain Valley School District**  
**Longmont Rotary Club**

In partnership with the Longmont Rotary Club, St. Vrain Valley School District schools are invited to participate in our annual “Compassion Awards” contest. We are seeking entries from students who define one of the five elements of compassion:

- Love
- Empathy
- Understanding
- Gratitude of all things
- Giving selflessly for the happiness of all beings

Entries can include stories, essays, or poems related to a compassionate topic and must be submitted by individuals. Past winners have written about people or personal experiences that touched them in a special way such as: a person who made a positive impact on your life; caring for an elderly neighbor; helping a terminally ill person; family changes; being sensitive to a non-English speaking student; losing a cherished pet or helping a hungry or homeless person in the community.

These entries fall under several Reading and Writing standards including:

- Standard 1: Students read and understand a variety of materials.
- Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Standard 3: Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization and spelling.
- Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing.

These entries can also fall under the following Civic standard:

- Students understand how citizens exercise the roles, rights and responsibilities of participation in civic life at all levels- local, state and national.

**Please note the following:**

- There will be 3 bands of competition, with one winner selected from each: grades 3-5; grades 6-8 and grades 9-12;
- Submissions must be typed or handwritten (no videos or drawings) and are limited to two pages in length;
- Writings may be submitted in another language, but an English translation must be attached; and
- Teachers will collect and judge the entries of their students and submit no more than two entries from each class, accompanied by the attached cover memo.

Please return the essays to Zachary Chase via internal school district mail no later than **Friday, April 14**. Late entries will not be accepted. Please remember that this is an important event to your students! The students' work will not be returned; therefore, you may either send the students' original works or a good quality copy. There will be a winner at each of the grade levels of competition. Students will receive \$50.00 from the Longmont Rotary Club and have an additional \$50.00 donated in their names to a non-profit of their choice (must be a qualified non-profit organization under Section 401(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code). Teachers of the winning students will receive \$50.00 for the purchase of classroom materials. Winning students, and their guests, submitting teachers, and school principals will be guests of honor at a luncheon sponsored by the Longmont Rotary Club on **Tuesday, May 9, 2017**.

This is an exciting and wonderful contest...we look forward to your participation. Thank you!