



Blair Beard
1840 Swamp Pike
Gilbertsville, PA 19525
484 948-5399
June 1, 2017

Dear Principals, Teachers, Parents and Students,

FAVIA 225, the 225th anniversary of the First Air Voyage In America, is holding an Art/Essay Contest to promote public awareness about the anniversary of this important historic event. Whenever the first flight in the United States is mentioned it usually conjures up thoughts of the Wright brothers on the beach at Kitty Hawk. This is true for powered flight with heavier-than-air aircraft. Most Americans don't realize that the first manned flight in the United States occurred with a hydrogen-filled balloon flown by Jean-Pierre Blanchard who ascended from Philadelphia, PA and landed in Deptford, NJ on January 9, 1793 - 110 years before the Wright brothers!

We will be celebrating this 225th anniversary of man's first flight from American soil in conjunction with the 2018 Balloon Federation of America Convention in Philadelphia, PA, March 22nd through March 25th, 2018. One of the many planned activities is our "FAVIA 225 ART/ESSAY CONTEST". By participating in the contest students, families, and faculty will learn about local history, the start of aviation in the United States, and have an opportunity to show off their drawing and language arts skills. Winning artwork and essays will be displayed throughout the duration of the convention. The winning essay participant will have an opportunity to read his or her essay to an international gathering of aeronauts!

INFORMATION and GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTEST

Between September 1, 2017 and December 21, 2017, students in grades 1-12 may develop artwork (and essays for grades 9-12, guidelines on separate sheet) based on the theme "*First Air Voyage In America*"

There will be tiered grade brackets for the artwork: grades 1 – 4, grades 5 – 8 and grades 9 – 12.

Between January 1, 2018 and January 8, 2018, each participating school will choose 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners per art tier and the essay entries. Each school can announce winners on the actual 225th anniversary of Jean-Pierre Blanchard's flight, which is January 9, 2018, or as close to that date as the school's schedule allows.

Each school's 1st and 2nd place winning entries need to be forwarded by February 2, 2018 to: School District of Philadelphia Administration Office, C/O Deb Klose – Dir. Of Arts Education, 44 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130 for collection and final judging by the FAVIA 225 committee. There will be one 1st, 2nd and 3rd place award for each grade tier and the essay category.

The presentation of awards will be scheduled during the Celebration/Convention which runs March 22nd through March 25th, 2018 at the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing.

Artwork must be an original two-dimensional hand drawing or painting depicting a point in time of Jean-Pierre Blanchard's First Air Voyage In America on January 9, 1793*.

The drawing/painting should measure either 8.5"X 11" or 9" X 12". The size measurement should not include a mat or border.

Entries MUST NOT be framed, under glass, or have a protective covering that is attached to the art. (Clear plastic wrap taped in the back is acceptable).

All entries must have a completed "participant information slip" affixed to the back of the artwork. Attach the form using clear glue stick or tape. **DO NOT** staple or paper clip the form as it may damage the artwork.

Acceptable art media are paint (acrylic or water color), colored pencil, ink, crayon, and chalk or pastel. Collages, computer printouts, photography, or photocopies are not eligible. There may be **NO** use of current company logos, product brands, or store names. Only one entry per student is allowed.

*Suggestions: inflation of the balloon, launch of the balloon from Philadelphia, PA, the balloon in flight, or the balloon landing in Deptford, NJ.

(Please attach this slip to the back of your artwork)

**FAVIA 225 ARTS CONTEST
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SLIP**

Student's Name _____

Home Phone _____

Teacher's Name _____

School _____

School Phone _____

I release and give permission to FAVIA 225/Balloon Federation of America to display the attached art/essay and duplicate it in publications and/or on their Website.

Parent Signature _____

**WEBSITES FOR HISTORICAL AND
PICTORAL INFORMATION:**

<http://www.favia225.com>

<http://www.historynet.com/jean-pierre-blanchard-made-first-us-aerial-voyage-in-1793.htm>

<https://www.facebook.com/PhiladelphiaStoriesbyBobMcNulty/posts/438287086342887:0>

<http://stratocat.com.ar/artics/blanchard-e.htm>

<https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/first-air-voyage-north-america> (click "long description")

Search Suggestions:

Jean-Pierre Blanchard
First Air Voyage in America
Deptford, NJ