



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 first place winning essay participant will have an opportunity to read his or her essay to an international gathering of aeronauts!

## INFORMATION & GUIDELINES FOR THE **ESSAY CONTEST**

**Between September 1, 2017 and December 21, 2017** students in grades 9 – 12 will have the opportunity to develop an essay based on: *What the theme "First Air Voyage In America" represents to me and our nation.*

**Between January 1, 2018 and January 8, 2018**, each participating school will choose 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners from their essay entries. The school winners can be announced on the actual 225<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winning entries need to be forwarded by February 2, 2018** for collection and final judging by the FAVIA 225 committee. Awards will be: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for each art tier and the essay.

**Forward your school's 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners to :**

**PHILADELPHIA ARCHDIOCESEAN SCHOOLS:** Archbishop Ryan High School  
C/O Sr. Laretta Linsalata 11201 Academy Road Philadelphia, PA 19154

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA:** School District of Philadelphia  
Administration Office C/O Deb Klose – Dir. Of Arts Education 44 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130

**The presentation of awards will be scheduled during the Celebration/Convention** which runs March 22<sup>nd</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing. The drawings will be displayed and the winning essay read to an assemblage of aeronauts.

**The Essay must be original work of the submitting student.** NO parental/guardian assistance other than research guidance is permitted. Evidence of plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification.

**The Essay should be submitting in a hard (paper) copy**, being double spaced, use #12 point Times New Roman font (or as close as possible), containing no more than 700 words. Essays may be placed in a simple thin paper or plastic sleeve/folder to keep the pages from being torn or marred.

**All entries must have a completed "participant information page" included at the back of the Essay.**

Essays will be judged on their ability to address the topic: *What does the theme "First Air Voyage In America" represent to me and our nation.*

Ownership of any submitted essay remains with the writer, but entry into the contest constitutes the entrant's permission and consent, without compensation, for FAVIA 225/Balloon Federation of America to use, reproduce, transmit, or edit the submission.

#### **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

*(Please include this page at the back of your essay)*

**FAVIA 225 ESSAY 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 essay and duplicate it in publications and/or on their Website.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_