

The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum and Cambium Learning Technologies Team Up to Encourage Teachers Across the Country To Engage Middle School Students in Writing About Courage

Boston, MA

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The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum© (Boston, MA) and Cambium Learning® Technologies (Bedford, MA) have teamed up in an exciting collaboration to create an on-line library of student essays on the topic of courage and to help increase students' writing capabilities nationwide. The Courage Essay Library will be available beginning **October 11** and contains over 200 previously published winning essays on the topic of "The Courage in My Life" written by sixth grade authors participating in the Max Warburg Courage Curriculum (www.maxcourage.org).

The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum is a nationally recognized year-long language arts program that targets sixth and ninth grade students and honors the life of Max Warburg, a courageous 11 year old who died of leukemia in 1991. Inspired by Max's story, participants write personal essays that celebrate acts of moral courage in their own lives, in the lives of those around them, and in their communities. The program assists students to connect to literature and is dedicated to strengthening character development and literacy skills. Written into the Massachusetts state learning standards for literacy, the Curriculum has positively impacted the lives of more than 75,000 students since its inception. A sample teacher's guide will also be available.

As a result of this collaboration and with guidance from the Curriculum, Cambium has developed a national essay competition for middle school students on the topic "The Courage in My Community." This competition is designed to engage middle school students in a deeper understanding of the concept of courage in their community and to integrate the use of technology in the writing process with the recently released Kurzweil 3000 software, a suite of tools designed to assist the most at-risk student populations in meeting the academic challenges of reading, writing, and higher order thinking.

The competition will be open from January 1-February 15, 2009. A panel of judges coordinated across the country will review each essay and select up to twenty-five (25) winning essays as semi-finalists to be judged in a final event by authors, members of the community, journalists, and educators in Boston, Massachusetts on March 5, 2009. The final judging will coincide with the annual Max Warburg Courage Curriculum "Courage in My Life" Essay Judging and will include judges from this program.

One winner will be announced in late March and honored in his/her home community at a luncheon and press conference on a date to be determined. The winning participant's school will receive a Kurzweil 3000 Site License with a full-day implementation workshop, in addition to one half day of professional development training in the Max Warburg Courage Curriculum with program founder Stephanie Warburg and program director Elizabeth Evans, along with a complete set of curriculum books, the teacher's guide, and a video.

Founded in 2003, Cambium Learning is an education company that provides research-based, culturally responsive and proven instructional materials, services and technology to help educators raise the achievement level of those pre K through grade 12 students underserved by existing instructional materials. Kurzweil Educational Systems is a member of the Cambium family of learning companies.

For more information on the Max Warburg Courage Curriculum or this unique collaboration, please contact program director Elizabeth Evans 617/373-7399, eevans@maxcourage.org. #####