



MIKE FASANO
TAX COLLECTOR
PASCO COUNTY FLORIDA

PRESS RELEASE

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Pasco Tax Collector Mike Fasano Announces Essay Contest for Middle School Students

Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano, as part of **Clerk & Comptroller Paula O' Neill's** Constitutional Officers Essay Contest, announces that his office is accepting entries in the month -long essay contest. The competition begins March 1 and runs through the final day of March. The essay contest is geared for Pasco County's middle school students (Grades 6-8). Students of Pasco's public/ charter, private, non-public and home schools are all welcome to participate.

In 500 words or less students will answer the question: *"How do you, as a middle school student, benefit from taxes your family, friends and neighbors pay?"* Entries will be judged by a panel of directors from the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office. Entries will be reviewed on how well the student communicates his/ her response to the question as well as overall essay structure, appearance and readability.

“Last year we had an overwhelming response to the contest,” states **Tax Collector Mike Fasano**. “I have no doubt that we will receive some excellent essays again this year. Pasco County has some of the state’s best and brightest students. The student who writes the winning entry will receive a \$300 gift card to Best Buy as their prize. I am looking forward to the day when I am able to hand this wonderful prize to the student who prepares the best essay.”

Students in public/ charter schools are asked to submit their essays to their principal, who will forward them to the tax collector’s office. Students in private, non-public or home schools may send their essays directly to **Greg Giordano, Assistant Tax Collector**, Pasco County Tax Collector’s Office, 8731 Citizens Drive, Room 120, New Port Richey, FL 34654 or via e-mail at ggiordano@pascotaxes.com . If there are any questions about the contest please contact **Giordano** at 727-847-8179.

Tax Collector Mike Fasano encourages family members, neighbors and friends of eligible students to tell Pasco middle-schoolers about the contest. Entries will be accepted until 5:00 PM on March 31. Each entry should include the student’s name, school, grade and contact information. The winner of the essay contest will be notified by telephone no later than April 17. The winning entrant will also be announced via a media release after the winner has been notified.