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PRESS RELEASE

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Feagin Mill Middle School Student Wins the Houston County School District Spelling Bee Runner-up from Northside Middle School



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Feagin Mill Middle School student, Briana Pham, won the Houston County School District's 2025 Spelling Bee on January 29. She was the top speller out of 27 contestants and won with the correct spelling of the final word, "capillary." Northside Middle School student, Madelyn Jones, won second place. Franklin Shelley from Huntington Middle School is the alternate.

Briana and Madelyn, both eighth graders, will represent Houston County as they compete in the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) District 6 Bee. The regional bee is scheduled for February

22 and will be held at the District's Central Office in Perry. The District 6 winner will compete in the State Spelling Bee at Georgia State University in Atlanta on March 21.

The Houston County School District Spelling Bee participants from each school are listed below.

- Marley Mallory, Bonaire Elementary School
- Colby Hollar, Bonaire Middle School
- Ja'Vier Babatunde, Centerville Elementary School
- Cristina Elliott, David A. Perdue Elementary School
- Alice Eubanks, Eagle Springs Elementary School
- Briana Pham, Feagin Mill Middle School

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- Madelynn Francis, Hilltop Elementary School
- Franklin Shelley, Huntington Middle School
- Adlyn Gamblin, Kings Chapel Elementary School
- Max Li, Lake Joy Elementary School
- Ainsley Dolehanty, Langston Road Elementary School
- Defne Acar, Matt Arthur Elementary School
- Carter Campos, Miller Elementary School
- Gabriel Reynolds, Morningside Elementary School
- Ariel Lane, Mossy Creek Middle School
- Ra'mahsun Byers, Northside Elementary School
- Madelyn Jones, Northside Middle School
- Nathan Garcia Tagle, Parkwood Elementary School
- Aurora Flanders, Pearl Stephens Elementary School
- Sadie Hess, Perry Middle School
- Tamir Fowler, Quail Run Elementary School
- Cayla McGuffin, Russell Elementary School
- Tyler Roti, Shirley Hills Elementary School
- Messiah Anderson, Thomson Middle School
- Jordyn Jones, Tucker Elementary School
- Kai Kitsko, Warner Robins Middle School
- William Barnes, Westside Elementary School

In addition to spelling words, students participated in a vocabulary round which aligns with region and state spelling bees. The State Spelling Bee procedures, rules and regulations were followed. The Houston County Spelling Bee coordinators are Tenia Collins from Northside High School, and Katrina West from Morningside Elementary School. Jennifer Thomas, speech language pathologist for Student Services, called out the words.

The local spelling bee is sponsored by the GAE through the local Houston Association of Educators. For more information, please contact Language Arts Coordinator Dr. Amanda Yoh or Dr. Amy Fouse at (478) 988-6200.

Pictured (from left): Briana Pham; Dr. Elgin Mayfield, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Houston County School District; and Madelyn Jones

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