



Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Mark Scott

Board Members

Helen Hughes, Chair

Dr. Rick Unruh, Vice Chair

Dave Crockett

Mark Ivory

Lori Johnson

Jon Nichols

Bryan Upshaw

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 18, 2024

Release #2023/24 – 060

Contact: Jennifer C. Jones, Director of Community & School Affairs, (478) 988-6390, Jennifer.C.Jones@hcbe.net

Lake Joy Elementary School Student Wins Elementary Oratorical Contest *Langston Road Elementary and Matt Arthur Elementary Students Place Second and Third*

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Eighteen fifth graders from the Houston County School District's Gifted and Talented Education classes recently competed in the Elementary School Oratorical Contest at the Central Office in Perry. During their speeches, students were asked to discuss which historical event required people to be the most optimistic and how their optimism impacts our lives today.

The 2024 top orators were:

- 1st place – Kahlil Florence, Lake Joy Elementary, Coach Jennifer Yakush;
- 2nd place – Riley May Gramley, Langston Road Elementary, Coach Hayley Sikes; and
- 3rd place – Thomas Wadsworth, Matt Arthur Elementary, Coach Peaches Tankersley.



Cash awards of \$20, \$30, and \$50 were awarded to the first through third place winners. The top orators will be recognized at the Houston County Board of Education meeting on April 16 where Kahlil, as first place winner, will present his speech.

Two students were selected for Honorable Mention.

- Dakota Jones, Eagles Springs Elementary, Coach Rebecca Leonard; and
- Cameron Luciano, David Perdue Elementary, Coach Jennifer Zellner.

MORE

Elementary Oratorical Contest / page 2 of 2

District competitors included the top orators from each school. The top District orators were chosen based on poise, speech content and depth, delivery, presentation, and overall effectiveness.

Pictured (from left): Riley May Gramley, Kahlil Florence and Thomas Wadsworth

#



478-988-6200



1100 Main Street | Perry, Georgia 31069



www.hcbe.net