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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Bonaire Middle School Student Wins the Houston County School District Spelling Bee Runner-up from Mossy Creek Middle School**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Bonaire Middle School student, Kaileigh Blackshear, won the Houston County School District's 2026 Spelling Bee on January 22. She was the top speller out of 27 contestants and won with the correct spelling of the final word, "archetype." Mossy Creek Middle School student, Jayce Sablan-Solis, won second place. James Omboto from Perry Middle School is the alternate.

Kaileigh, a seventh grader and Jayce, an eighth grader, will represent Houston County as they compete in the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) District 6 Bee. The regional bee is scheduled for February 28 and will be held at the

District's Central Office in Perry. The District 6 winner will compete in the state bee on March 20. The national bee will be May 24-29.

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

- Malik Robinson, Bonaire Elementary School
- Kaileigh Blackshear, Bonaire Middle School
- Grant Wilkins, Centerville Elementary School
- Cristina Elliott, David A. Perdue Elementary School
- Calvin Doan, Eagle Springs Elementary School
- Luke Kiefer, Feagin Mill Middle School

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## Houston County School District Spelling Bee / page 2 of 2

- Melania Johnson, Hilltop Elementary School
- Jason Anderson, Huntington Middle School
- Liza Whitaker, Kings Chapel Elementary School
- Skylar Tookes, Lake Joy Elementary School
- Emaido Ekpo, Langston Road Elementary School
- Wallace Ritter, Matt Arthur Elementary School
- Carter Campos, Miller Elementary School
- Kendall Vandersee, Morningside Elementary School
- Jayce Sablan-Solis, Mossy Creek Middle School
- Lillian Jones, Northside Elementary School
- Noah Aguila, Northside Middle School
- Jerrika Jones, Parkwood Elementary School
- A'nahji Stewart, Pearl Stephens Elementary School
- James Omboto, Perry Middle School
- Leighlen Brown, Quail Run Elementary School
- Victor Rushing, Russell Elementary School
- Meagan Nasambu, Shirley Hills Elementary School
- Jose Ayala, Thomson Middle School
- Lauren Sinclair, Tucker Elementary School
- CJ Grombacher, Warner Robins Middle School
- Ariyanna Yancie, 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 Kathy Gibbs from David A. Perdue Primary and Katrina West from Morningside Elementary School. Brooke Herndon, media specialist at Morningside Elementary School, 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): Jayce Sablan-Solis; Dr. Elgin Mayfield, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Houston County School District; and Kaileigh Blackshear*

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