



MEDIA ADVISORY | PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Date: March 10, 2025

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Annual HCLS Spelling Bee Attracts 59 Top Spellers

2023 and 2024 HCLS Champion Navya Dwivedi Competes for Third Consecutive Win

WHO: Howard County Library System and 59 top spellers from Howard County

WHAT: Annual spelling bee competition to claim the county crown and advance to the televised Scripps National Spelling Bee in May.

WHEN: **Saturday, March 22, 2025, at 2 pm**

WHERE: **Reservoir High School, 11550 Scaggsville Rd, Fulton, MD 20759**

WHY: To provide an instructive and enlightening opportunity for students to participate in a regional bee registered with Scripps National Spelling Bee with an opportunity to advance to the national level.

Additional information:

- **Inclement weather date: Sunday, March 23, 2025, online**
- This year marks 100 years of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.
- The champion receives a trophy at the event, a \$1,000 college scholarship, and advances to the National Spelling Bee held in National Harbor, MD from May 25-31, 2025. The finalist receives a \$750 scholarship and will compete at the National Bee if the champion is unable to participate.
- Fifty-nine students with fifty-two alternates will participate in the HCLS Spelling Bee, representing forty-seven public schools, eleven private or parochial schools, and one homeschool association.
- Sixteen younger students, in grades 1 through 3 who competed in BumbleBees at their schools will be recognized on stage prior to the competition.
- **SPECIAL NOTES:**
 - **Navya Dwivedi, an eighth-grade student from Clarksville Middle School and the HCLS Spelling Bee champion in 2023 and 2024, will compete for her third consecutive win.**
 - **Saketh Sundar, four-time HCLS Spelling Bee champ and 2019 National Spelling Bee Octo-champ, will serve as co-pronouncer.**
- The HCLS Spelling Bee and the BumbleBee Celebration are part of the Library's Signature A+ Partners in Education initiative with Howard County Public School System designed to improve the overall academic success of Howard County students.
- Participation in spelling bees not only improves students' spelling, but also broadens their vocabularies, teaches new concepts, and develops effective usage of the English language.

For more information about the HCLS Spelling Bee, visit hclibrary.org/new-a-main/spelling-bee/

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