HCLS Spelling Bee and BumbleBee Information Session

October 13, 2026



Background

- Presented by Howard County Library System and Howard County Public School System
- Oral bee organized under the rules of the Scripps National Spelling Bee

BumbleBee

- School hosts grade level spelling bees
- School sends one winner from each grade (1 – 3) to HCLS Spelling Bee to be recognized on stage
- No countywide spelling bee for Bumble

BumbleBee: Benefits

- Improve spelling
- Increase vocabulary
- Develop self-confidence
- Prepares students for the HCLS Spelling Bee

BumbleBee: Who is Eligible?

- Students from grades 1 to 3
- Howard County Public School System students
- Students who attend a private school located in Howard County

Who is Eligible, Continued.

- Home school students who reside or attend home school classes in Howard County and participate in a local bee with a minimum of 15 contestants, conducted by a Howard County home school association.

BumbleBee: How It Works

- Schools register with HCLS
- Bee Coordinator Handbook outlines roles and responsibilities
- HCLS provides suggested word list

How It Works Continued.

- School bee coordinator:
  - provides study words and tips to students
  - decides how and when to hold bees
  - recruits bee judges and officials
  - submits winner information (one per grade) to HCLS

BumbleBee: Important Dates

- September 30: Deadline to complete Intent to Participate form sent by Library AND register with Scripps – use link provided
- February 1: Classroom and/or grade-level spelling bees completed
- February 8: Deadline for schools to submit winner via form

Important Dates, Continued.

- March 13: HCLS Spelling Bee at Howard High School
  please note this is a Saturday at 2 pm
- March 14: Snow date for HCLS Spelling Bee online (Scripps OTP)

Spelling Bee

- School hosts classroom, grade, and/or school-wide spelling bees by Feb 1
- School sends one winner, one alternate name to HCLS Spelling Bee by Feb 8
- HCLS Spelling Bee winner advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May 2027

Congratulations!

- **2026 HCLS Winner:**
- Thanvi Gatamaneni
  Burleigh Manor Middle School
  Age 13 | Grade 7
- **HCLS First runner-up:**
- Meqdim Abera
  Our Lady of Perpetual Help School
  Grade 7
  Age 13. | Grade 7
- **Winning word:** Decadence

Spelling Bee: Benefits

- Increase vocabularies
- Learn word etymology and country of origin, the meanings of prefixes and suffixes, and spelling rules
- Read and write more effectively
- Improve spelling

Spelling Bee: Who is Eligible?

- Students from grades 4 to 8
- Howard County Public School System students
- Students who attend a private school located in Howard County

Who is Eligible, Continued.

- Home school students who reside or attend home school classes in Howard County and participate in a local bee with a minimum of 15 contestants, conducted by a Howard County home school association.

Spelling Bee: How It Works

- Once schools register with Scripps, school bee coordinators receive login from Scripps to access their Teacher Portal
- HCLS Spelling Bee Coordinator Handbook outlines roles and responsibilities

How It Works, Continued.

- School bee coordinator:
  - provides study words and tips to students
  - decides how and when to hold bees
  - recruits bee judges and officials
  - submits winner and alternate information to HCLS

Spelling Bee: Important Dates

- February 1: Classroom and/or school spelling bees completed
- February 8: Deadline for schools to submit winner and alternates (one each per school)
- March 13: HCLS Spelling Bee at Howard High School **note this is a Sat at 2 pm**

Spelling Bee: Important Dates

- March 14: Snow date for HCLS Spelling Bee online (Scripps OTP)
- May 2027: HCLS Spelling Bee champion competes in Scripps National Spelling Bee. Bee Week is May 30 - June 4, 2027 in Washington, DC (all expenses paid)

Sponsors

- Thanks to:
  - Educational Systems Federal Credit Union
  - Friends & Foundation of HCLS
  - Howard County Public School System

Questions?

- hclibrary.org/spelling-bee for BumbleBee and HCLS Spelling Bee
- bee@hclibrary.org for BumbleBee and HCLS Spelling Bee
- spellingbee.com for Scripps info