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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Bonaire Middle Student Wins System Spelling Bee Runner-up from Lake Joy Elementary**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Bonaire Middle School student Harlen Morris won the Houston County Board of Education 2020 Spelling Bee today. He was the top speller out of 28 contestants, winning with the correct spelling of the final word, “carnival.” Lake Joy Elementary School student Clara Swafford won second place. The word missed prior to Harlen being declared the winner in round 17 was “brevet.”

Harlen, a seventh grader, and Clara, a fifth grader, (pictured from left) will both compete at the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) District 6 regional bee. Kallista Kennebrew of Huntington Middle School qualified to attend the district bee as an alternate. The District Bee will be held at Fort Valley State University in the Pettigrew Center on

Feb. 22 at 10:00 a.m. The District 6 winner and runner-up next compete at the State Spelling Bee on March 13 at 11:00 a.m., held in Atlanta at the Georgia State University Student Center.

Each school sent a student to the system competition. In addition to the system winners and alternate, the school-level Spelling Bee winners are:

- Lauryn Hays, Bonaire Elementary School
- Amanda McGirt, Centerville Elementary School
- Sylvia Henry, David A. Perdue Elementary School
- Mark Antley, Eagle Springs Elementary School
- Carson Burch, Feagin Mill Middle School
- Adrian Garcia, Hilltop Elementary School
- Cole Mosteller, Kings Chapel Elementary School
- Ashton Hamilton, Langston Road Elementary School
- D’Andre Bailey, Lindsey Elementary School

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- Chandler Carter, Matt Arthur Elementary School
- Rishi Thakker, Miller Elementary School
- Kiley Rickard, Morningside Elementary School
- Tripp Reynolds, Mossy Creek Middle School
- Raven Smith, Northside Elementary School
- Jayden Sharbutt, Northside Middle School
- Sidney Jackson, Parkwood Elementary School
- Kaylei Yawn, Pearl Stephens Elementary School
- Riley Burks, Perry Middle School
- Kayla Arnold, Quail Run Elementary School
- Sloan Rylander, Russell Elementary School
- Colin Buzzell, Shirley Hills Elementary School
- Daylen Clowers, Thomson Middle School
- Bella Newell, Tucker Elementary School
- Coberley Brown, Warner Robins Middle School
- Cordae Womble, 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 district Spelling Bee Coordinators are Dr. Kasandra King and Yolanda Felder of Morningside Elementary School. Brooke Herndon, media specialist at Morningside Elementary, called out the words.

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

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