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Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, 478-988-6390, ext. 0, Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net

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Bonaire Student Wins Elementary Oratorical Contest Kings Chapel Wins 2nd, Lake Joy Wins 3rd



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Seventeen fifth-graders from the Houston County School System’s gifted and talented education classes competed in the Elementary School Oratorical Contest on March 8, 2019. The topic this year was, “Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality?”

The 2018-2019 top orators are:

- 1st place – Jordi Johnson, Bonaire Elementary, Coach Jessica Owens and

Tamara Wildes;

- 2nd place – Joel Ballard, Kings Chapel Elementary, Coach Kelly Voss; and
- 3rd place – David Pham, Lake Joy Elementary, Coach Traci Shipp.

David, Jordi and Joel are pictured (from left) with their cash awards.

Cash awards of \$25, \$20 and \$15 were awarded to the first- through third-place winners. They are invited to present their speeches at the March 12, 2019, Houston County Board of Education Board meeting. Video of their presentations will be posted on the [district Facebook page](#).

To compete, fifth-graders create a two-minute speech to present at school and vie to qualify for the system competition. School representatives are selected by a panel of judges at their school. The top district orators are chosen by four judges using a scoresheet.

Three honorable mentions were also announced for the district: Jayden Flagg, Centerville Elementary, Coach Amanda Walters; Katherine Coyne, Quail Run Elementary, Coach Julie Ash; and Davis Hall, Langston Road Elementary, Coach Christie Lehman.

The Director of Gifted Education, Jan Jacobsen, said, “Our Oratorical Contest encourages students to take risks and ownership of their own learning behavior. They embrace the process through engagement, enthusiasm and enjoyment. Judges consider each orator for his or her poise, speech

**P.O. Box 1850 • PERRY, GEORGIA 31069
(478) 988-6200 • FAX (478) 988-6259
WWW.HCBE.NET**

content and depth, delivery, presentation, and overall effectiveness. Many thanks to our 5th grade teachers who serve as oratorical coaches, our district judges for their time and expertise, and our Board of Education for their support of this event.”

For more information, please contact Jacobsen at Jan.Jacobsen@hcbe.net or 478-988-6200, ext. 10393.

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