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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Morningside Elementary Student Wins System Spelling Bee Runner-up from Northside Middle**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Morningside Elementary School student Olivia Sims won the Houston County Board of Education 2019 Spelling Bee today. She was the top speller out of 28 contestants, winning with the correct spelling of the final word “fennel.” Northside Middle School student Lydia Emery won second place. The word missed prior to Olivia being declared the winner was “bratwurst.”

Olivia, a fourth grader, and Lydia, an eighth grader, (pictured from left) will both compete at the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) District 6 regional bee.

Dwight Yandle of Feagin Mill 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. 23, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. The District 6 winner and runner-up would then compete at the State Spelling Bee on March 15 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:

- Elijah Belcher, Bonaire Elementary School
- Nifemi Babatola, Bonaire Middle School
- Arin Howard, Centerville Elementary School
- Kristopher Jones, David Perdue Elementary School
- Jeffrey Chavis, Eagle Springs Elementary School
- Stephanie Loretz, Hilltop Elementary School
- Mark Milanek, Huntington Middle School
- Nesvid Ortiz, Kings Chapel Elementary School

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- Victoria Kim, Lake Joy Elementary School
- Jasmine Stanley, Langston Road Elementary School
- Chris'Jon Parks, Lindsey Elementary School
- Chandler Carter, Matt Arthur Elementary School
- Shayla Alfaro Castillo, Miller Elementary School
- Kayla Koschmann, Mossy Creek Middle School
- Jada Kidd, Northside Elementary School
- Aleeya Hampton, Parkwood Elementary School
- Caleyah Morgan, Pearl Stephens Elementary School
- Jermarion Lester, Perry Middle School
- Brett-Lucas Pritchett, Quail Run Elementary School
- Destiny Curry, Russell Elementary School
- Kaleb Porch, Shirley Hills Elementary School
- Ryleigh Selby-Ward, Thomson Middle School
- Isiah Bannister, Tucker Elementary School
- Jayme Petersen, Warner Robins Middle School
- Alex Freeman, 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 Coordinator is Dr. Kasandra King, principal at 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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