NERMS student goes 12 rounds for county spelling bee title

ASHEBORO — C-r-u-s-t-a-c-e-a-n-s put Hannah Mesmer over the top. The Northeastern Randolph Middle School student spelled the sub-phylum of arthropods correctly to win the 2017 Randolph County Spelling Bee. Parents, friends, teachers and interested parties filled the Sunset Theatre at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday to hear 24 students from the Randolph County School System's elementary and middle schools flex their spelling muscles. Albert Fuentes of Archdale-Trinity Middle School came in second.

Jennifer Smith, the Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Coordinator for the system, pronounced 12 rounds of words ranging from antibiotic to chalupa to find a winner among the students seated on stage. Larry Chappell, director of middle schools and AIG, served as facilitator.

The winner received a $50 gift card, a trophy and a chance to compete again.

The event was the preliminary competition to a regional spelling bee to be held on March 27 at the Milton Rhodes Center of the Arts in Winston-Salem. The winner of the regional competition will move on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., from May 28-June 4.