

Bzzzzz. . . .  
NMS Super Spellers Will  
Compete In Regional Bee  
March 20th



Two Newark Middle School seventh graders will compete in the regional leg of the annual Scripps Spelling Bee March 20th at the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Conference Center in Newark.

They are: Braydan Sherman, who finished in first place in the local Bee and Olivia Demer who came in second. NMS' alternate representative, finishing in third place, was Caleb Coleman, also a seventh grader.

The other three NMS students who competed in the Bee are all sixth graders, Jonathan Mayzak, Alexis Huntington and Ridley Chandler.

NMS English Language Arts teacher Mel Hager, who annually coordinates the local Spelling Bee each year, said the process this year involved her national webinar attendance through Scripps, regional meetings, and countless email communication with Scripps and the Regional Director.

NMS ran each stage of its Spelling Bee virtually, through the official Scripps Spelling Bee program, allowing opportunities for six through eighth grade students, both hybrid and virtual.

Students who qualified after the first spelling test, went on to compete in our District Spelling Bee.

"While the challenges to host a Bee were many this year, I am happy our district managed to provide the opportunity for the six students who chose to compete in the District Level this year," said Hager "I'd also like to thank the Scripps National Spelling Bee and our Regional



Sherman



Demer



Coleman

Spelling Bee Director for their continued communication and efforts to help make this opportunity possible for our youth.

She also congratulated every student who chose to compete.

"Qualifying for the Spelling Bee takes considerable skill, while participation requires the addition of courage and confidence from our spellers. Thanks not only goes to our contestants, but their families for their participation and flexibility. I will be working to provide time leading up to the Regional Bee for our representatives to study and practice word etymology, spelling, and best practices in preparation."

Hager appreciatively noted the March 20th regional Bee planners have made "multiple modifications to hold the Bee in-person for our region's spellers.

"Our Regional Bee will have one winner that will move on to represent our region in the National Spelling Bee," she continued. "The National Spelling Bee will be quite different this year as well. The first three rounds will be held virtually and then they will host the final round of 10 - 12 spellers in Orlando, Florida, at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort."

