

TERRIFIC SPELLERS





Newark Middle School eighth grader Meagan Webster's contestant number was "1" in the first leg of the Scripts National Spelling Bee February 16th in the school auditorium.

And to her delight, she ended up being the first place winner after 17 rounds of spelling that began with a field of 15 sixth, seventh and eighth grade competitors during the 90-minute evening event.

She won by spelling "Einstein" correctly.

Eighth grader Jalen Bel came in second place after she and Webster went 13 grueling rounds. Seventh grader Ayden Miller came in third place.



Melissa Hager, the eighth grade ELA teacher who carefully enunciated each word and read a sentence it was used in before each contestant was required to spell it, congratulated the winners and said the competition “was quite a battle with incredibly challenging words.” Webster and Bel will go on to compete in regional competition March 18th at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Miller will be an alternate for the regional competition.

The winner of the regional bee will continue on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.

To qualify to participate in the NMS Spelling Bee, all sixth through eighth grade students at NMS took a spelling test. The other six contestants in the NMS Spelling Bee Feb. 16th were: sixth graders: Nickolas Tumbelekis, Kellyn Pettine, Logan Wilson and Xiomara “Mara” Coleman; seventh graders: Kaleigh Pettit, Adrian Rivera-Romero, Kylie Lewis and Deven Ferrell-Deutenberg; and eighth graders: Bradley VanDusen, Anna Renzi, Samantha Johnson and Matthew Harrison.

“I was incredibly proud of all fifteen students last night, as they represented the Newark Middle School with P.R.I.D.E. (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, Excellence). I was also pleased to see so many family members and friends at the event encouraging our participants. Having strong support at home and school helps contribute to the strong characters of P.R.I.D.E. these students displayed, which leads to success. I look forward to watching, supporting, and encouraging our finalists as they compete at the Regional Bee,” Hager said afterward.

Word lists for the Spelling Bee were provided by Scripps.

Judges Feb. 16th were Principal Teresa Prinzi, eighth grade ELA teacher Philip VanHarken and Alisa Elder, ELA and special education teacher.

