



### **Cordell Wins Spelling Bee, Advances To State**

**TUPELO, Miss.** — A-R-C-A-N-E. With the right spelling comes victory.

Confidently, Mason Cordell stepped to the mic at the Civic Auditorium and slowly spelled the word in Round 10 of the annual event. Then he eagerly awaited to hear the judge say, “Correct.” When he got the desired confirmation, he exhaled and then smiled when the pronouncer announced him as the 2021 Tupelo Public School District/Lee County champion.

“I almost messed up earlier with calzone,” the Tupelo Middle School 7<sup>th</sup>-grader said.

Cordell, who is also active in sports and other school clubs, held off Pierce Street 4<sup>th</sup>-grader Aaron Davis, who exited in the 9<sup>th</sup> round after misspelling primavera.

En route to victory, Cordell correctly spelled badger, lettuce, sparkle, calzone, fountain, mechanics, barricade, immoderate, rebounds and arcane, which means understood by few; mysterious or secret.

Cordell now advances to the state championship round.

### **All Participants**

#### **Lawhon**

Michael Wilemon

Abigail Bautista

#### **Lawndale**

Liza Coleman

Jazelyn Brown

#### **Milam**

Ava Davenport

**Pierce Street**

Aaron Davis  
Kase Johnson

**Rankin**

Ladarius Johnson  
Giovanni Flores

**Tupelo Middle School**

Mason Cordell  
Malak Rayyan

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