

**For Immediate Release**

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# Media Release

## **Hunter Graham named CCSD's 2023 Spelling Bee Champion**

**Office of Communications**

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**Charleston, SC** — The 2023 Charleston County School District (CCSD) Spelling Bee returned to an in-person event this year. It was held on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at Burke High School where Hunter Graham was declared the winner. CCSD has hosted its annual spelling bee contest online over the past few years, due to COVID restrictions.

Graham is a seventh grader at Moultrie Middle School. Graham progressed to the championship round by correctly spelling "harbinger." Hunter then correctly spelled the word, "rejuvenate" to secure his victory.

Spellers from elementary and middle schools across the district competed to become the 2023 CCSD Spelling Bee Champion. The Top 10 spellers advanced to the regional bee, sponsored by the Post & Courier in March.

Fifth graders from each elementary school and sixth, seventh, and eighth graders competed to earn the opportunity to participate in the CCSD competition.

**The CCSD Top 10 are:**

- Hunter Graham of Moultrie Middle School
- Grant Baker of Camp Road Middle School
- Machaela Black of Morningside Middle School
- Tallulah Branton of Drayton Hall Elementary School
- Audrey Cen of Charleston County School of Arts
- Sam Noonan of Orange Grove Charter School
- Posey Staley of Sullivan's Island Elementary School
- Mark Sutton of Jerry Zucker Middle School
- Zachery Teachman of Thomas Cario Middle School
- Aubrey Thompson of St. James-Santee Elementary Middle School

The competition was composed of 43 spellers and lasted 12 total rounds.

The Post & Courier's SpellBound! Regional Spelling Bee will be held at the Lightsey Chapel on the campus of Charleston Southern University on Thursday, March 9, 2023. The winner, along with over 200 regional bee champions from around the country, will advance to the 2023 Scripps National Bee. The national competition

will take place the week of Memorial Day at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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**About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.