



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Hemmerling Elementary Student Ella Brock Wins Banning USD District Spelling Bee**

BANNING, CA — With confidence and determination, fifth-grader Ella Brock from Hemmerling Elementary School was crowned the Banning Unified School District Spelling Bee Champion after successfully spelling the word “feisty” in the final round. The competition, held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the Banning High School Performing Arts Center, featured eight talented students from the District’s four elementary schools: Cabazon Elementary, Central Elementary, Hemmerling Elementary, and Hoffer Elementary.

“Our District is committed to providing enriching opportunities for students to excel academically and develop lifelong skills,” said Superintendent Terrance Davis. “The Spelling Bee showcases the hard work, perseverance, and confidence of our students, and we are proud to celebrate their success.”

Ella’s passion for spelling is fueled by her love for writing, her favorite subject in school. She dreams of becoming a principal one day and hopes to help create a bully-free school environment.

“We are incredibly proud of Ella and all the students who competed in this year’s Spelling Bee,” said Dr. Illeana Gutierrez, Principal at Hemmerling Elementary School. “Ella’s dedication to learning and leadership is truly inspiring, and we cannot wait to see what she accomplishes in the future.”

The Spelling Bee was made possible with the support of District staff and officials, including:

- Marie Pilgrim, Pronouncer
- Heather Warner, Head Judge
- Regina Pallis, Challenge Recorder
- Cassandra Rollins, Record Keeper

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#### **Contact Information:**

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PR: 2425-016



This year's competition was especially meaningful as the Scripps National Spelling Bee celebrates its 100th anniversary, marking a century of academic excellence and student achievement.

As the Banning USD Spelling Bee Champion, Ella will now advance to the Riverside County Spelling Bee, hosted by the Riverside County Office of Education, where she will compete against top spellers from across the county.

### **View Photos from the Event**

Photos from the 2025 Banning USD Spelling Bee can be found at:

<https://banning-usd.smugmug.com/2024-2025/February-Events/Spelling-Bee-Competition>

For more information about student enrichment programs in Banning Unified School District, visit [www.banning.k12.ca.us](http://www.banning.k12.ca.us).

For more information, please contact the Banning USD Communications Department at [communications@banning.k12.ca.us](mailto:communications@banning.k12.ca.us).

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### **About Banning Unified School District:**

Banning Unified School District serves nearly 4,300 students across its schools and is one of the largest employers in the city of Banning, with over 500 dedicated staff members. The district's mission is to collaborate as a diverse community to develop responsible, respectful, and prepared students who achieve their full potential. Guided by its vision to prepare, inspire, and educate, Banning USD is committed to fostering a supportive environment where students can thrive academically and personally.

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(Photos have been attached)

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PHOTO CAPTION: Ella Brock, a fifth-grader from Hemmerling Elementary School, proudly stands on stage

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PHOTO CAPTION: Eight talented students from Banning Unified School District’s four elementary schools—Cabazon, Central, Hemmerling, and Hoffer—sit on stage, ready to compete in the 2025 Banning USD Spelling Bee at the Banning High School Performing Arts Center.

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