

**2023  
Scripps  
National  
Spelling Bee**

# **media** **guide**

## **inside**

spellers by the numbers

storylines

bee history

officials, bee team



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# media information

Thank you for your interest in covering the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee. In this guide you will find the daily schedule, statistics, fun facts, history and information on every speller in the competition. Information was excerpted from the 2023 Bee Keeper magazine, which will be available in print and online the week of May 29.

If you can't find what you're looking for, we encourage you to go to [spellingbee.com](https://spellingbee.com), where you can find the rules, information on the words used and the Scripps Cup and much more.

You can also reach out to Rebecca McCarter or Michael Perry, whose information is below. They will try to help connect you with spellers or the information you need.

**Rebecca McCarter**, [rebecca.mccarter@scripps.com](mailto:rebecca.mccarter@scripps.com), (513) 410-2425  
**Michael Perry**, [michael.perry@scripps.com](mailto:michael.perry@scripps.com), (513) 259-4718  
Questions and requests can also be sent to [media@spellingbee.com](mailto:media@spellingbee.com)

## media availability

(all times Eastern Standard Time)

**Thursday, May 18: 1 to 2 p.m.**  
**Scripps National Spelling Bee teleconference**  
Featuring: Corrie Loeffler, executive director, SNSB  
RSVP: [media@spellingbee.com](mailto:media@spellingbee.com) (details on how to call in will be provided to those who RSVP)

**Wednesday, May 31: Conclusion of semifinals**  
**(Approximately 6:30 p.m.)**  
**Semifinalists press conference**  
Featuring: All spellers (approximately 10-12) who advance to the finals on June 1  
Where: Maryland Ballroom (onstage)

**Thursday, June 1: Conclusion of finals**  
**(Approximately 10:15 p.m.)**  
**Champion press conference**  
Featuring: The winner of the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee  
Where: Maryland Ballroom (onstage)

# covering the competition

## Bee Keeper magazine

You will receive one complimentary copy of this publication when you pick up your credentials. It includes features on spellers, officials and more. Some material from the magazine was excerpted for this media guide.

## contacting spellers

To contact specific spellers for interviews, please go to the Media Desk and make that request or email [media@spellingbee.com](mailto:media@spellingbee.com). We have contact information for parents and request that you please get permission from parents before contacting spellers directly.

## Wi-Fi

Information about Wi-Fi at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center will be available on site when you pick up your media credentials.

## media workroom

Camellia 4 is reserved for media on competition days. The room offers workspace, power strips and refreshments, including light food and drinks, throughout the open hours.

## social media

You can also get the latest news by following along:

Twitter ([@Scrippsbee](#), [#spellingbee](#))

Instagram ([@Scrippsnationalspellingbee](#), [#spellingbee](#))

Facebook ([Scripps National Spelling Bee](#))

TikTok ([@scrippsbee](#))

2023 broadcast platforms: [@IONtv](#) and [@Bouncetv](#)

## photos

- Photos of Bee officials and on-air talent are available for download [here](#).
- Photos from Bee Week and all competition elements will be available on the Scripps National Spelling Bee's official [Flickr page](#).
- Media is free to use any of these with proper attribution:
  - **E.M. Pio Roda/Scripps National Spelling Bee**
  - **Craig Hudson/Scripps National Spelling Bee\***(\*specific credit will be listed on photo within Flickr stream)

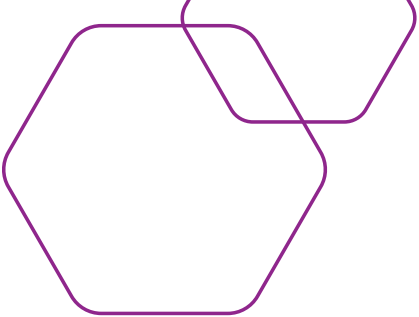
## interview spot

In the long hallway near the Media Desk ([see map](#) on page 9), there will be a step-and-repeat that provides a Bee-branded background for video interviews.

## championship moment

After the competitor correctly spells the winning word, Adam Symson, president and CEO of The E.W. Scripps Company, will present the Scripps Cup to the champion. Once ION signs off from its broadcast coverage, we will quickly set up a press conference area onstage.

All credentialed media can come onstage and plug into a mult box to get a clean audio signal of the champion's comments. The champion will stand at the microphone to answer questions.



# how to watch the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee on TV

The Bee will again air on ION and Bounce this year after a successful 2022 premiere on Scripps' national networks. In the first year on its new TV home, Bee [programming was seen by 7.5 million viewers](#), and the live finals drew its largest television audience since 2015.

The 2023 broadcast/livestream of onstage spelling follows this schedule (all times Eastern):

- The preliminaries will be streamed on ION Plus, Bounce XL and spellingbee.com from 9 a.m. to 7:25 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30. The 2023 Opening Ceremony, held Monday, will stream from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday during the break in competition.
- The quarterfinals will be streamed on ION Plus, Bounce XL and spellingbee.com from 8 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31.
- The semifinals will be streamed on ION Plus, Bounce XL and spellingbee.com from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31. The semifinals broadcast will air on ION and Bounce from 8 to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31.
- The finals will air live in primetime on ION and Bounce from 8 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, June 1.

In addition to ION and Bounce, the semifinals and finals will also air on Scripps' other national entertainment networks Defy TV, Grit, ION Mystery and Laff. A rebroadcast of the finals will be available on Scripps News on June 2 from 9 to 11 p.m. and June 3 from 8 to 10 p.m. The Scripps Networks can be found free over-the-air as well as on cable, satellite and streaming platforms.

Visit [spellingbee.com/watch](https://spellingbee.com/watch) and enter zip code for instructions on how to watch the Bee in a specific area.



# 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee prizes

## for all spellers

### from the Scripps National Spelling Bee

- Prize package, including Bee souvenirs and an official certificate of participation

### from Merriam-Webster

- One-year subscription to Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online

### from Jay Sugarman

- 2023 U.S. Mint proof set, given in honor of his father Samuel Louis Sugarman, who revered academic achievement

### from Encyclopædia Britannica

- One-year subscription to Britannica Online Premium

## for quarterfinalists\*

### from the Scripps National Spelling Bee

- Commemorative pin
- \$100 gift card

## for semifinalists\*

### from the Scripps National Spelling Bee

- Commemorative medal
- \$500 gift card

## for finalists\*

### from the Scripps National Spelling Bee

- Commemorative medal, and:
  - Miss in first round of finals through to 7th place - \$2,000
  - 6th place - \$2,500
  - 5th place - \$5,000
  - 4th place - \$10,000
  - 3rd place - \$15,000
  - 2nd place - \$25,000

## for the champion\*

### from the Scripps National Spelling Bee

- \$50,000 cash
- Commemorative medal
- The Scripps Cup, the official championship trophy of the Scripps National Spelling Bee

### from Merriam-Webster

- \$2,500 cash and reference library

### From Encyclopædia Britannica

- \$400 of reference works, including a 1768 Encyclopædia Britannica® Replica Set and a three-year membership to Britannica Online® Premium

### from SugarBee® Apple

- \$2,500 (approximately) prize package supporting local celebrations in the champion's hometown

### From Scholastic

- \$2,000 Scholastic Dollars to be donated to the school of the champion's choice in their honor

## for the champion's school and regional partner

### from the Scripps National Spelling Bee

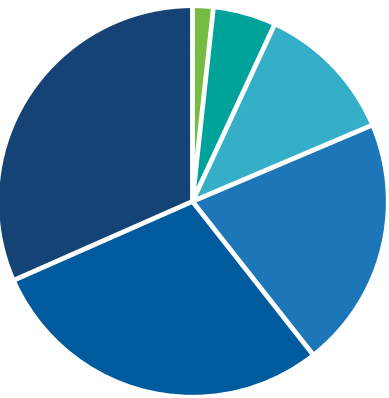
- Engraved commemorative plaque



# spellers by the numbers

The 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee will welcome 231 spellers to National Harbor, Maryland, from May 30–June 1. Here are some noteworthy statistics regarding this year's field of competitors.

## age



- 4 9 Year Olds
- 12 10 Year Olds
- 27 11 Year Olds
- 48 12 Year Olds
- 67 13 Year Olds
- 73 14 Year Olds

## grade



- 1 3rd Grader
- 5 4th Graders
- 29 5th Graders
- 34 6th Graders
- 62 7th Graders
- 100 8th Graders

## school type



## gender



- 94 Female spellers
- 134 Male spellers
- 2 Non-binary spellers
- 1 Prefer not to answer



## spelling in their blood

22 spellers have relatives who have participated in a combined 38 Scripps National Spelling Bees.



## spell-peaters

Coming into this year, 49 spellers have previously competed in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Note: Quarterfinalist, semifinalist, finalist and champion monetary awards are not cumulative; that is, a speller moving on to the semifinals will not receive both the quarterfinalist and semifinalist gift cards, but a quarterfinalist who does not qualify for the semifinals will receive everything listed at the quarterfinalist level.

\* Spellers who are eliminated from the competition in the same round are assigned the same rank (place).

Spellers competing in the Spell-off (if activated) will be ranked according to number of words spelled correctly; any spellers who spell the same number of words correctly will be assigned the same rank (place) except in the case of a tie for first. In that case, the winner will be the speller who achieved the highest percentage correct out of words attempted during the Spell-off. If there is still a tie, co-champions will be declared. Misspellings during the Spell-off do not result in immediate elimination.

If two or more spellers tie for first place, the cash prize for each will be \$50,000. Cash prizes for spellers who are tied for 2nd through 6th place will be determined by the method used in the following example: If three spellers tied for 4th place, the cash prize for each would be the sum of the prize amounts for 4th, 5th and 6th place divided by three; therefore, each speller tied for 4th place would receive \$5,833.33 (\$2,500 + \$5,000 + \$10,000) / 3).



# 2023 bee week schedule

## sunday, may 28

### speller registration

Hall of Champions –  
Maryland Foyer  
**2 to 5 p.m.**

### rule the word challenge

Hall of Champions –  
Maryland Foyer  
**6 to 9 p.m.**

## monday, may 29

### pop-up carnival

Outdoor area beside  
the Hall of Champions  
**2 to 4 p.m.**

### camp bee

Gaylord National Resort & Convention  
Center (various meeting spaces)

These are ticketed events.

### opening ceremony

Maryland Ballroom  
**7:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

Doors open at 7 p.m.

## tuesday, may 30

### preliminaries

(rounds 1 and 2)  
Maryland Ballroom  
**9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

Streamed live on ION Plus, Bounce XL  
and spellingbee.com.

Each speller will compete in up to two  
rounds in one turn during the first part  
of the preliminaries. See the Contest  
Rules of the 2023 Scripps National  
Spelling Bee for detailed format  
information: [spellingbee.com/rules](https://spellingbee.com/rules).

rounds 1 and 2  
by speller number:

**9 to 10:35 a.m.**

Spellers 1 to 60

**10:45 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.**

Spellers 61 to 120

**12:30 to 2 p.m.**

Spellers 121 to 180

**3 to 4:15 p.m.**

Spellers 181 to 231

### preliminaries (round 3)

Maryland Ballroom

**4:25 to 7:25 p.m.**

Streamed live on ION Plus, Bounce XL  
and spellingbee.com.

### from clothing to couture: how French brought “class” to English

Peter Sokolowski, editor-at-large,  
Merriam-Webster

Maryland Ballroom

**8 to 8:45 p.m.**

## wednesday, may 31

### quarterfinals

Maryland Ballroom

**8 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

Streamed live on ION Plus, Bounce XL  
and spellingbee.com.

### semifinals

Maryland Ballroom

**2:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

Onstage remarks begin at 2:15 p.m.

Streamed live on ION Plus, Bounce XL  
and spellingbee.com.

A special two-hour semifinals broadcast  
will air from 8 to 10 p.m. on ION and  
Bounce.

### keynote presentation

Jason Reynolds, #1 New York Times  
bestselling author and the Library of  
Congress’ national ambassador for  
young people’s literature

Maryland Ballroom

**7:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

## thursday, june 1

### demystifying the digital SAT

College Board

Maryland Ballroom

**11 to 11:45 a.m.**

### “it’s not bragging if it’s true”

Zaila Avant-garde, 2021 champion and  
author of “It’s Not Bragging If It’s True”  
and “Words of Wonder from Z to A”

Maryland Ballroom

**12:30 to 1:15 p.m.**

The presentation, hosted by actress  
Yvette Nicole Brown—star of the Bounce  
original TV show “Act Your Age”—will be  
followed by a book signing with Zaila in  
the Hall of Champions.

### camp bee

Gaylord National Resort & Convention  
Center (various meeting spaces)

These are ticketed events.

### finals

Maryland Ballroom

**8 to 10 p.m.**

Onstage remarks begin at 7:15 p.m.  
Broadcast live on ION and Bounce.

## friday, june 2

### self-guided national mall experience

Bus transfer from the Gaylord  
to the National Mall and back

This is a ticketed event.

### awards banquet

Maryland Ballroom

**6 to 8 p.m.**

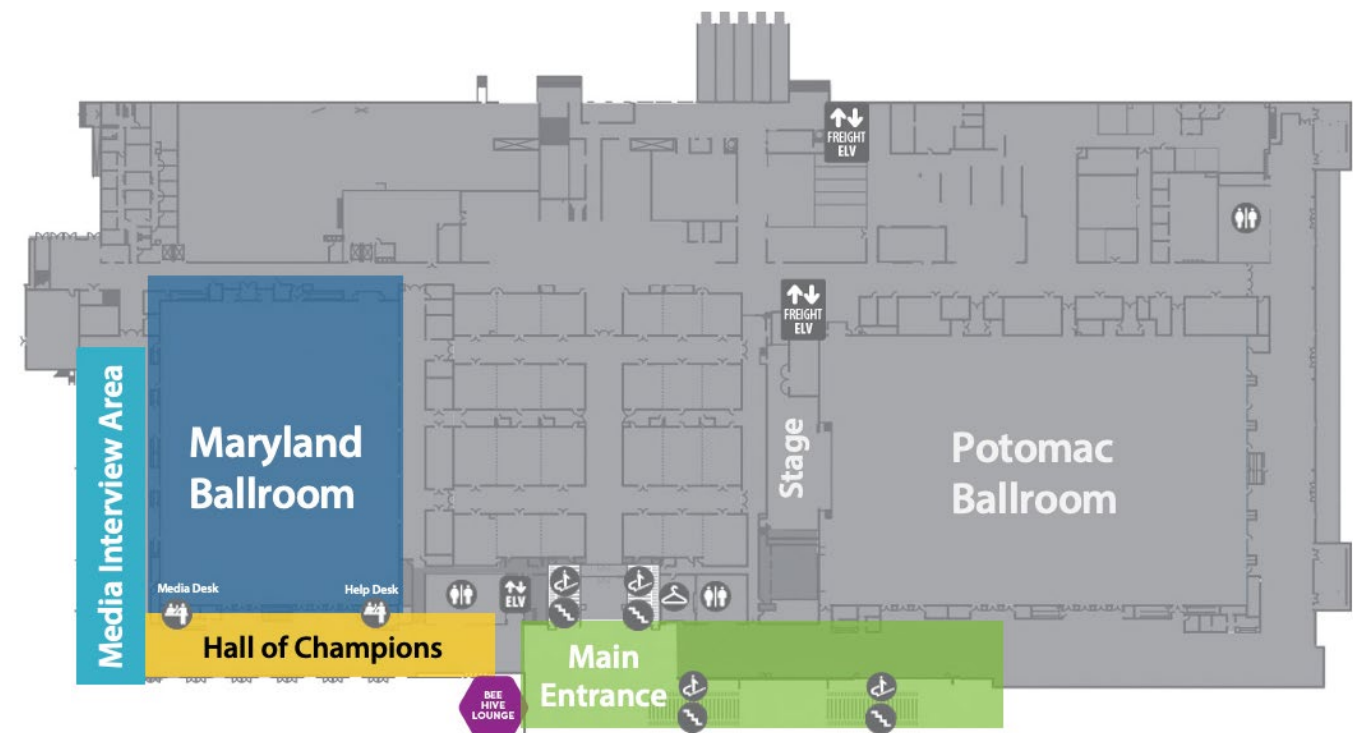
This is a ticketed event.

### speller farewell party

Riverview Ballroom

**8 to 11 p.m.**

*Note: Schedule is subject to change.  
Check the digital media guide at  
[spellingbee.com](https://spellingbee.com) for any changes.*



## help desk hours

Providing information and  
assistance to spellers and Bee  
Week attendees  
Hall of Champions –  
Maryland Foyer

Sunday, May 28  
**2 to 7 p.m.**

Monday, May 29  
**9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Tuesday, May 30  
**8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Wednesday, May 31  
**7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Thursday, June 1  
**9 to 10:30 p.m.**

Friday, June 2  
**9 a.m. to noon**

## media desk hours

Providing information  
and assistance to media members  
Hall of Champions –  
Maryland Foyer

Tuesday, May 30  
**7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Wednesday, May 31  
**7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Thursday, June 1  
**9 a.m. to noon**  
**5 to 11 p.m.**

## media contacts

### Rebecca McCarter

rebecca.mccarter@  
scripps.com,  
(513) 410-2425

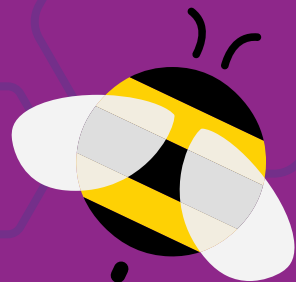
### Michael Perry

michael.perry@  
scripps.com,  
(513) 259-4718

*You can reach the Media Desk  
at (513) 516-2357. Questions  
and requests can also be sent  
to [media@spellingbee.com](mailto:media@spellingbee.com)*

# storylines

Here's a look at some of the competitors in the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee.



Surya Kapu (speller 213)



Kirsten Tiffany Santos (speller 200)

## RETURNING FINALISTS

Two 2022 finalists advanced to the 2023 national competition: Kirsten Tiffany Santos from Houston (speller 200), tied for fifth last year, as did Surya Kapu from Salt Lake City (speller 213). This will be Kapu's final Scripps National Spelling Bee; he is in eighth grade. Santos will have two years of eligibility remaining after this year.

## THE FIELD

There are 41 spellers returning from the 2022 field and 49 total spellers who have competed in previous national competitions. There are 182 spellers competing in their first Scripps National Spelling Bee (79 percent).

## THE VETERANS

Akash Vukoti (speller 207) from San Angelo, Texas, is competing in the national competition for a record sixth time. There are 14 spellers competing in their third Scripps National Spelling Bee.

## THE YOUNGEST

There are four 9-year-olds, the youngest of which is third grader Vihaan Kapil (speller 104) from Arden Hills, Minnesota. The others are: Siya Sampath (speller 222) from Manassas, Virginia; Aria Khambhati (speller 126) from Maplewood, New Jersey; and Adarsh Venkannagari (speller 93) from Lynn, Massachusetts.

## THE OLDEST

There are 73 spellers who are 14 years old. That's 32 percent of the field. The oldest is Emily Demlow (speller 94) from Battle Creek, Michigan, who is just 8 days older than Juan Rondeau (speller 37) from Miami. They are both eighth graders.

## LONG DISTANCE

Lance Sanchez (speller 48) from Hagåtña, Guam, is traveling the farthest for this week's competition (7,900+ miles). Other spellers are coming from Canada, the Bahamas, Germany, Ghana, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, not to mention Alaska and Hawaii. There are 11 national competitors from outside the 50 United States.

## U.S. COVERAGE

Speaking of which, there are spellers from all 50 states. Texas has the largest representation with 21 national competitors. Ohio and California are next with 15 each, followed by Illinois with 14.

## THE TWINS

Evander Turner (speller 40) from Orlando, Florida, is the only identical twin in the field. Overall, six spellers have twins, none of whom are also competing in the Scripps National Spelling Bee this year. Achyut Ethiraj (speller 68) from Fort Wayne, Indiana; Avi Randhawa (speller 14) from Riverside, California; Gavin Sigua (speller 69) from Indianapolis; Owen Smielewski (speller 99) from Lapeer, Michigan; and Faizan Zaki (speller 195) from Dallas have fraternal twins.

## FULL HOUSE

Laura Joseph (speller 128) from Neptune, New Jersey, has nine siblings—three brothers and six sisters. Her siblings range in age from 6 to 20. She is the third oldest of 10 children.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BLAKE WILLIAMS/PROPER MEDIUM



# champions and their winning words

**1925**  
**gladiolus**  
**Frank Neuhauser**  
Louisville Courier-Journal  
Louisville, Kentucky

**1926**  
**cerise**  
**Pauline Bell**  
Louisville Courier-Journal  
Louisville, Kentucky

**1927**  
**abrogate**  
**Dean Lucas**  
Akron Beacon Journal  
Akron, Ohio

**1928**  
**knack**  
**Betty Robinson**  
South Bend News-Times  
South Bend, Indiana

**1929**  
**luxuriance**  
**Virginia Hogan**  
The Omaha World-Herald  
Omaha, Nebraska

**1930**  
**albumen**  
**Helen Jensen**  
Des Moines Register & Tribune  
Des Moines, Iowa

**1931**  
**foulard**  
**Ward Randall**  
White Hall Register-Republican  
White Hall, Illinois

**1932**  
**invulnerable**  
**Dorothy Greenwalk**  
Des Moines Register & Tribune  
Des Moines, Iowa

**1933**  
**torsion**  
**Alma Roach**  
Akron Beacon Journal  
Akron, Ohio

**1934**  
**brethren**  
**Sarah Wilson**  
Portland Evening Press  
Portland, Maine

**1935**  
**intelligible**  
**Clara Mohler**  
Akron Beacon Journal  
Akron, Ohio

**1936**  
**interning**  
**Jean Trowbridge**  
Des Moines Register & Tribune  
Des Moines, Iowa

**1937**  
**promiscuous**  
**Waneeta Beckley**  
Louisville Courier-Journal  
Louisville, Kentucky

**1938**  
**sanitarium**  
**Marian Richardson**  
Louisville Times  
Louisville, Kentucky

**1939**  
**canonical**  
**Elizabeth Ann Rice**  
Worcester Telegram & Gazette  
Worcester, Massachusetts

**1940**  
**therapy**  
**Laurel Kuykendall**  
The Knoxville News Sentinel  
Knoxville, Tennessee

**1941**  
**initials**  
**Louis Edward Sissman**  
Detroit News  
Detroit, Michigan

**1942**  
**sacrilegious**  
**Richard Earnhart**  
El Paso Herald-Post  
El Paso, Texas

**1946**  
**semaphore**  
**John McKinney**  
Des Moines Register & Tribune  
Des Moines, Iowa

**1947**  
**chlorophyll**  
**Mattie Lou Pollard**  
Atlanta Journal  
Atlanta, Georgia

**1948**  
**psychiatry**  
**Jean Chappellear**  
Akron Beacon Journal  
Akron, Ohio

**1949**  
**dulcimer**  
**Kim Calvin**  
Canton Repository  
Canton, Ohio

**1950**  
**meticulosity**  
**Colquitt Dean**  
Atlanta Journal  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Diana Reynard**  
Cleveland Press  
Cleveland, Ohio

**1951**  
**insouciant**  
**Irving Belz**  
Memphis Press Scimitar  
Memphis, Tennessee

**1952**  
**vignette**  
**Doris Ann Hall**  
Winston-Salem Journal  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**1953**  
**soubrette**  
**Elizabeth Hess**  
Arizona Republic  
Phoenix, Arizona

**1954**  
**transept**  
**William Cashore**  
Norristown Times Herald  
Norristown, Pennsylvania

**1955**  
**crustaceology**  
**Sandra Sloss**  
St. Louis Globe-Democrat  
St. Louis, Missouri

**1956**  
**condominium**  
**Melody Sachko**  
The Pittsburgh Press  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**1957**  
**schappe**  
**Sandra Owen**  
Canton Repository  
Canton, Ohio

**Dana Bennett**  
Rocky Mountain News  
Denver, Colorado

**1958**  
**syllipsis**  
**Jolitta Schlehuber**  
Topeka Daily Capital  
Topeka, Kansas

**1959**  
**catamaran**  
**Joel Montgomery**  
Rocky Mountain News  
Denver, Colorado

**1960**  
**eudaemonic**  
**Henry Feldman**  
The Knoxville News Sentinel  
Knoxville, Tennessee

**1961**  
**smaragdine**  
**John Capeheart**  
Tulsa Tribune  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

**1962**  
**esquamulose**  
**Nettie Crawford**  
El Paso Herald-Post  
El Paso, Texas

**Michael Day**  
St. Louis Globe-Democrat  
St. Louis, Missouri

**1963**  
**equipage**  
**Glen Van Slyke III**  
The Knoxville News Sentinel  
Knoxville, Tennessee

**1964**  
**sycophant**  
**William Kerek**  
Akron Beacon Journal  
Akron, Ohio

**1965**  
**eczema**  
**Michael Kerpan, Jr.**  
Tulsa Tribune  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

**1970**  
**croissant**  
**Libby Childress**  
Winston-Salem Journal & Sentinel  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**1975**  
**incisor**  
**Hugh Tosteson García**  
San Juan Star  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**1976**  
**narcolepsy**  
**Tim Kneale**  
Syracuse Herald Journal-American  
Syracuse, New York

**1977**  
**cambist**  
**John Paola**  
The Pittsburgh Press  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**1978**  
**deification**  
**Peg McCarthy**  
The Topeka Daily Capital  
Topeka, Kansas

**1979**  
**maculature**  
**Katie Kerwin**  
Rocky Mountain News  
Denver, Colorado

**1966**  
**ratoon**  
**Robert A. Wake**  
Houston Chronicle  
Houston, Texas

**1967**  
**Chihuahua**  
**Jennifer Reinke**  
The Omaha World-Herald  
Omaha, Nebraska

**1968**  
**abalone**  
**Robert L. Walters**  
The Topeka Daily Capital  
Topeka, Kansas

**1969**  
**interlocutory**  
**Susan Yoachum**  
Dallas Morning News  
Dallas, Texas

**1971**  
**shalloon**  
**Jonathan Knisely**  
Philadelphia Bulletin  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**1972**  
**macerate**  
**Robin Kral**  
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal  
Lubbock, Texas

**1973**  
**vouchsafe**  
**Barrie Trinkle**  
Forth Worth Press  
Fort Worth, Texas

**1974**  
**hydrophyte**  
**Julie Anne Junkin**  
Birmingham Post-Herald  
Birmingham, Alabama

**1980**  
**elucubrate**  
**Jacques Bailly**  
Rocky Mountain News  
Denver, Colorado

**1981**  
**sarcophagus**  
**Paige Pipkin**  
El Paso Herald-Post  
El Paso, Texas

**1982**  
**psoriasis**  
**Molly Dieveney**  
Rocky Mountain News  
Denver, Colorado

**1983**  
**Purim**  
**Blake Giddens**  
El Paso Herald-Post  
El Paso, Texas

**1984**  
**luge**  
**Daniel Greenblatt**  
Loudoun Times-Mirror  
Leesburg, Virginia

**1985**  
**milieu**  
**Balu Natarajan**  
Chicago Tribune  
Chicago, Illinois

**1986**  
**odontalgia**  
**Jon Pennington**  
The Patriot News  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**1987**  
**staphylococci**  
**Stephanie Petit**  
The Pittsburgh Press  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**1988**  
**elegiacal**  
**Rageshree Ramachandran**  
The Sacramento Bee  
Sacramento, California

**1989**  
**spoliator**  
**Scott Isaacs**  
Rocky Mountain News  
Denver, Colorado

**1990**  
**fibranne**  
**Amy Marie Dimak**  
The Seattle Times  
Seattle, Washington

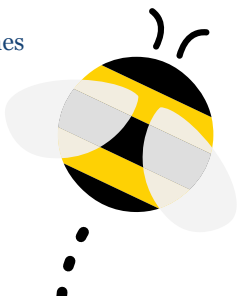
**1991**  
**antipyretic**  
**Joanna Lagatta**  
The Wisconsin State Journal  
Madison, Wisconsin

## historic

Jody-Anne Maxwell, from Jamaica, became the first Black winner of the Bee in 1998. Zaila Avant-garde became the first Black American winner in 2021. Maxwell is also the only winner from a country outside the United States.

## times 8

In 2019, eight co-winners were dubbed the “Octochamps” and hold the Guinness World Record for “Most winners of the Scripps National Spelling Bee (single competition).”



<b>1992</b> <b>lyceum</b> <b>Amanda Goad</b> The Richmond News Leader <i>Richmond, Virginia</i>	<b>1996</b> <b>visisepulture</b> <b>Wendy Guey</b> The Palm Beach Post <i>West Palm Beach, Florida</i>	<b>1999</b> <b>logorrhea</b> <b>Nupur Lala</b> The Tampa Tribune <i>Tampa, Florida</i>	<b>2002</b> <b>prospicience</b> <b>Pratyush Buddiga</b> Rocky Mountain News <i>Denver, Colorado</i>	<b>2006</b> <b>Ursprache</b> <b>Katharine Close</b> Asbury Park Press/Home News Tribune <i>Asbury Park, New Jersey</i>	<b>2010</b> <b>stromuhr</b> <b>Anamika Veeramani</b> The Plain Dealer <i>Cleveland, Ohio</i>
<b>1993</b> <b>kamikaze</b> <b>Geoff Hooper</b> The Commercial Appeal <i>Memphis, Tennessee</i>	<div> <b>the trophy</b>  The Scripps Cup, the Bee's championship trophy, is designed by Rookwood Pottery in Cincinnati, Ohio. </div>		<b>2003</b> <b>pococurante</b> <b>Sai R. Gunturi</b> The Dallas Morning News <i>Dallas, Texas</i>	<b>2007</b> <b>serrefine</b> <b>Evan M. O'Dorney</b> Contra Costa Times <i>Walnut Creek, California</i>	<b>2011</b> <b>cymotrichous</b> <b>Sukanya Roy</b> Times Leader <i>Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania</i>
<b>1994</b> <b>antediluvian</b> <b>Ned G. Andrews</b> The Knoxville News Sentinel <i>Knoxville, Tennessee</i>	<b>1997</b> <b>euonym</b> <b>Rebecca Sealfon</b> Daily News <i>New York, New York</i>	<b>2000</b> <b>demarche</b> <b>George Abraham Thampy</b> St. Louis Post-Dispatch <i>St. Louis, Missouri</i>	<b>2004</b> <b>autochthonous</b> <b>David Scott Pilarski Tidmarsh</b> South Bend Tribune <i>South Bend, Indiana</i>	<b>2008</b> <b>guerdon</b> <b>Sameer Mishra</b> Journal and Courier <i>Lafayette, Indiana</i>	<b>2012</b> <b>guetapens</b> <b>Snigdha Nandipati</b> U-T San Diego <i>San Diego, California</i>
<b>1995</b> <b>xanthosis</b> <b>Justin Tyler Carroll</b> The Commercial Appeal <i>Memphis, Tennessee</i>	<b>1998</b> <b>chiaroscuroist</b> <b>Jody-Anne Maxwell</b> Phillips & Phillips Stationery Suppliers <i>Kingston, Jamaica</i>	<b>2001</b> <b>succedaneum</b> <b>Sean Conley</b> Aitkin Independent Age <i>Aitkin, Minnesota</i>	<b>2005</b> <b>appoggiatura</b> <b>Anurag Kashyap</b> San Diego Union-Tribune <i>San Diego, California</i>	<b>2009</b> <b>Laodicean</b> <b>Kavya Shivashankar</b> The Olathe News <i>Olathe, Kansas</i>	<b>2013</b> <b>knaidel</b> <b>Arvind Mahankali</b> Daily News <i>New York, New York</i>

## executive directors

<b>1925-1931</b> <b>Dean George B. Wood</b> , <i>American University</i>	<b>1940-1948</b> <b>Max B. Cook</b> , <i>Scripps-Howard Newspapers</i>	<b>1958-1959</b> <b>Richard D. Peters</b> , <i>Scripps-Howard Newspapers</i>	<b>1985-1986</b> <b>Mary L. Mangold</b>	<b>1990-1997</b> <b>Reta Rose</b>
<b>1939</b> <b>Douglas D. Cornette</b> , <i>The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)</i>	<b>1949-1957</b> <b>Charles Schneider</b> , <i>Scripps-Howard Newspapers</i>	<b>1960-1984</b> <b>James H. Wagner</b> , <i>Scripps-Howard Newspapers</i>	<b>1985-1989</b> <b>Mary Curtin-Brooks</b>	<b>1996-2020</b> <b>Paige P. Kimble</b>
			<b>1987</b> <b>Susan Miller</b>	<b>2021-2022</b> <b>Dr. J. Michael Durnil</b>
			<b>1988-1991</b> <b>Sondra J. Austin</b>	<b>2023-Present</b> <b>Corrie Loeffler</b>

<b>2014</b> <b>stichomythia</b> <b>Sriram Hathwar</b> Corning Rotary Club <i>Corning, New York</i>	<b>2016</b> <b>Feldenkrais</b> <b>Jairam Hathwar</b> Corning Rotary Club <i>Corning, New York</i>	<b>auslaut</b> <b>Rishik Gandhasri</b> Bay Area Regional Spelling Bee <i>San Francisco, California</i>	<b>cernuous</b> <b>Christopher Serrao</b> Discover Lehigh Valley <i>Allentown, Pennsylvania</i>
<b>feuilleton</b> <b>Ansun Sujoe</b> Texas Christian University <i>Fort Worth, Texas</i>	<b>gesellschaft</b> <b>Nihar Janga</b> Houston Public Media <i>Houston, Texas</i>	<b>bougainvillea</b> <b>Saketh Sundar</b> Howard County Library <i>Columbia, Maryland</i>	<b>odylic</b> <b>Rohan Raja</b> Dallas Sports Commission <i>Dallas, Texas</i>
<b>2015</b> <b>nunatak</b> <b>Gokul Venkatachalam</b> St. Louis Post-Dispatch <i>St. Louis, Missouri</i>	<b>2017</b> <b>marocain</b> <b>Ananya Vinay</b> The Fresno Bee <i>Fresno, California</i>	<b>aiguillette</b> <b>Shruthika Padhy</b> Rosa International Middle School <i>Cherry Hill, New Jersey</i>	<b>2021</b> <b>Murraya Zaila</b> <b>Avant-garde</b> New Orleans Chapter of The Links <i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>
<b>scherenschnitte</b> <b>Vanya Shivashankar</b> The Olathe News <i>Olathe, Kansas</i>	<b>2018</b> <b>koinonia</b> <b>Karthik Nemmani</b> Scoggins Middle School <i>McKinney, Texas</i>	<b>pendeloque</b> <b>Sohum Sukhatankar</b> Dallas Sports Commission <i>Dallas, Texas</i>	<b>2022</b> <b>moorhen</b> <b>Harini Logan</b> Brauntex Performing Arts Theatre Association <i>San Antonio, Texas</i>
	<b>2019</b> <b>erysipelas</b> <b>Erin Howard</b> Adventure Travel <i>Birmingham, Alabama</i>	<b>palama</b> <b>Abhijay Kodali</b> Dallas Sports Commission <i>Dallas, Texas</i>	

**stats**  
107  
total champions

53  
Girls

54  
Boys

32  
14 year olds

53  
13 year olds

19  
12 year olds

3  
11 year olds

longest word  
scherenschnitte  
(2015)

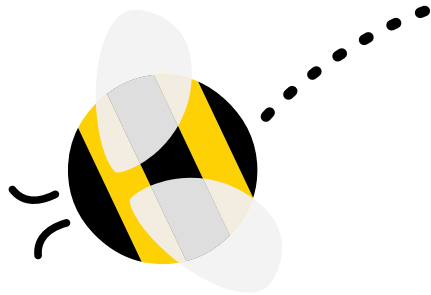
shortest word  
luge  
(1984)

## pronouncers

<b>1925-1927</b> <b>Dr. George S. Wills</b> , <i>Western Maryland College</i>	<b>1937-1940</b> <b>Harold F. Harding</b> , <i>George Washington University</i>	<b>1938-1939</b> <b>George F. Hussey, Jr.</b> , <i>Special Contributing Editor to Webster's New International Dictionary</i>	<b>1948-1960</b> <b>Benson S. Alleman</b> , <i>Department of Communication, American University</i>	<b>1981-2002</b> <b>Dr. Alex J. Cameron</b> , <i>Associate Professor of English, University of Dayton</i>	<b>2019-present</b> <b>Dr. Brian Sietsema</b> , <i>Clergyman, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America</i>
<b>1929-1936</b> <b>Dr. Charles E. Hill</b> , <i>George Washington University</i>		<b>1941-1942; 1946-1947</b> <b>Dr. W. Hayes Yeager</b> , <i>Professor of Public Speaking, George Washington University</i>	<b>1961-1980</b> <b>Dr. Richard R. Baker</b> , <i>Professor of Philosophy, University of Dayton</i>	<b>2003-present</b> <b>Dr. Jacques Bailly</b> , <i>Associate Professor of Classics, University of Vermont</i>	



# champions by state



**Texas (16)** Richard Earnhart, El Paso, 1942; Nettie Crawford, El Paso, 1962; Robert A. Wake, Houston, 1966; Susan Yoachum, Dallas, 1969; Robin Kral, Lubbock, 1972; Barrie Trinkle, Fort Worth, 1973; Paige Pipkin, El Paso, 1981; Blake Giddens, El Paso, 1983; Sai R. Gunturi, Dallas, 2003; Ansun Sujoe, Fort Worth, 2014; Nihar Janga, Houston, 2016; Karthik Nemmani, McKinney, 2018; Abhijay Kodali, Dallas, 2019; Sohun Sukhatankar, Dallas, 2019; Rohan Raja, Dallas, 2019; Harini Logan, San Antonio, 2022.

**Ohio (9)** Dean Lucas, Akron, 1927; Alma Roach, Akron, 1933; Clara Mohler, Akron, 1935; Jean Chappelle, Akron, 1948; Kim Calvin, Canton, 1949; Diana Reynard, Cleveland, 1950; Sandra Owen, Canton, 1957; William Kerek, Akron, 1964; Anamika Veeramani, Cleveland, 2010.

**Pennsylvania (8)** William Cashore, Norristown, 1954; Melody Sachko, Pittsburgh, 1956; Jonathan Knisely, Philadelphia, 1971; John Paola, Pittsburgh, 1977; Jon Pennington, Harrisburg, 1986; Stephanie Petit, Pittsburgh, 1987; Sukanya Roy, Wilkes-Barre, 2011; Christopher Serrao, Allentown, 2019.

**Colorado (7)** Dana Bennett, Denver, 1957; Joel Montgomery, Denver, 1959; Katie Kerwin, Denver, 1979; Jacques Bailly, Denver, 1980; Molly Dieveney, Denver, 1982; Scott Isaacs, Denver, 1989; Pratyush Buddiga, Denver, 2002.

**Tennessee (7)** Laura Kuykendall, Knoxville, 1940; Irving Belz, Memphis, 1951; Henry Feldman, Knoxville, 1960; Glen Van Slyke III, Knoxville, 1963; Geoff Hooper, Memphis, 1993; Ned G. Andrews, Knoxville, 1994; Justin Tyler Carroll, Memphis, 1995.

**California (6)** Rageshree Ramachandran, Sacramento, 1988; Anurag Kashyap, San Diego, 2005; Evan M. O’Dorney, Walnut Creek, 2007; Snigdha Nandipati, San Diego, 2012; Ananya Vinay, Fresno, 2017; Rishik Gandhasri, San Francisco, 2019.

**Kansas (5)** Jolitta Schlehuber, Topeka, 1958; Robert L. Walters, Topeka, 1968; Peg McCarthy, Topeka, 1978; Kavya Shivashankar, Olathe, 2009; Vanya Shivashankar, Olathe, 2015.

**New York (5)** Tim Kneale, Syracuse, 1976; Rebecca Sealfon, New York City, 1997; Arvind Mahankali, New York City, 2013; Sriram Hathwar, Corning, 2014; Jairam Hathwar, Corning, 2016.

**Iowa (4)** Helen Jensen, Des Moines, 1930; Dorothy Greenwalk, Des Moines, 1932; Jean Trowbridge, Des Moines, 1936; John McKinney, Des Moines, 1946.

**Kentucky (4)** Frank Neuhauser, Louisville, 1925; Pauline Bell, Louisville, 1926; Waneeta Beckley, Louisville, 1937; Marian Richardson, Louisville, 1938.

**Missouri (4)** Sandra Sloss, St. Louis, 1955; Michael Day, St. Louis, 1962; George Abraham Thampy, St. Louis, 2000; Gokul Venkatachalam, St. Louis, 2015.

**Indiana (3)** Betty Robinson, South Bend, 1928; David Tidmarsh, South Bend, 2004; Sameer Mishra, Lafayette, 2008.

**states with 2 champions**  
**Alabama** Julie Anne Junkin, Birmingham, 1974; Erin Howard, Birmingham, 2019. **Florida** Wendy Guey, West Palm Beach, 1996; Nupur Lala, Tampa, 1999. **Georgia** Mattie Lou Pollard, Atlanta, 1947; Colquitt Dean, Atlanta, 1950. **Illinois** Ward Randall, White Hall, 1931; Balu Natarajan, Chicago, 1985. **Nebraska** Virginia Hogan, Omaha, 1929; Jennifer Reinke, Omaha, 1967. **New Jersey** Katharine Close, Asbury Park, 2006; Shruthika Padhy, Cherry Hill, 2019. **North Carolina** Doris Ann Hall, Winston-Salem, 1952; Libby Childress, Winston-Salem, 1970. **Oklahoma** John Capeheart, Tulsa, 1961; Michael Kerpan, Jr., Tulsa. **Virginia** Daniel Greenblatt, Leesburg, 1984; Amanda Goad; Richmond, 1992.

**states/others with 1 champion**  
**Arizona** Elizabeth Hess, Phoenix, 1953. **Louisiana** Zaila Avant-garde, New Orleans, 2021. **Maine** Sarah Wilson, Portland, 1934. **Maryland** Saketh Sundar, Columbia, 2019. **Massachusetts** Elizabeth Ann Rice, Worcester, 1939. **Michigan** Louis Edward Sissman, Detroit, 1941. **Minnesota** Sean Conley, Aitkin, 2001. **Washington** Amy Marie Dimak, Seattle, 1990. **Wisconsin** Joanna Lagatta, Madison, 1991. **Jamaica** Jody-Anne Maxwell, 1998. **Puerto Rico** Hugh Tosteson García, 1975.

**states waiting for their first champion**  
**Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming**

**top sponsor cities of champions**  
**Denver, Colorado 7**  
**Akron, Ohio 5**  
**Dallas, Texas 5**  
**Des Moines, Iowa 4**  
**El Paso, Texas 4**  
**Knoxville, Tennessee 4**  
**Louisville, Kentucky 4**

# spelling bees in film, theater, books



**“How Do You Spell Unfair?: MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee” (2023)**  
Written by Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated by Frank Morrison, this picture book for children recounts the story of MacNolia Cox – the first African American to win the Akron, Ohio, spelling bee and advance to the 1936 national competition in Maryland, where segregation was the law. It’s the story of her groundbreaking achievement despite prejudice and discrimination.

**“Spelling the Dream” (2020)**  
Netflix original documentary about four Indian-American students vying to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

**“Bad Words” (2013)**  
R-rated dark comedy about 40-year-old man who advances to the national competition after finding a loophole in the rules at the regional spelling bee.

**“Akeelah and the Bee” (2006)**  
Movie about 11-year-old spelling phenom.

**“American Bee: The National Spelling Bee and the Culture of Word Nerds” (2006)**  
A book by James Maguire that profiles five spellers who made it to the final rounds of the competition and goes behind the scenes of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

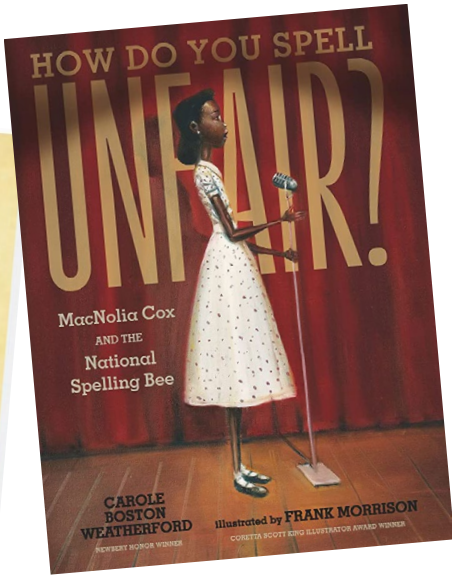
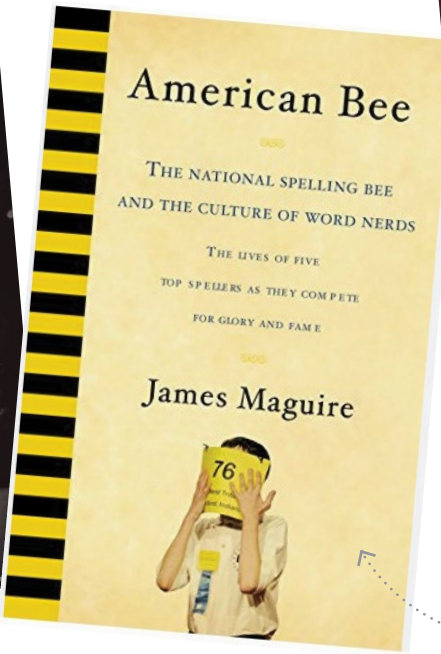
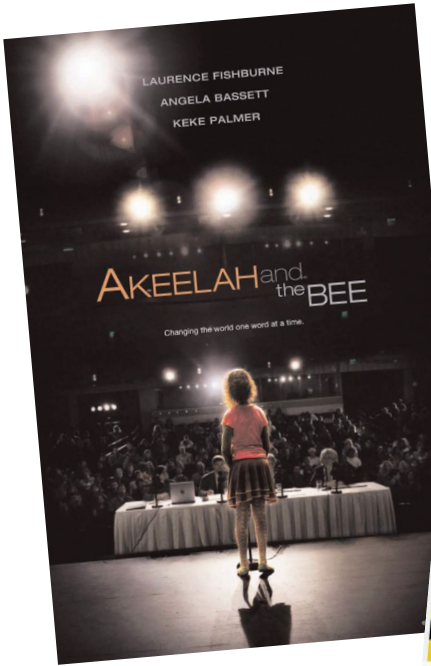
**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (2005)**  
Musical-comedy play about a fictional spelling bee, launched on Broadway.

**“Bee Season” (2005)**  
Drama, based on Myla Goldberg’s novel of the same name, that follows a young girl’s journey through various levels of spelling bee competitions to the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

**“Spellbound” (2002)**  
Documentary about eight competitors, including the champion, at the 1999 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

**“The Girl Who Spelled Freedom” (1986)**  
Disney movie about a girl from Cambodia who becomes a spelling bee contender.

Note: List does not include skits or inclusion in shows

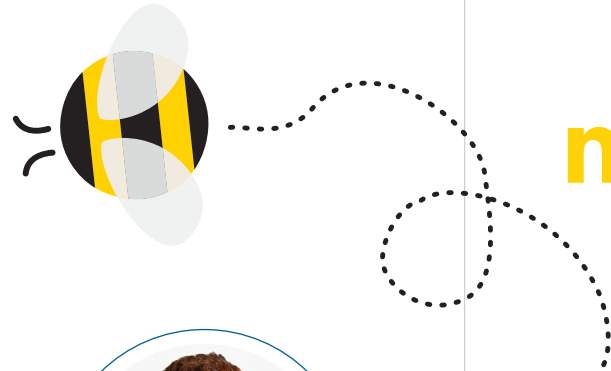


2006 WINNER KATHARINE “KERRY” CLOSE IS PROFILED IN THE BOOK!



# meet the officials

Officials and word panelists perform various roles throughout the year, including as judges, record keepers, pronouncers and content creators and reviewers.



# meet the bee team



**Dr. Jacques Bailly**  
pronouncer



**Mary Brooks**  
head judge



**Dr. Brian Sietsema**  
associate pronouncer



**Christian Axelgard**  
backup associate pronouncer



**Frank Cahill**  
record keeper



**Kristin Hawkins**  
judge



**Sameer Mishra**  
judge



**Dr. Kevin Moch**  
associate pronouncer



**Georgia Scurletis**  
word panelist



**Dr. Kavya Shivashankar**  
backup head judge



**Mirle Shivashankar**  
word panelist



**Peter Sokolowski**  
judge



**Jane Solomon**  
word panelist



**George Thamby**  
judge



**Barrie Trinkle**  
judge



**Ben Zimmer**  
judge



**Corrie Loeffler**  
executive director



**Cybelle Weeks**  
director, operations



**Tammy Riddle**  
director, sales & marketing



**Molly Becker**  
director, editorial



**Tyler Hyde**  
marketing communications  
manager



**Maggie Lorenz**  
content manager



**Kim Harp**  
development manager



**Haley Goetz**  
program specialist



**Julia Fermier**  
program specialist



**Bryan Witt**  
regional partner  
relations specialist



**Akshay Ahuja**  
editorial coordinator



**Emily Hare**  
editorial coordinator



**Sharisse Santos**  
administrative assistant



# meet the talent

Throughout Bee Week, these are just some of the “spellebrities” who will join the television broadcast and/or livestream.



**Paul Loeffler**  
Loeffler has been a TV analyst for the Scripps National Spelling Bee since 2006. He is also a former Bee national competitor and the older brother of executive director Corrie Loeffler.



**Zaila Avant-garde**  
Since winning the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee, Avant-garde has moved from Louisiana to Washington, D.C., continued with her basketball career and authored two books with another currently in the works.



**Dr. Jacques Bailly**  
Dr. Bailly has been the official pronouncer of the Scripps National Spelling Bee since 2003, and he is also the 1980 national champion. He is an associate professor of classics at the University of Vermont and lives in Burlington, Vermont.



**Mary Brooks**  
Yes, she rings the dreaded bell. Brooks has been a part of the Bee for more than 50 years, joining the panel of judges in 1979 and becoming head judge in 2005. She lives in Des Moines, Iowa, where she is a member of the West Des Moines Public Library board of trustees.



**Corrie Loeffler**  
The first-year executive director of the Scripps National Spelling Bee is a former participant in the national competition. Loeffler has been on the Bee staff for 17 years. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.



**Harini Logan**  
The 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion won after the first-ever Spell-off with 22 words correctly spelled in 90 seconds. She lives in San Antonio, Texas, and is now in the ninth grade.



**Vanya Shivashankar**  
The 2015 co-champion of the Scripps National Spelling Bee graduated in May from Yale University with a degree in science and global health. She is from Olathe, Kansas, and plans to apply to medical school. Shivashankar will serve as Bee Week emcee.



**Dr. Brian Sietsema**  
Dr. Sietsema has been the associate pronouncer of the Scripps National Spelling Bee since 2003 after serving as pronunciation editor for Merriam-Webster from 1990 to 1998. He is a priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

## Other notable personalities participating in Bee Week

**Yvette Nicole Brown**  
Actress/comedian, star of Bounce original “Act Your Age”  
Hosting Zaila Avant-garde event Thursday afternoon.

**Jason Reynolds**  
New York Times best-selling author  
Talking to spellers Wednesday night.

**Zach Sherwin**  
Los Angeles-based comedian/rapper  
Audience warmup/entertainment during finals on Thursday night.

**Peter Sokolowski**  
Editor-at-large, Merriam-Webster  
Talking to spellers Tuesday night.



# how the spelling bee process works

## the basics

- Students must not have passed beyond the eighth grade.
- Students can't be older than 15.
- Champions are not eligible to compete again.

## timeline

- September-December: Classroom and school spelling bees are held.
- Jan. 31: Deadline for schools to enroll (roughly 22,500 schools enrolled in 2022-23). School fees were \$175 for 2022-23.
- September-January: School spelling bees are held; students qualify for regional spelling bees. The majority take place in January.
- Feb. 1 – March 31: Regional spelling bees are held, and national competitors are determined. Most regional bees advance only one winner, while some do advance other top finishers.

## regional partners

Each regional spelling bee has a regional partner which oversees the competition and sponsors students to advance to the national competition. Regional partners can be community organizations, businesses, media outlets, sports teams or other kinds of companies.

Regional partners manage their spelling bees, and all decisions by local officials are final. The Scripps National Spelling Bee provides a framework and official materials for the competitions and may act in an advisory role but does not have decision-making authority over regional spelling bees.



# bee by rounds

## preliminaries: tuesday, may 30

**round 1**  
spelling word  
  
Source:  
2023 Words  
of Champions

**round 2**  
word meaning  
question  
  
Source:  
2023 Words  
of Champions

**round 3**  
spelling word  
  
Source:  
Merriam-Webster  
Unabridged

## quarterfinals: wednesday, may31

**round 4**  
spelling word  
  
Source:  
Merriam-Webster  
Unabridged

**round 5**  
word meaning  
question  
  
Source:  
Merriam-Webster  
Unabridged

**round 6+**  
spelling words  
  
Source:  
Merriam-Webster  
Unabridged

## semifinals: wednesday, may31

**spelling  
round**  
  
Source:  
Merriam-Webster  
Unabridged

**word  
meaning  
round**  
  
Source:  
Merriam-Webster  
Unabridged

**spelling  
rounds**  
  
Source:  
Merriam-Webster  
Unabridged

## finals: thursday, june 1

**spelling  
round**  
  
Source:  
Merriam-Webster  
Unabridged

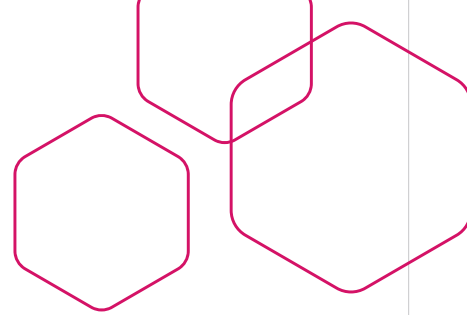
**word  
meaning  
round**  
  
Source:  
Merriam-Webster  
Unabridged

**spelling  
rounds**  
  
Source:  
Merriam-Webster  
Unabridged

Potential for the competition to end in a Spell-off



# details, details ...



## word meaning round

- **Origin:** Introduced as an onstage competition element in 2021. (Vocabulary questions have been a consistent part of the competition since 2012, when they were first introduced as part of a written test that was the first round of the competition until 2019.)
- **Intent:** Word meaning rounds were introduced as an onstage element to challenge a speller's understanding of the words, putting less emphasis on the rote memorization of spelling.
- **Rules:** Spellers are given 30 seconds to answer a multiple-choice question about the definition of a word.
- Eliminations on word meaning rounds:

### 2022:

- Preliminaries – 28 spellers eliminated
- Semifinals – 9 spellers eliminated
- Finals – 4 spellers eliminated

### 2021:

- Preliminaries – 28 spellers eliminated
- Quarterfinals – 16 spellers eliminated
- Semifinals – 5 spellers eliminated
- Finals – 0 spellers eliminated

## national competition details

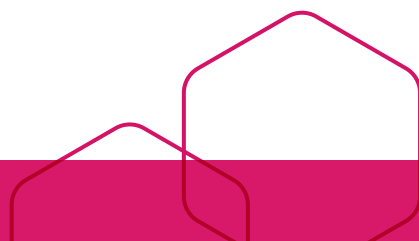
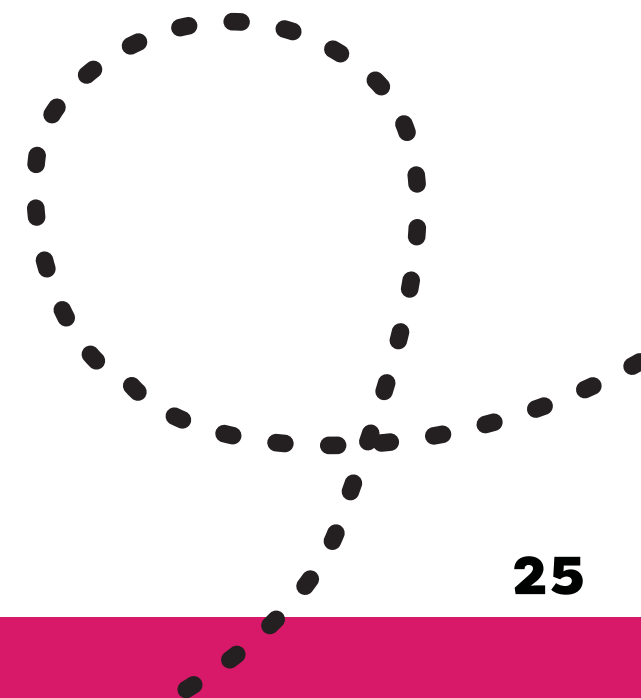
- **Time:** Spellers have 90 seconds to correctly spell a word once it has been pronounced; spellers cannot ask questions during the final 15 seconds of their turn.
- **Questions:** Spellers are permitted to ask the pronouncer:
  - Definition
  - Part of speech
  - Use the word in a sentence
  - Language(s) of origin
  - Alternate pronunciations
  - Root of the word
  - Repeat the word

## written test

All spellers completed a 50-question online test of spelling and word meaning in April. The results were not released to the spellers, and results have no bearing on competition outcomes. The results of the test were used by competition officials in leveling the word list.

## how the spell-off works

- **Origin:** Introduced in 2021
- **How it works:** Officials will activate a Spell-off if one of the following conditions is met:
  - No champion has been declared before the 1-hour, 55-minute mark of the broadcast window (as determined by the officials) and a championship round is not about to begin.
  - A championship round ends before the 1-hour, 55-minute mark in the broadcast window and there is no way to complete a subsequent round by the 1-hour, 55-minute mark allowing 90 seconds per speller.
  - A potential winning word is misspelled at or after the 1-hour, 55-minute mark in the broadcast window.
- **Rules:** Each speller has 90 seconds to spell as many words as possible while the other speller is sequestered with headphones on, unable to hear the words being read. Each speller gets the same words read in the same order. If there is a tie, the winner is determined by who spells a higher percentage of words correctly. The spellers may not pass and are encouraged to try to spell each word given.
- **History:**
  - 2022: Champion Harini Logan spelled 22 words correctly. Runner-up Vikram Raju spelled 15 words correctly. (Note: Judges originally credited Logan with 21 words but added one more after reviewing video of the Spell-off.)
  - 2021: Was not used



review process

Taken from official rules of the Scripps National Spelling Bee:  
Rule 10: Internal Review and Appeals

Throughout the competition, officials manage a real-time review process consisting of live and recorded cross-checking of spellers’ interactions with officials and of the word list. One official serves exclusively as the spellers’ advocate by reviewing audio and video files, escalating any issues through officials, and, where necessary, acting on officials’ requests for further review. If a speller, a speller’s parent or guardian, or the regional partner of a speller wishes to raise an issue to the attention of officials, they may do so according to the following **Appeal Process and Timeliness Requirement:**

- A written appeal form must be requested from, completed and submitted to the Bee Week Help Desk.
- The deadline to submit an appeal is before the speller would have received their next word had they stayed in the spelling bee. Effort should be made to submit an appeal by the end of the round in which the speller was eliminated.
- When five or fewer spellers remain in the competition, an oral appeal must be made at the Bee Week Help Desk before the speller would have received their next word had they stayed in the spelling bee.
- Only a speller, a speller’s parent or guardian, or a speller’s regional partner may request, complete, or submit an appeal form or lodge an oral appeal.
- Individuals who have filed appeals or who wish to file an appeal, or representatives of those individuals, may not directly approach officials.

A speller who received a correct pronunciation and definition for a spelling word has no grounds for appeal.

Communicating results:

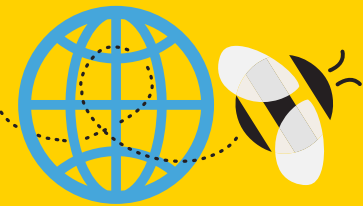
- If the judges rule to alter a prior determination, whether as the result of an appeal or of internal review, the affected speller and/or the speller’s representative will be notified.
- If there is no change to a contested decision, officials are under no obligation to publicly communicate the decision or discuss the details of the ruling. The appellant or their representative may approach the Bee Week Help Desk for information on the status of their appeal.

All decisions of Scripps National Spelling Bee officials are final.

worth noting ...

fun facts

- first male champion: Frank Neuhauser, Louisville, 1925
- first female champion: Pauline Bell, Louisville, 1926
- first non-American champion: Jody-Anne Maxwell, Jamaica, 1998
- first Black champion: Jody-Anne Maxwell, Jamaica, 1998
- first Black American champion: Zaila Avant-garde, New Orleans, 2021
- most national competitions: Akash Vukoti (6), 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
- youngest competitor: Edith Fuller, 2017, 6 years old



international spellers

There’s a long history of international participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. The first international participation was 1976 (Mexico City). In 1975, Hugh Tosteson from Puerto Rico became the only champion from a U.S. territory. Jody-Anne Maxwell from Jamaica won in 1998.

The Bee is committed to continuing existing relationships with international partners but has not actively been recruiting new international programs. Rather, its focus has been on expanding access in the United States.



home-schooled students

Home-schooled students have won the spelling bee four times. The first was Rebecca Sealton in 1997. She may be remembered for screaming each letter of her last word. The others: George Thampy, 2000; Evan O’Dorney, 2007; Zaila Avant-garde, 2021.



longest bee

In 1957, the 30th Scripps National Spelling Bee started at 9 a.m. and lasted until 6:55 p.m. (almost 10 hours). Dana Bennett, 13, from Denver, and Sandra Owen, 14, from Navarre, Ohio, were declared co-champions after the word list was exhausted. Both failed to spell the final word: schappe.



years without a spelling bee

- 2020: Canceled because of COVID-19 pandemic
- 1945: Canceled because of World War II
- 1944: Canceled because of World War II
- 1943: Canceled because of World War II

# glossary

## **associate pronouncer:**

The associate pronouncer answers the speller's questions about root words and is on-call to serve as pronouncer should the need arise and serves as quality assurance for the pronouncer during the competition. The associate pronouncer has expertise in etymology and in pronouncing words according to diacritical markings.

## **Bee Week:**

Starts when spellers arrive at the location for the national competition.

## **finalist:**

Speller who advances to the final rounds of the national competition.

## **head judge:**

The head judge serves as the administrator of the competition rules during the competition and delivers rulings on spellings and answers provided by spellers. The head judge maintains a thorough knowledge of the competition rules and confidently rules on questions regarding the competition with input from fellow judges.

## **judges:**

Judges maintain focus during the competition and rule on spellings and answers provided by spellers. Judges maintain a thorough knowledge of the competition rules and confidently and swiftly weigh in on internal or external questions regarding the competition.

## **national competitor:**

Speller who advances from regional competition to the Scripps National Spelling Bee, considered the national competition.

## **pronouncer:**

The pronouncer pronounces the words and provides all requested word information to the speller during spelling rounds and reads word meaning questions and answers during word meaning rounds using prepared competition materials. The pronouncer has expertise in etymology and in pronouncing words according to diacritical markings.

## **regional partner:**

Host of regional competition and pays for speller(s) to advance to national competition.

## **sponsor:**

Pays for advertising/activation/name alignment with Scripps National Spelling Bee or portions of the broadcast.

# now, meet the 2023 spellers

your guide to all 231 competitors





### FUN FACT

Stephen developed a game called "The Awesome Quiz," and none of his classmates have beaten it.

## #1 STEPHEN WAYNE BRISCOE

14 years old • 8th grade

Hanceville Middle School • Alabama Kiwanis Foundation (Birmingham, Alabama)



### FUN FACT

Lucas loves running cross country and track, and at his first meet this season, he set a personal record for the 400m at 1:02.

## #2 LUCAS RYAN PARKER

14 years old • 8th grade

Gruening Middle School • Anchorage Daily News (Anchorage, Alaska)



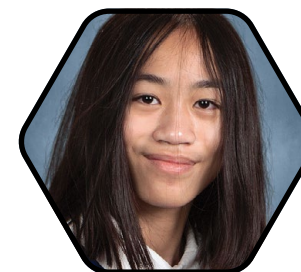
### FUN FACT

Zeeshan likes to create new recipes by trying different ingredients, and he writes them down in a cookbook he created.

## #7 ZEESHAN M. ANOWER

10 years old • 5th grade

John P. Woods Elementary School • Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas (Jacksonville, Arkansas)



### FUN FACT

Jean enjoys crafting, whether it be through paper, wood, crochet, sewing or any other form.

## #8 JEAN P. BOUNKOUSONH

14 years old • 8th grade

Leon H. Ollivier Middle School • KERO Channel 23 (Bakersfield, California)



### FUN FACT

Sydney enjoys ballet and currently dances with the Junior Company at North Star Ballet.

## #3 SYDNEY LAURA SEAVEY

12 years old • 6th grade

Barnette Magnet School • Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (Fairbanks, Alaska)



### FUN FACT

Opal loves teacup Pomeranians.

## #4 OPAL MISHRA

12 years old • 6th grade

Basha Accelerated Middle School • Arizona Educational Foundation (Phoenix, Arizona)



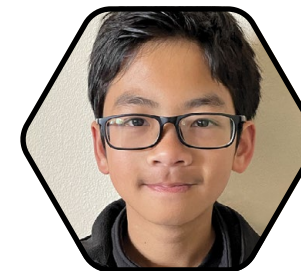
### FUN FACT

Dhruv has started a boutique, all-natural cosmetic chain and is currently in the process of marketing his product.

## #9 DHRUV S. SUBRAMANIAN

12 years old • 7th grade

Windemere Ranch Middle School • San Ramon Valley Rotary Club (Danville, California)



### FUN FACT

Justin can imitate accents, and his Asian and British accents make his friends laugh.

## #10 JUSTIN L. TRAN

13 years old • 8th grade

Chaparral Middle School • SNSB California Regional Bee (Diamond Bar, California)



### FUN FACT

When Karen meets someone new, she asks about their birth date to see if their personality matches their zodiac sign.

## #5 KAREN BAABA OPOKU-APPOH

14 years old • 8th grade

Marana Middle School • Arizona Educational Foundation (Scottsdale, Arizona)



### FUN FACT

Tazbah has earned titles from her schools' cultural pageants, which are opportunities to share Navajo culture.

## #6 TAZBAH JULIA SPRUHAN

13 years old • 8th grade

Tséhootsooí Middle School • Navajo Times Publishing Company (Window Rock, Arizona)



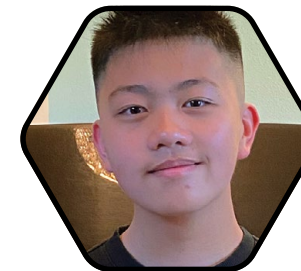
### FUN FACT

Julia adopted her cat, Concha, an American Shorthair, on Valentine's Day.

## #11 JULIA MURILLO-NUÑEZ

12 years old • 6th grade

Ballington Academy for the Arts & Sciences • Imperial County Office of Education (El Centro, California)



### FUN FACT

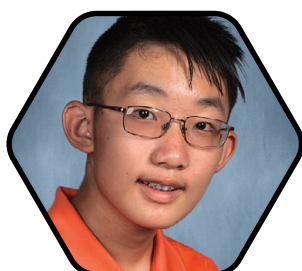
Leo has won first place in the junior division of Fresno County's MTAC Solo Competition for piano.

## #12 LEO Y. C. WU

11 years old • 5th grade

Bud Rank Elementary School • The Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (Fresno, California)





### FUN FACT

On spare weekends, Aaron enjoys going to Barnes & Noble to read manga.

### #13 AARON LIM

14 years old • 8th grade

El Rancho Charter School • The Orange County Register (Irvine, California)



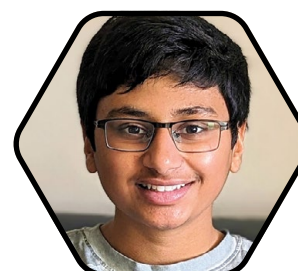
### FUN FACT

Avi loves to build with Lego bricks, and his favorite Lego set is the Sesame Street set.

### #14 AVIJEET S. RANDHAWA

12 years old • 7th grade

Auburndale Intermediate School • Riverside County Office of Education (Riverside, California)



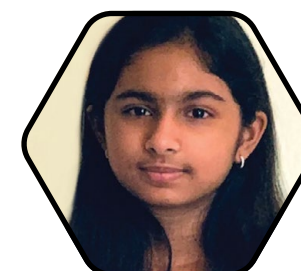
### FUN FACT

Vikrant likes to watch and play soccer, which is his favorite sport.

### #19 VIKRANT CHINTANABOINA

14 years old • 8th grade

Discovery Charter School - Falcon Campus • San Ramon Valley Rotary Club (San Ramon, California)



### FUN FACT

Shradha enjoys building websites using HTML.

### #20 SHRADHA ANJANA RACHAMREDDY

13 years old • 7th grade

BASIS Independent Silicon Valley Upper School • San Ramon Valley Rotary Club (San Ramon, California)



### FUN FACT

Morgan enjoys reading mythology and nonfiction books because different religious practices pique his interest.

### #15 MORGAN T. HARMS

12 years old • 6th grade

All Saints Day School • Monterey County Office of Education (Salinas, California)



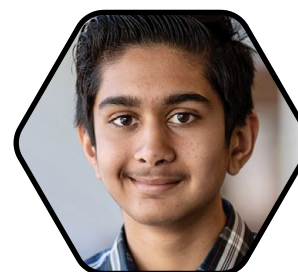
### FUN FACT

Phoebe has excellent public speaking skills and has spoken in front of an audience of more than 2,500 people.

### #16 PHOEBE ADELAIDE LAGUNA

10 years old • 5th grade

Granite Mountain Charter School • San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (San Bernardino, California)



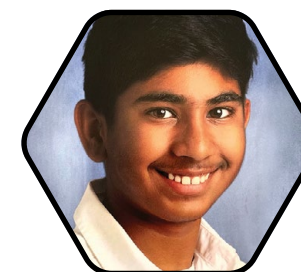
### FUN FACT

Arth tries his best to live an environmentally conscious lifestyle, and his favorite color is green.

### #21 ARTH C. DALSANIA

14 years old • 8th grade

Camarillo Academy of Progressive Education • SAGE Publishing (Thousand Oaks, California)



### FUN FACT

Sarvadnya enjoys competitive swimming and being in the pool after a long day of spelling bee preparation.

### #22 SARVADNYA JITENDRA KADAM

12 years old • 6th grade

Oak Grove Elementary School • Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register (Visalia, California)



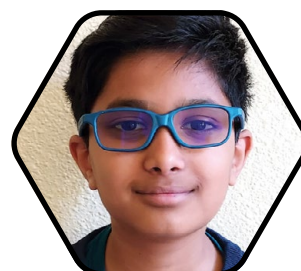
### FUN FACT

Jup enjoys doing volunteer work at the free community kitchen in his local Sikh place of worship.

### #17 JUPHARNOOR SINGH

13 years old • 8th grade

Heritage Intermediate School • San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (San Bernardino, California)



### FUN FACT

Mihir made an award-winning Arduino project called the Checklistinator that helped him pack for school.

### #18 MIHIR S. KONKAPAKA

12 years old • 7th grade

Mesa Verde Middle School • The San Diego Union-Tribune (San Diego, California)



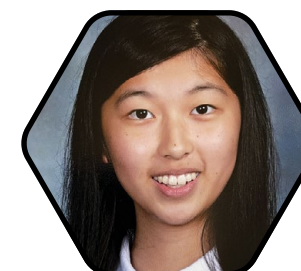
### FUN FACT

Eleanor speaks French and wants to learn Greek, Latin, German, Norwegian and Polish.

### #23 ELEANOR ELIZABETH JOY JEAVONS

13 years old • 7th grade

MacGregor Senior Public School • ECU Regional Bee (Kitchener, Ontario, Canada)



### FUN FACT

Chuxia loves reading fantasy novels, and she is currently writing several of her own.

### #24 CHUXIA HUANG

13 years old • 8th grade

Halifax Grammar School • Cape Breton University (Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada)



### FUN FACT

Isaac has two pitbulls named Fritz and Zahra.

## #25 ISAAC JOSEPH BROGAN

11 years old • 5th grade

Maranatha Christian Academy • WFCU Credit Union (Windsor, Ontario, Canada)



### FUN FACT

Aditi loves to write mysteries and fantasies in her free time.

## #27 ADITI MUTHUKUMAR

12 years old • 7th grade

Hulstrom Options K-8 • The Denver Post (Denver, Colorado)



### FUN FACT

Declan's fastest solve time for a 2x2 Rubik's Cube is 6.52 seconds.

## #29 DECLAN R. DURAND

11 years old • 5th grade

Love Creek Elementary School • Sussex County Public Libraries (Georgetown, Delaware)



### FUN FACT

Sofia skipped the second grade.

## #26 SOFIA M. TOMMEY WU

10 years old • 5th grade

Douglass Elementary School • Boulder Valley School District (Boulder, Colorado)



### FUN FACT

Nathan is the second eldest of six kids, ranging in age from 14 years old to 1 year old.

## #28 NATHAN DANIEL SETTEVENEMIE

11 years old • 6th grade

Mabelle B. Avery Middle School • Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society (West Hartford, Connecticut)



### FUN FACT

Zion really likes his cats, Percy, Junior and Daisy.

## #30 ZION D. MILLER

14 years old • 8th grade

Seaford Middle School • Seaford District Library, Inc. (Seaford, Delaware)



### FUN FACT

Jerald Jude is the head boy chorister at Washington National Cathedral.

## #31 JERALD JUDE CHAVEZ CAMPANA

13 years old • 8th grade

St. Albans School • The Washington Informer (Washington, District of Columbia)



### FUN FACT

Kenley has lived in eight different places including Guam, Rhode Island and Germany.

## #33 KENLEY C. NEAL

14 years old • 8th grade

Ramstein Middle School • European PTA (Defense and State Department Schools, Europe)



### FUN FACT

By age 5, Westin had memorized all of the countries and their capitals, and he could identify their flags.

## #35 WESTIN T. MARTIN

13 years old • 8th grade

Abraham Lincoln Middle School • WJXT (Jacksonville, Florida)



### FUN FACT

During the pandemic, Lesly learned to play the piano from watching videos online.

## #32 LESLY HERNANDEZ MARTIN

14 years old • 8th grade

Kenmoor Middle School • The Washington Informer (Washington, District of Columbia)



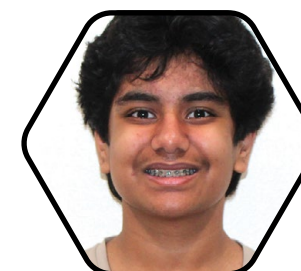
### FUN FACT

Lizzy can rollerblade backwards and do all sorts of tricks.

## #34 ELIZABETH F. BEERS

14 years old • 8th grade

Bonita Springs Middle Center for the Arts • Lee County Spelling Bee (Fort Myers, Florida)



### FUN FACT

Dev loves to go to new places such as South Dakota and Colorado, which he visited last summer.

## #36 DEV SHAH

14 years old • 8th grade

Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School • SNSB Region One Bee (Largo, Florida)





### FUN FACT

Juan plays tennis competitively and loves playing matches against other people.

### #37 JUAN CRISTOBAL RONDEAU

14 years old • 8th grade

Westminster Christian School • Miami Herald (Miami, Florida)



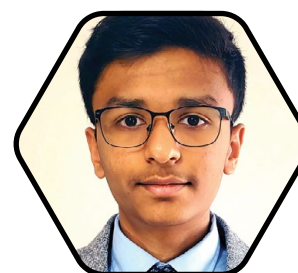
### FUN FACT

Lancaster's unique name comes from one of his dad's favorite actors, Burt Lancaster.

### #38 LANCASTER J. GRAMER

11 years old • 5th grade

Franklin Academy Cooper City • Miami Herald (Miami, Florida)



### FUN FACT

Sai is the regional finalist for both the National Science Bee and National History Bee for 2022-2023.

### #43 SAISURYA S. LAKKIMSETTI

14 years old • 8th grade

Stallings Island Middle School • Georgia Association of Educators (Tucker, Georgia)



### FUN FACT

Matthew enjoys learning about foreign languages.

### #44 MATTHEW R. BABER

13 years old • 7th grade

Rising Starr Middle School • Georgia Association of Educators (Tucker, Georgia)



### FUN FACT

Luke is an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan and hosts an annual in-person NFL fantasy football draft with his friends in his garage.

### #39 LUKE WALTON BROWN

14 years old • 8th grade

North Naples Middle School • Collier County Public Schools (Naples, Florida)



### FUN FACT

Evander enjoys collecting Pokémon cards.

### #40 EVANDER TRUE TURNER

14 years old • 8th grade

Pinecrest Lakes Academy • Orlando City SC (Orlando, Florida)



### FUN FACT

N'Adom plays trumpet in her school and was once chosen to play at the National Theatre in Ghana.

### #45 N'ADOM ABOAGYEWAA DARKO-ASARE

12 years old • 6th grade

DPS International Ghana • Young Educators Foundation (Accra, Ghana)



### FUN FACT

Mychelle loves to watch documentaries about the history of the world on National Geographic and other sites.

### #46 MYCHELLE SEWOENAM KUMAH

13 years old • 7th grade

Soul Clinic International School • Young Educators Foundation (Accra, Ghana)



### FUN FACT

Sumayya loves baking and has helped her mother and sister bake desserts.

### #41 SUMAYYA AHMAD

11 years old • 6th grade

Panama City Advanced School • Envision Credit Union (Tallahassee, Florida)



### FUN FACT

Bruhat is an avid reader, and he likes competitions.

### #42 BRUHAT SOMA

11 years old • 6th grade

Turner Bartels K-8 School • SNSB Region One Bee (Tampa, Florida)



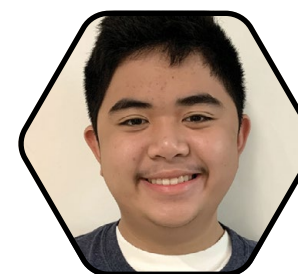
### FUN FACT

Janice participated in Junior Olympics and won two gold medals and one bronze medal.

### #47 JANICE AFIBA NKETSIAH

12 years old • 7th grade

St. Francis of Assisi • Young Educators Foundation (Accra, Ghana)



### FUN FACT

Lance wants to become a computer programmer and has been studying Python, JavaScript and HTML/CSS.

### #48 LANCE HARREL SANCHEZ

12 years old • 6th grade

SIFA Learning Academy Charter School • Rotary Club of Guam (Hagåtña, Guam)



### FUN FACT

Sophia and her little brother, Ethan, once embarked on a one-year journey of trying to raise 100 butterflies.

### #49 SOPHIA WAI CHAN

13 years old • 7th grade

Iolani School • Hawaii State Spelling Bee (Honolulu, Hawaii)



### FUN FACT

Eliana has a collection of crazy socks.

### #50 ELIANA MARIE CASTRO

14 years old • 8th grade

South Hills Middle School • Boise State University (Boise, Idaho)



### FUN FACT

Emme loves Legos, and her favorite color is periwinkle.

### #55 EMELIA NOELLE T. WHITEBONE

13 years old • 7th grade

Forest Park Middle School • Pepper Construction and Wight & Company (Chicago, Illinois)



### FUN FACT

Srinidhi has raised funds for DuPage Pads to help homeless children with their school supplies.

### #56 SRINIDHI R.S. RAO

13 years old • 7th grade

Hinsdale Middle School • ComEd and Tyndale House Publishers (Chicago, Illinois)



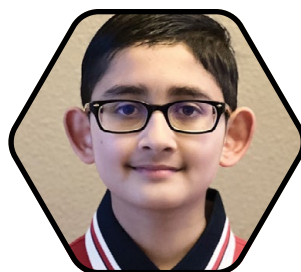
### FUN FACT

Kayla enjoys any dissection opportunities she can get and aspires to become a surgeon.

### #51 KAYLA B. TENNEY VILLALOBOS

14 years old • 8th grade

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy • Idaho Character Foundation (Coeur d'Alene, Idaho)



### FUN FACT

Navtaj's record time for solving a Rubik's Cube is 24 seconds.

### #52 NAVTAJ K. SINGH

12 years old • 6th grade

Lincoln Middle School • Lewiston Tribune (Lewiston, Idaho)



### FUN FACT

Steven is a devoted fan of the Chicago Fire FC MLS team and remains optimistically supportive of the team.

### #57 STEVEN JIANG

14 years old • 8th grade

Whitney M. Young Magnet High School • Chicago Public Schools (Chicago, Illinois)



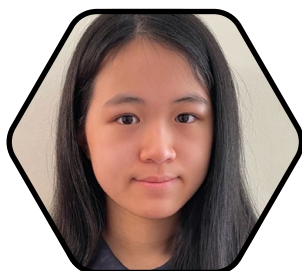
### FUN FACT

Khadijah is a black belt in tae kwon do.

### #58 KHADIJAH ABDUL-RAHMAN

14 years old • 8th grade

Maroa Forsyth Middle School • Macon-Piatt Regional Office of Education (Decatur, Illinois)



### FUN FACT

Annette likes to organize her own space because it makes her feel satisfied.

### #53 ANNETTE BEATRICE CHU

13 years old • 7th grade

GEMS World Academy Chicago • SNSB Illinois Regional Bee (Chicago, Illinois)



### FUN FACT

Lukas earned his black belt in tae kwon do in October 2021 and has been training weekly for five years.

### #54 LUKAS ANDREW NOWAK

12 years old • 6th grade

Drauden Point Middle School • Will County Regional Office of Education (Chicago, Illinois)



### FUN FACT

Arlenn can solve the Rubik's Cube in just 40 seconds.

### #59 ARLENN JAMES LESKO

13 years old • 7th grade

Sandwich Middle School • DeKalb Regional Office of Education 16 (DeKalb, Illinois)



### FUN FACT

Mason taught himself to make origami objects by watching YouTube, and he recently made a bouquet for his mom and grandma.

### #60 MASON M. COULTHARD

12 years old • 6th grade

Lena-Winslow Junior High School • Carroll/JoDaviess/Stephenson Regional Office of Education (Freeport, Illinois)





### FUN FACT

Francis enjoys learning about geography and architecture, and he loves trying new foods.

### #61 FRANCIS NNODI

14 years old • 8th grade

St. Catherine of Siena School • Kane County Regional Office of Education (Geneva, Illinois)



### FUN FACT

Julissa writes her own piano compositions in her spare time.

### #62 JULISSA ELYSE NEGRON

13 years old • 8th grade

Roscoe Middle School • Boone-Winnebago Regional Office of Education (Loves Park, Illinois)



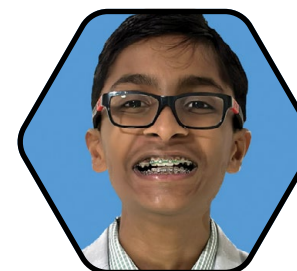
### FUN FACT

Reid is an avid baseball player and hopes to play college baseball.

### #67 REID SHAW

12 years old • 6th grade

University Elementary School • Indiana University (Bloomington, Indiana)



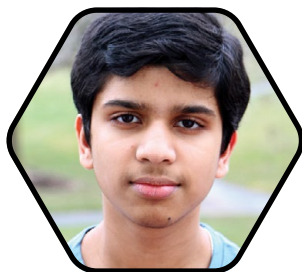
### FUN FACT

Achyut loves to collect car and plane models, and he currently has nearly 50 cars.

### #68 ACHYUT ETHIRAJ

13 years old • 7th grade

Maple Creek Middle School • SNSB Indiana Regional Bee (Fort Wayne, Indiana)



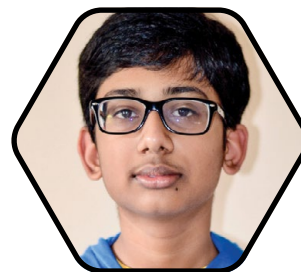
### FUN FACT

Vishrut wrote his first fictional story at the age of 8.

### #63 VISHRUT KINIKAR

13 years old • 7th grade

Cary Junior High School • McHenry County Regional Office of Education (McHenry, Illinois)



### FUN FACT

Akshay has participated in Vex Robotics and won at the state level in 2019 and 2022.

### #64 AKSHAY MANIKANDAN

14 years old • 8th grade

Murphy Junior High School • Grundy/Kendall County Regional Office of Education (Morris, Illinois)



### FUN FACT

Gavin loves to travel, and two of his favorite places are Singapore and Germany.

### #69 GAVIN CAESAR SIGUA

12 years old • 7th grade

Sycamore School • IU School of Education at IUPUI (Indianapolis, Indiana)



### FUN FACT

Sharanya enjoys writing acrostic poems and loves contributing articles to community magazines.

### #70 SHARANYA KAR

10 years old • 5th grade

West Lafayette Intermediate School • Lafayette Adult Resource Academy (Lafayette, Indiana)



### FUN FACT

Alex likes to play card games, including euchre and blackjack.

### #65 ALEXANDER OTTENS

14 years old • 8th grade

Prophetstown Lyndon-Tampico Middle School • Regional Office of Education #47 (Sterling, Illinois)



### FUN FACT

Daphne enjoys skiing and figure skating.

### #66 DAPHNE RAMATI GIL

14 years old • 8th grade

Alan B. Shepard Middle School • Lake County Regional Office of Education (Vernon Hills, Illinois)



### FUN FACT

Craig enjoys playing his 1935 King Silvertone trumpet that he inherited from his great-grandfather.

### #71 CRAIG ULREY

13 years old • 7th grade

Heritage Hall Christian School • Ball State University - WIPB-TV (Muncie, Indiana)



### FUN FACT

Wes loves to watch magicians and do magic tricks, especially card tricks.

### #72 WESLEY COOPER

11 years old • 5th grade

Kesling Intermediate School • Kankakee Valley REMC (Wanatah, Indiana)



### FUN FACT

Lindsey loves to climb around the ninja course in her basement.

### #73 LINDSEY GRACE JESSEN

11 years old • 6th grade

Marion Home School Assistance Program • The Dispatch Argus (Davenport, Iowa)



### FUN FACT

Manu is a tae kwon do red belt who is striving towards his black belt.

### #74 MANU SANDESH SRIPATHI

13 years old • 8th grade

California Trail Middle School • Olathe Public Schools (Olathe, Kansas)



### FUN FACT

Rishaan, who is in the class band, can play three instruments, but his favorite is the drums.

### #79 RISHAAN REDDY

10 years old • 5th grade

LSU Laboratory School • University Laboratory School (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)



### FUN FACT

Aiden has a talent for ice skating, roller skating and skiing.

### #80 AIDEN PHAM

13 years old • 7th grade

Scott Middle School • Kiwanis Club of Lafayette (Lafayette, Louisiana)



### FUN FACT

At the age of 3, Tyler surprised his parents by reading a headline aloud from the local newspaper.

### #75 TYLER NOLTE

14 years old • 8th grade

Nemaha Central Middle School • Kansas Press Association (Topeka, Kansas)



### FUN FACT

Noah enjoys playing many instruments including trumpet, piano, drums and guitar.

### #76 NOAH BRUMFIELD

13 years old • 7th grade

James Madison Middle School • Visit Hopkinsville (Hopkinsville, Kentucky)



### FUN FACT

Kai wants to become a U.S. senator when he is older.

### #81 KAI RICHARDSON

13 years old • 8th grade

Maplewood Middle School • SagamoreHill Broadcasting LLC (Lake Charles, Louisiana)



### FUN FACT

Nayara writes and directs her own musicals, including "Rat in Manhattan" with her brother as a rodent who wants to become a businessman.

### #82 NAYARA SONALI DE SILVA-AHMED

13 years old • 7th grade

Metairie Park Country Day School • New Orleans Chapter of The Links (New Orleans, Louisiana)



### FUN FACT

Isabella was the winner of her school talent show for singing "I Wanna Rock," by Twisted Sister.

### #77 ISABELLA LANE CARVER

11 years old • 5th grade

Hanson Elementary School • Visit Hopkinsville (Hopkinsville, Kentucky)



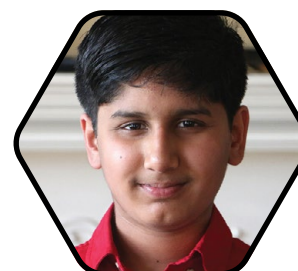
### FUN FACT

Ian knows way too much about Pokémon.

### #78 IAN JIE-MING GIBSON

13 years old • 7th grade

Bowling Green Junior High School • Visit Hopkinsville (Hopkinsville, Kentucky)



### FUN FACT

Sahil has visited over 50 different national parks, national monuments, national forests and national reserves.

### #83 SAHIL S. THORAT

13 years old • 8th grade

Caddo Middle Magnet • Louisiana State University Shreveport (Shreveport, Louisiana)



### FUN FACT

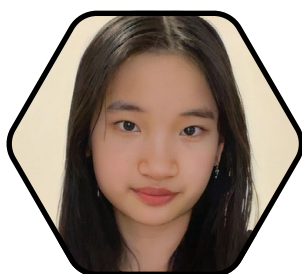
Evan has a third-degree black belt in tae kwon do.

### #84 EVAN T. TRIEU

12 years old • 7th grade

St. Brigid School • Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram (Portland, Maine)





### FUN FACT

Bella enjoys journaling in order to express her thoughts, and she likes to draw in her free time.

### #85 BELLA NGOC VAN

12 years old • 7th grade

MacArthur Middle School • Anne Arundel County Public Schools (Annapolis, Maryland)



### FUN FACT

Ayesha loves to travel and has been to many places, including Canada, London, Scotland, Dubai and India.

### #86 AYESHA SAMEEN SYED

14 years old • 8th grade

Southwest Academy • Maryland Sports (Baltimore, Maryland)



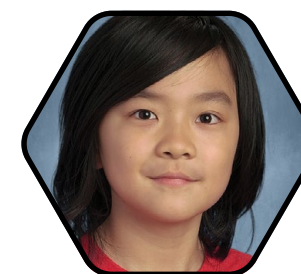
### FUN FACT

Evangelene's spelling acumen does not come from studying word lists; it comes from having always been a reader.

### #91 EVANGELENE SUZANNE KENNEDY HILL

14 years old • 8th grade

Wicomico Day School • University of Maryland Eastern Shore (Princess Anne, Maryland)



### FUN FACT

Tanoshi poured a full bottle of soda into his regional spelling bee trophy and tried to drink it in one gulp.

### #92 TANOSHI INOMATA

10 years old • 4th grade

Winship Elementary School • Boston Centers for Youth & Families (Boston, Massachusetts)



### FUN FACT

Larry and his younger sister, Julia, have a pet guinea pig who lives in the basement.

### #87 LAWRENCE H. LIAO

11 years old • 5th grade

Cold Spring Elementary School • The Meakem Group (Bethesda, Maryland)



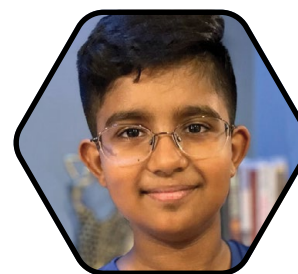
### FUN FACT

Navya likes learning new languages, such as French and Korean.

### #88 NAVYA DWIVEDI

12 years old • 6th grade

Clarksville Middle School • Howard County Library (Columbia, Maryland)



### FUN FACT

Adarsh only wears mismatched socks.

### #93 ADARSH REDDY VENKANNAGARI

9 years old • 4th grade

Paul P. Gates Elementary School • The Daily Item (Lynn, Massachusetts)



### FUN FACT

Emily can often be found playing with her two younger brothers or her mischievous golden retriever, Gracie.

### #94 EMILY OLGA DEMLOW

14 years old • 8th grade

Lakeview Middle School • SNSB Michigan and Ohio Regional Bee (Battle Creek, Michigan)



### FUN FACT

Cheyenne taught herself to read at the age of 3.

### #89 CHEYENNE DAWN HENSLEY

13 years old • 7th grade

Blended Virtual Middle School • Frederick County Public Libraries (Frederick, Maryland)



### FUN FACT

Alec enjoys learning about robotics, engineering and coding.

### #90 ALEC B. GALLAHAN

14 years old • 8th grade

Mattawoman Middle School • Charles County Public Schools (La Plata, Maryland)



### FUN FACT

Joscelyn competed in the regional spelling bee four years in a row and only won on her fourth attempt.

### #95 JOSCELYN REBECCA RYAN

14 years old • 8th grade

St. Mary Catholic School • Macomb Intermediate School District (Clinton Township, Michigan)



### FUN FACT

In her spare time, Anwasha enjoys trying different makeup looks and techniques.

### #96 ANWESHA AHMED

13 years old • 8th grade

Davison Elementary-Middle School • WXYZ Channel 7 (Detroit, Michigan)





### FUN FACT

Brady has a collection of over 800 marbles and builds tracks and obstacles for the marbles to test their speed.

### #97 BRADY A. BOWERS

13 years old • 7th grade

North Rockford Middle School • Kent Intermediate School District (Grand Rapids, Michigan)



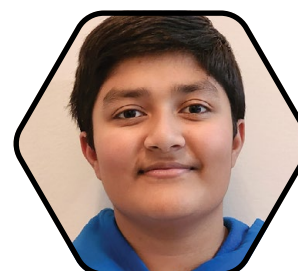
### FUN FACT

Clara enjoys painting with acrylics because it helps her relax.

### #98 CLARA E. MERVAK

11 years old • 5th grade

Northglade Montessori School • Discover Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo, Michigan)



### FUN FACT

Aryan is a self-taught keyboard player and loves to play chess.

### #103 ARYAN R. KHEDKAR

12 years old • 7th grade

Baker Middle School • Oakland Schools Education Foundation (Waterford, Michigan)



### FUN FACT

Vihaan likes to solve a Rubik's Cube.

### #104 VIHAAN KAPIL

9 years old • 3rd grade

Agamim Classical Academy • Success Beyond the Classroom (Arden Hills, Minnesota)



### FUN FACT

Owen has two dogs, Sawyer and Skye, and a cat named Peanut.

### #99 OWEN DAVID SMIELEWSKI

13 years old • 7th grade

Ruth Fox Middle School • The County Press (Lapeer, Michigan)



### FUN FACT

Gabe's fastest time solving a Rubik's Cube is 15 seconds.

### #100 GABE J. GRIERSON

14 years old • 8th grade

O.J. DeJonge Middle School • Ludington Daily News (Ludington, Michigan)



### FUN FACT

Maximus's dream job is to become a streamer or YouTuber.

### #105 MAXIMUS ALEXANDER KATSOULIS

14 years old • 8th grade

Blackduck Public School • Lakes Country Service Cooperative (Fergus Falls, Minnesota)



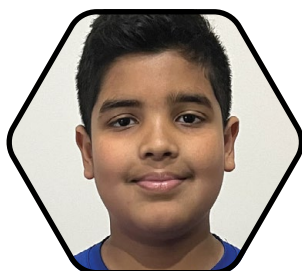
### FUN FACT

Elijah enjoys bothering his older sister, even though he loves her.

### #106 ELIJAH DEE ELLEDGE

11 years old • 5th grade

Immanuel Lutheran School • South Central Service Cooperative (North Mankato, Minnesota)



### FUN FACT

When he grows up, Sidhanth wants to be an NBA player.

### #101 SIDHANTH NANDHAN VETRIVEL

11 years old • 5th grade

Brown Elementary School • The Herald Palladium (St. Joseph, Michigan)



### FUN FACT

Hazel and her dad are avid viewers of vintage horror movies, such as "The Shining," "Rosemary's Baby" and "Child's Play."

### #102 HAZEL OLSEN DANZIGER

14 years old • 8th grade

Leland Public School • Traverse City Record-Eagle (Traverse City, Michigan)



### FUN FACT

Roberto is a speed reader who can read between 350 and 400 words per minute on average.

### #107 ROBERTO NOVIS VILLASBOAS

12 years old • 6th grade

St. Francis of Assisi School • Southeast Service Cooperative (Rochester, Minnesota)



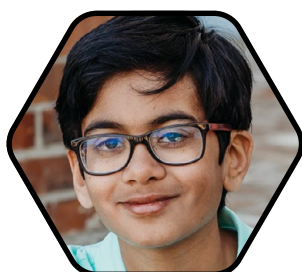
### FUN FACT

Will is using a language app to learn Dutch.

### #108 WILLIAM D. RAUSCH

12 years old • 7th grade

Royalton Middle School • Sourcewell (Staples, Minnesota)



#### FUN FACT

Vihaan asked to learn piano after reading the Goosebumps book, "Piano Lessons Can Be Murder."

#### #109 VIHAAN JAYANT

##### MAHAJAN

13 years old • 8th grade

Northwest Rankin Middle School • The Commercial Dispatch (Columbus, Mississippi)



#### FUN FACT

Baruni enjoys drawing, painting and conducting simple science experiments with her brother.

#### #110 BARUNI JAKKULA

13 years old • 8th grade

T.L. Weston Middle School • The Commercial Dispatch (Columbus, Mississippi)



#### FUN FACT

Tyler loves Legos, and he could build Lego sets in his room for days.

#### #115 TYLER QU TANG

10 years old • 5th grade

The Summit Preparatory School • A.C.E.S. (Rolla, Missouri)



#### FUN FACT

Julianna loves anything that sparkles.

#### #116 JULIANNA K. MULLINS

14 years old • 8th grade

Pleasant View R-VI • Mosaic Life Care Foundation (St. Joseph, Missouri)



#### FUN FACT

Aanya plays chess both competitively and with her friends, and is a two-time city chess champion.

#### #111 AANYA SHETTY

12 years old • 7th grade

John Warner Middle School • Columbia Missourian (Columbia, Missouri)



#### FUN FACT

Garrett is a huge sports fan, supporting the KC Royals, KC Chiefs, Milwaukee Bucks and the Tampa Bay Lightning.

#### #112 GARRETT FRY

13 years old • 7th grade

Delta Woods Middle School • Mid-Continent Public Library (Independence, Missouri)



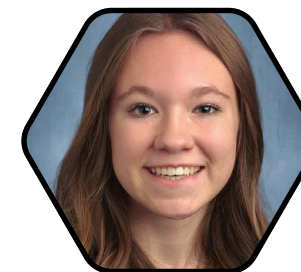
#### FUN FACT

Sonia has a black belt in tae kwon do, an accomplishment she completed in two years by practicing five days a week.

#### #117 SONIA BABUL KULKARNI

12 years old • 7th grade

John Burroughs School • Saint Louis University (St. Louis, Missouri)



#### FUN FACT

In fourth grade, Natalie won a class party for being the only student to read a million words during the school year.

#### #118 NATALIE WINTER RUSS

14 years old • 8th grade

Clancy Elementary School • Montana Television Network (Bozeman, Montana)



#### FUN FACT

Mariah recently played the role of Queen Gertrude in her school's production of "The Rules of Comedy."

#### #113 MARIAH KATE COFFEY

12 years old • 6th grade

Harrisonville Middle School • Raymore-Peculiar School District (Peculiar, Missouri)



#### FUN FACT

Colby likes watching basketball and going to NBA games, especially to see his favorite player Giannis Antetokounmpo.

#### #114 COLBY JOHN ARMES

12 years old • 6th grade

St. Joseph Catholic Church • Three Rivers College (Poplar Bluff, Missouri)



#### FUN FACT

Sarah loves writing, especially poems.

#### #119 SARAH GRACE FERNANDES

11 years old • 5th grade

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School • Omaha Sports Commission (Omaha, Nebraska)



#### FUN FACT

Arren enjoys participating in theater and playing piano.

#### #120 ARREN E. FELICIANO

13 years old • 7th grade

St. Viator Parish School • The Public Education Foundation (Las Vegas, Nevada)





### FUN FACT

Sarina enjoys learning about physics and the universe.

### #121 SARINA ALI

12 years old • 7th grade

Omar Haikal Islamic Academy • The Public Education Foundation (Las Vegas, Nevada)



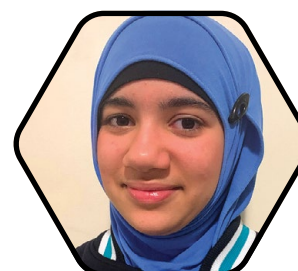
### FUN FACT

Iris has been playing ice hockey since she was 5 years old and is on two lacrosse teams, one soccer team and one track team.

### #122 IRIS A. LAMOREAUX

14 years old • 8th grade

Plymouth Elementary School • New Hampshire Union Leader (Manchester, New Hampshire)



### FUN FACT

Mariam is studying Arabic, Turkish and Japanese, and she won a spelling bee competition in Arabic this year.

### #127 MARIAM BELKOUCHI

13 years old • 7th grade

Maarif School • Sidelines and Stages (Maplewood, New Jersey)



### FUN FACT

Laura loves to practice baking in her spare time.

### #128 WIDLEY L. JOSEPH

14 years old • 8th grade

Neptune Middle School • Press Communications (Neptune, New Jersey)



### FUN FACT

Atharv's family loves to visit Disney World and has been there eight times so far.

### #123 ATHARV NARVEKAR

14 years old • 8th grade

Montgomery Upper Middle School • Somerset County Library System (Bridgewater, New Jersey)



### FUN FACT

Lucas plays piano and got to perform at Carnegie Hall in 2019.

### #124 LUCAS KE

14 years old • 8th grade

Englewood Cliffs Upper School • Bergen County Division of Cultural & Historic Affairs (Hackensack, New Jersey)



### FUN FACT

For the past two years, Keith has made the All-Star team for the Sunset Little League that he plays in.

### #129 KEITH LEE

11 years old • 6th grade

Albuquerque Academy • The Albuquerque Journal (Albuquerque, New Mexico)



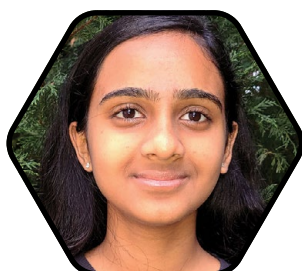
### FUN FACT

Saheb's artwork was selected for the Williamsville Central School District Art Show in 2020 and 2022.

### #130 DEBOSRIJO SAHEB SARKAR

12 years old • 6th grade

Mill Middle School • Corning Rotary Club (Corning, New York)



### FUN FACT

Kavya loves math and history.

### #125 KAVYA S. JAKASANIA

13 years old • 7th grade

Frank R. Conwell Middle School • Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs (Jersey City, New Jersey)



### FUN FACT

Aria ran a 5K when she was 8 and plays saxophone in her school band.

### #126 ARIA KHAMBHATI

9 years old • 4th grade

Mount Pleasant Elementary School • Sidelines and Stages (Maplewood, New Jersey)



### FUN FACT

Markus loves to explore mathematical concepts and often spot-researches fun facts and statistics.

### #131 MARKUS FERRARA

13 years old • 8th grade

Port Jervis Middle School • Orange-Ulster BOCES (Goshen, New York)



### FUN FACT

Noah is a huge New York Yankees fan and has attended several games at Yankee Stadium.

### #132 NOAH A. KAPLAN

11 years old • 6th grade

Brinckerhoff Elementary School • SNSB New York State Regional Bee (Hopewell Junction, New York)



### FUN FACT

Brian enjoys collecting Pokémon cards with his sister, and so far, they have collected a couple of rare cards.

### #133 BRIAN LIU

11 years old • 6th grade

Great Neck North Middle School • ScholarSkills for STARS (New Windsor, New York)



### FUN FACT

Lora visits Taiwan almost every year to see her grandparents and try foods and activities that are difficult to find here.

### #134 LORA W. WU

12 years old • 7th grade

Hunter College High School • ScholarSkills for STARS (New York, New York)



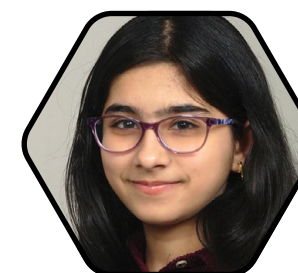
### FUN FACT

Micah visited Disney World for the first time this year, and his favorite ride was Avatar: Flight of Passage.

### #139 MICAH RICHARD STERLING

10 years old • 5th grade

Brownville-Glen Park Elementary • Watertown Daily Times (Watertown, New York)



### FUN FACT

Ananya Rao enjoys playing badminton and basketball with friends.

### #140 ANANYA RAO PRASSANNA

12 years old • 6th grade

Davis Drive Middle School • Carolina Panthers (Charlotte, North Carolina)



### FUN FACT

Vale can recite over 200 digits of Pi and loves solving complex math equations.

### #135 VALE ESPOSITO

13 years old • 8th grade

Robert F. Wagner Middle School • ScholarSkills for STARS (New York, New York)



### FUN FACT

Stephen inherited his love of mathematics from his grandfather, a world-renowned mathematician.

### #136 STEPHEN H. CHEHATA

14 years old • 8th grade

Canandaigua Middle School • Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES (Newark, New York)



### FUN FACT

Peyton enjoys reading about Greek mythology.

### #141 PEYTON MARLEA GOLDENSTEIN

14 years old • 8th grade

Clover Middle School • Carolina Panthers (Charlotte, North Carolina)



### FUN FACT

Rex is a turophile and loves to find amazing places for cheese wherever he travels.

### #142 REX DOVER

14 years old • 8th grade

Belmont Middle School • Carolina Panthers (Charlotte, North Carolina)



### FUN FACT

Richard plays soccer and runs track, primarily the 800m and sprint medley relay.

### #137 RICHARD L. TANG

13 years old • 8th grade

Oneonta Middle School • The Daily Star (Oneonta, New York)



### FUN FACT

Simran loves to travel and has been to places like India, Dubai and France.

### #138 SIMRAN SANDERS

12 years old • 6th grade

Jamesville-Dewitt Middle School • The Post-Standard (Syracuse, New York)



### FUN FACT

Reyansh loves to volunteer for his mom's business.

### #143 REYANSH D. JOSHI

11 years old • 5th grade

Mills Park Elementary School • Carolina Panthers (Charlotte, North Carolina)



### FUN FACT

Rishi loves to play tennis and takes lessons on the weekends.

### #144 RISHIDHARAN JAYAKUMAR

14 years old • 8th grade

The Brawley School • Carolina Panthers (Charlotte, North Carolina)





#### FUN FACT

Logan has written several poems ranging in length from four to 62 lines and has memorized many of his shorter works.

### #145 LOGAN AMERICUS

#### EDWARDS

12 years old • 7th grade  
Rosebud Schoolhouse • Carolina Panthers  
(Charlotte, North Carolina)



#### FUN FACT

Isaiah avidly reads young adult fantasy books, and his favorite series is the Ranger's Apprentice by John Flanagan.

### #146 ISAIAH LEE HENRY

11 years old • 5th grade  
Grady A. Brown Elementary School • Duke University Office of Durham and Community Affairs (Durham, North Carolina)



#### FUN FACT

Emma is a nationally ranked tennis player and an orchestra concertmaster.

### #151 EMMA LIU

13 years old • 7th grade  
Hudson Middle School • Akron Beacon Journal  
(Akron, Ohio)



#### FUN FACT

Tia loves to travel with her family to places like Kalahari Resorts and Cedar Point.

### #152 TIA GEISLER

10 years old • 4th grade  
Orchard Hollow Elementary School • ESC of the Western Reserve (Concord Township, Ohio)



#### FUN FACT

Angelo is a violinist in his school orchestra who has been selected for all-county and all-state orchestras.

### #147 ANGELO SEI ALDOPH

13 years old • 7th grade  
Max Abbott Middle School • Cumberland County Schools (Fayetteville, North Carolina)

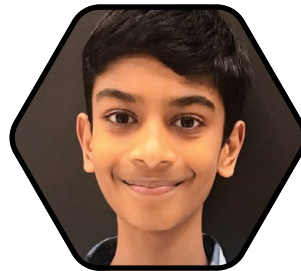


#### FUN FACT

Lila is a direct descendant of Betsy Ross and Francis Scott Key.

### #148 LILA J. RECHEL

13 years old • 7th grade  
Coats-Erwin Middle School • Harnett County Schools (Lillington, North Carolina)



#### FUN FACT

Avinav is a black belt in tae kwon do.

### #153 AVINAV PREM ANAND

12 years old • 6th grade  
Olentangy Orange Middle School • Ohio University College of Business (Athens, Ohio)

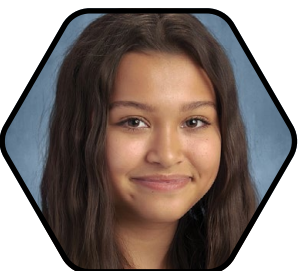


#### FUN FACT

Bryce's highest-scoring bowling game was 263.

### #154 BRYCE DAVID BECKLEY

14 years old • 8th grade  
Dover Middle School • The Repository (Canton, Ohio)



#### FUN FACT

Olivia played Anna in her school's most recent theatre production, "Frozen Jr."

### #149 OLIVIA CHARLOTTE TOLENTINO

14 years old • 8th grade  
Cleveland Middle School • Johnston County Public Schools (Smithfield, North Carolina)



#### FUN FACT

Luna's favorite place to visit is Hawaii and she has visited five Hawaiian islands: O'ahu, Kaua'i, Maui, Lana'i and The Big Island.

### #150 LUNA SARA GASEVIC

13 years old • 7th grade  
Ben Franklin Middle School • ND Association of County Superintendents (Bismarck, North Dakota)



#### FUN FACT

Tara is the co-founder of a nonprofit called The Giving Tree, which helps underprivileged kids secure a better future.

### #155 TARA RAKESH

14 years old • 8th grade  
Ballyshannon Middle School • WCPO 9 (Cincinnati, Ohio)



#### FUN FACT

When he grows up, Liam would love to be on the show "The Amazing Race" with his younger brother, Judah.

### #156 LIAM JAMES BEDINGHAUS

12 years old • 6th grade  
Mars Hill Academy • WCPO 9 (Cincinnati, Ohio)



### FUN FACT

Advait is an avid learner of geography and knows the capital city of every country.

### #157 ADVAIT NISHIT

13 years old • 7th grade

Incarnate Word Academy • ESC of Northeast Ohio (Cleveland, Ohio)



### FUN FACT

Bridget played basketball during her school season in 2022, and she is learning how to play tennis.

### #158 BRIDGET N. SMITH

13 years old • 7th grade

Durling Middle School • Educational Service Center of Lorain County (Elyria, Ohio)



### FUN FACT

Andrew enjoys saying random and awkward things to complete strangers to meet others with similar interests.

### #163 ANDREW MACDONALD

14 years old • 8th grade

Bishop John King Mussio Junior High • The Herald-Star (Steubenville, Ohio)



### FUN FACT

Lainey is looking forward to joining her high school's volleyball team next year.

### #164 LAINEY GARDNER

14 years old • 8th grade

Crestview Middle School • The Blade (Toledo, Ohio)



### FUN FACT

Ope taught herself how to type fast at 8 years old.

### #159 OPEMIPO PEARL BALOGUN

12 years old • 7th grade

Shawnee Middle School • The Lima News (Lima, Ohio)



### FUN FACT

Shaylynn enjoys baking, especially whole-wheat pumpkin muffins, different types of cookies and brownies.

### #160 SHAYLYNN KAY DENNIS

14 years old • 8th grade

Beaver Local Middle School • Salem News, East Liverpool Review and The Morning Journal (Lisbon, Ohio)



### FUN FACT

Joey is writing, filming, editing and producing a multi-season action/sci-fi/thriller show with his friends.

### #165 JOSEPH STANLEY CONSTANTINE

13 years old • 7th grade

Lakeview Middle School • WFMJ Television, Inc. (Youngstown, Ohio)



### FUN FACT

Archer considers himself a nerd in many ways, from reading math books for fun to watching "Doctor Who."

### #166 ARCHER THOMPSON

13 years old • 7th grade

Odyssey Leadership Academy • Oklahoma City Thunder (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)



### FUN FACT

Henry has been playing violin for nine years and is a member of three performing ensembles.

### #161 HENRY WILLIAM CORCORAN

14 years old • 8th grade

Veritas Classical Academy • The Marietta Times (Marietta, Ohio)



### FUN FACT

Jacob is a six-year member of 4-H and shows market beef, swine and goats at the county fair.

### #162 JACOB MANSELL THEAKER

14 years old • 8th grade

Martins Ferry Middle School • The Times Leader (Martins Ferry, Ohio)



### FUN FACT

Hannah has visited 38 states and has lived in four.

### #167 HANNAH KAUFFMAN

13 years old • 7th grade

Regent Preparatory School of Oklahoma • 2 News Oklahoma (Tulsa, Oklahoma)



### FUN FACT

Rohan holds a black belt in tae kwon do.

### #168 ROHAN JONATHAN SEKAR

13 years old • 8th grade

Lake Oswego Junior High School • Pamplin Media Group (Portland, Oregon)





### FUN FACT

Christian is good with dogs and was a volunteer dog walker at a local animal shelter.

### #169 CHRISTIAN JOHN MILLER

14 years old • 8th grade

Stetson Middle School • Chester County Intermediate Unit (Downingtown, Pennsylvania)



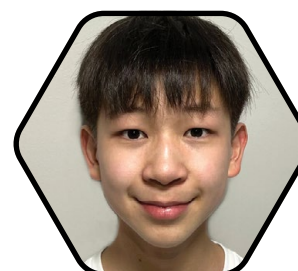
### FUN FACT

Kenzo has visited the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Mexico, Spain, Puerto Rico, Italy and Germany.

### #170 KENZO VERON

14 years old • 8th grade

Lamberton Middle School • WITF: Public Media for Central Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania)



### FUN FACT

Jack likes to solve the Rubik's Cube.

### #175 JACK JIANG

13 years old • 8th grade

D. Newlin Fell School • WHY (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)



### FUN FACT

Isaac has excellent coding skills in Python and MATLAB.

### #176 ISAAC W. GEREMEW

11 years old • 5th grade

George L. Hess Educational Complex • WHY (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)



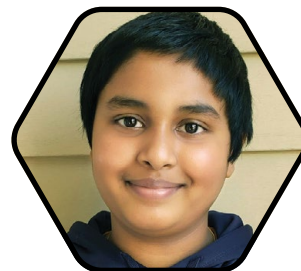
### FUN FACT

Priana has been doing karate for over four years and is currently a first-degree black belt.

### #171 PRIANA KHANT

14 years old • 8th grade

Pennridge Central Middle School • Pennsylvania State Education Association and Council for the Advancement of Public Schools (Montgomeryville, Pennsylvania)



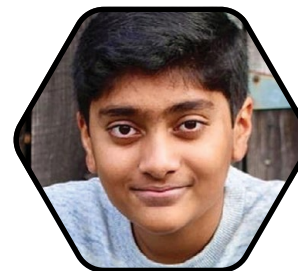
### FUN FACT

Pranav plays tennis and saxophone.

### #172 PRANAV ANANDH

14 years old • 8th grade

Garnet Valley Middle School • Delaware County Intermediate Unit (Morton, Pennsylvania)



### FUN FACT

Raana plays American football for his township, and he enjoys playing in the trenches, the offensive and defensive lines.

### #177 RAANA PARCHURI

13 years old • 7th grade

Fort Couch Middle School • Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)



### FUN FACT

Music is one of the most important things in Tyler's life, and he does everything while listening to music.

### #178 TYLER JOSEPH KULIKOSKY

14 years old • 8th grade

Blue Mountain Middle School • The Republican Herald (Pottsville, Pennsylvania)



### FUN FACT

Ari's favorite lessons to learn in school are those about math and writing.

### #173 ARIELLE DAHAN

11 years old • 5th grade

Vare-Washington Elementary School • WHY (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)



### FUN FACT

Sandhana wants to make a difference in this world using science.

### #174 SANDHANA RAJESH

12 years old • 6th grade

Fernwood Middle School • WHY (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)



### FUN FACT

Aaditya loves to build Lego creations, and he's a huge "Harry Potter" and "Star Wars" fan. (He can't pick just one!)

### #179 AADITYA AIYER

13 years old • 7th grade

Clinton Township Middle School • Diamond City Sports (Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania)



### FUN FACT

Orlando enjoys traveling to various places and learning about different cultures.

### #180 ORLANDO ANDRÉS FERNÁNDEZ VALERA

14 years old • 8th grade

Saint John's School • Eureka Enrichment & Learning Center, Inc. (San Juan, Puerto Rico)



### FUN FACT

Penelope enjoys horseback riding.

### #181 PENELOPE J. SARGEANT

14 years old • 8th grade

Saint Margaret School • The Valley Breeze  
(Lincoln, Rhode Island)



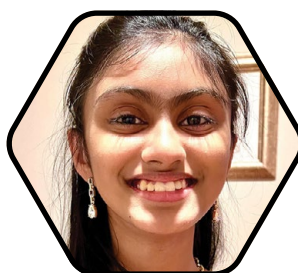
### FUN FACT

Siqi wishes to learn to play the flute, violin, cello and electric guitar.

### #182 SIQI FANG

14 years old • 8th grade

Hanahan Middle School • The Post and Courier  
(Charleston, South Carolina)



### FUN FACT

Rainaa takes special interest in French pastries and enjoys learning more about them.

### #187 RAINAA THOMAS BHUPESH

14 years old • 8th grade

White Station Middle School • University of Memphis  
(Memphis, Tennessee)



### FUN FACT

Armaan has been the Tennessee state chess champion for his school group for two consecutive years.

### #188 ARMAAN SINGHVI

12 years old • 6th grade

Harding Academy • Tennessee Titans  
(Nashville, Tennessee)



### FUN FACT

Luc is the secretary of his school's Beta Club.

### #183 LUC TEJADA CALAGSING

12 years old • 7th grade

Blackwater Middle School • Pee Dee Education Center  
(Florence, South Carolina)



### FUN FACT

Aiza loves to learn about people's food preferences to get to know them better because certain foods hold memories.

### #184 AIZA KHAN SOHERWARDY

14 years old • 8th grade

R.P. Dawkins Middle School • USC Upstate (Spartanburg, South Carolina)



### FUN FACT

Sariah is currently studying calculus.

### #189 SARIAH L. TITUS

10 years old • 5th grade

Ortiz Elementary School • Kiwanis Club of Abilene (Abilene, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Jayden loves playing chess, and his favorite opening is the Caro-Kann.

### #190 JAYDEN ZHENG

13 years old • 7th grade

Bonham Middle School • Education Credit Union (Amarillo, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Charli sings professionally with her family's touring Celtic band.

### #185 CHARLI Z. FICKBOHM

14 years old • 8th grade

Patrick Henry Middle School • University of South Dakota (Vermillion, South Dakota)



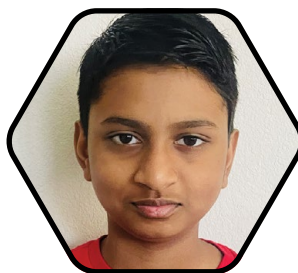
### FUN FACT

Audrey plays the cello and is an advanced member of the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra.

### #186 AUDREY V. DOUGHERTY

13 years old • 7th grade

Homeschool • Tennessee Titans (Knoxville, Tennessee)



### FUN FACT

Shrethan likes playing and watching soccer as it's his favorite sport.

### #191 SHRETHAN B. BOTLA

14 years old • 8th grade

Meridian World Middle School • Sweet Success ATX (Austin, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Tarini is an animal lover, and she has two pets, Simba and Beau.

### #192 TARINI NANDAKUMAR

12 years old • 6th grade

Challenger School - Avery Ranch • Sweet Success ATX (Austin, Texas)





### FUN FACT

Jaxon is a professional multitasker and math whiz.

### #193 JAXON JACE ESCOBAR

11 years old • 5th grade

Schallert Elementary School • KRIS Communications (Corpus Christi, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Sriya's artwork was placed in the highest division in a school art competition.

### #194 SRIYA GOMATAM

13 years old • 7th grade

Coppell Middle School North • Dallas Sports Commission (Dallas, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Ishika tries to fence with her sister, but always ends up losing.

### #199 ISHIKA NANDINI VARIPILLI

12 years old • 7th grade

Creekside Park Junior High School • Houston Community College (Houston, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Kirsten was on the "Kelly Clarkson Show" last year.

### #200 KIRSTEN TIFFANY SANTOS

12 years old • 7th grade

International Leadership of Texas - Katy • Houston Community College (Houston, Texas)



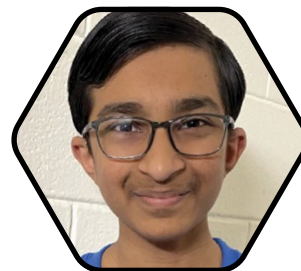
### FUN FACT

Faizan was the youngest speller in the 2019 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

### #195 FAIZAN ZAKI

11 years old • 5th grade

Skaggs Elementary School • Dallas Sports Commission (Dallas, Texas)



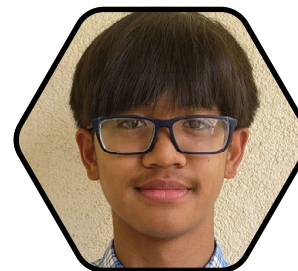
### FUN FACT

Arnav enjoys folding origami and playing board games with his family and friends.

### #196 ARNAV MAHESH TONDE

13 years old • 8th grade

Wiggs Middle School • EPISD Education Foundation (El Paso, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Both Nathaniel's and his brother Emmanuel's names were taken from the Bible.

### #201 NATHANIEL SANTIAGO RIMOCAL

14 years old • 8th grade

Lamar Bruni Vergara Middle School • Laredo Morning Times (Laredo, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Ava has read "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" an estimated 10 times.

### #202 AVA MARIE FLORES

11 years old • 5th grade

Rush Elementary School • Ramar Communications (Lubbock, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Brihasa loves to model miniature figures with clay, including a mini Scripps National Spelling Bee trophy.

### #197 BRIHASA REDDY VEDURU

10 years old • 5th grade

Bear Creek Intermediate School • Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Luke enjoys completing challenging math and coding problems given to him by his parents.

### #198 LUKE DANIEL NGUYEN

12 years old • 6th grade

Brookside Intermediate School • Houston Community College (Houston, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Robbie's favorite baseball player is Jose Altuve.

### #203 ROBERTO LIONEL ORTIZ

13 years old • 8th grade

Incarnate Word Academy • Rio Grande Valley AIM Media Texas (McAllen, Texas)



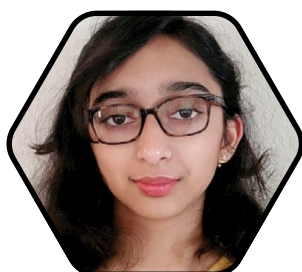
### FUN FACT

Shwetha is her school's student council president and organizes school events, including the first-ever talent show.

### #204 SHWETHA JAYAKUMAR

13 years old • 8th grade

Young Women's Leadership Academy • Midland Reporter-Telegram (Midland, Texas)



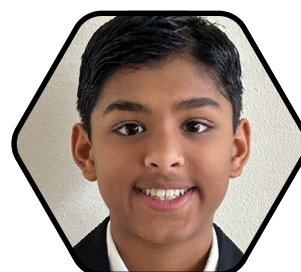
### FUN FACT

Siyona's poem was included in the largest book ever published, "I am Texas," a recent addition to Guinness World Records.

### #205 SIYONAMITHRA KANDALA

11 years old • 5th grade

Keystone School • The Brauntex Performing Arts Theatre Association (New Braunfels, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Ajay has a black belt in karate, and he loves to argue.

### #206 AJAY REDDY GUNDLAPALLI

13 years old • 7th grade

Nimitz Middle School • Ector County Independent School District (Odessa, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Abdel-Malik is very active and loves to play soccer.

### #211 ABDEL-MALIK MURAD BAZZAR

10 years old • 5th grade

Ricardo Richards Elementary School • The Virgin Islands Daily News (St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands)



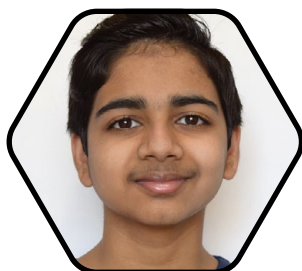
### FUN FACT

Luke has red hair, but nobody else in his immediate or extended family has red hair.

### #212 LUCAS K. JEPPESEN

14 years old • 8th grade

Albert R. Lyman Middle School • Southeast Education Service Center (Price, Utah)



### FUN FACT

Akash's favorite foods all start with the letter P: pizza, paneer, pasta, peanut chutney and perugu.

### #207 AKASH VUKOTI

14 years old • 8th grade

Homeschool • San Angelo Association of REALTORS (San Angelo, Texas)



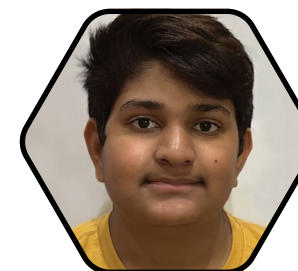
### FUN FACT

Lucas enjoys playing chess and solving the Rubik's Cube; one day, he hopes to be in a Rubik's Cube competition.

### #208 LUCAS YOXIN LEE

12 years old • 7th grade

Travis Middle School • Victoria Advocate (Victoria, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Surya's favorite movie series is "Lord of the Rings."

### #213 SURYA SAI KAPU

14 years old • 8th grade

American Preparatory Academy - Draper 3 • The City Journals (Salt Lake City, Utah)



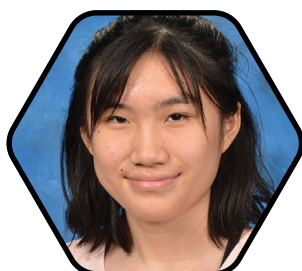
### FUN FACT

Elise has straddled the border between France and Switzerland, Switzerland and Italy, and Italy and France.

### #214 ELISE COURNOYER

14 years old • 8th grade

Camels Hump Middle School • VTDigger (Rutland, Vermont)



### FUN FACT

Gabriella began making birthday pop-up cards about two years ago from watching YouTube videos.

### #209 GABRIELLA EMILY CHIANG

14 years old • 8th grade

College Station Middle School • Rapoport Holdings, LLC (Waco, Texas)



### FUN FACT

Wes taught himself to solve a Rubik's Cube at the age of 10 by watching YouTube videos.

### #210 WES CANYON UNDERWOOD

13 years old • 8th grade

Samuel Guy Pinder All Age School • The Ministry of Education (Nassau, The Bahamas)



### FUN FACT

Ruby's favorite video game is Splatoon 3.

### #215 RUBY K. KADERA

13 years old • 8th grade

Kenmore Middle School • SNSB Region Two Bee (Arlington, Virginia)



### FUN FACT

Nathaniel loves to travel, and his favorite destination is to visit his family in Japan.

### #216 NATHANIEL HERSEY

13 years old • 8th grade

Virginia Virtual Academy • The Daily Progress and News Virginian (Charlottesville, Virginia)





**FUN FACT**

Kamsi speaks two languages: English and Igbo.

**#217 KAMSIYUCHUKWU P. EZUGWU**

11 years old • 6th grade  
O.T. Bonner Middle School • Big Brothers and Big Sisters (Danville, Virginia)



**FUN FACT**

Luke plays the piano, guitar, cello and ukelele; he has been playing the piano since the age of 5.

**#218 LUKE ANTHONY DIMASO**

14 years old • 8th grade  
St. William of York Catholic School • Central Rappahannock Regional Library (Fredericksburg, Virginia)

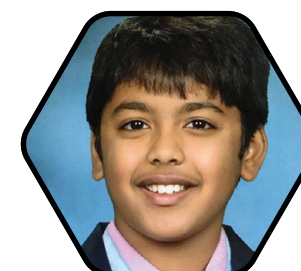


**FUN FACT**

Charlotte studied forensic science last summer at the University of South Carolina Master Scholars summer camp program.

**#223 CHARLOTTE H. WALSH**

14 years old • 8th grade  
Compass Homeschool Enrichment • Fairfax County Council PTA (Merrifield, Virginia)



**FUN FACT**

Rohith likes to learn new languages.

**#224 ROHITH V. KONDURI**

13 years old • 7th grade  
Norfolk Academy • WHRO Public Media (Norfolk, Virginia)



**FUN FACT**

Bryan was one of 15 winners in his age group nationally for NASA's "Power to Explore" essay challenge.

**#219 BRYAN DUONG MILSTEAD**

13 years old • 8th grade  
Skyline Middle School • Rockingham District Ruritans (Harrisonburg, Virginia)



**FUN FACT**

Oviya learned to solve the Rubik's Cube in second grade.

**#220 OVIYA AMALRAJ**

12 years old • 6th grade  
J. Michael Lunsford Middle School • Loudoun County Public Schools (Leesburg, Virginia)



**FUN FACT**

Joy-Den is teaching herself to speak French and to play the piano.

**#225 JOY-DEN DEVINE WILSON**

12 years old • 7th grade  
Central Middle School • Richmond Times-Dispatch (Richmond, Virginia)



**FUN FACT**

Eli speaks three languages: English, Hebrew and Greek.

**#226 ELI AGMON SIMUNDZA**

13 years old • 8th grade  
Blacksburg Middle School • The Roanoke Times (Roanoke, Virginia)



**FUN FACT**

Graham has always been passionate about monkeys, and he hopes to someday study them in the wild.

**#221 GRAHAM R. WOODRUFF**

14 years old • 8th grade  
Forest Middle School • The News & Advance (Lynchburg, Virginia)



**FUN FACT**

Siya is learning tae kwon do and is currently at purple-belt level.

**#222 SIYA A. SAMPATH**

9 years old • 4th grade  
J.W. Alvey Elementary School • InsideNoVa/Prince William (Manassas, Virginia)



**FUN FACT**

Sanchali participated in her school musical, "Xanadu Jr."

**#227 SANCHALI A. BOHACEK**

14 years old • 8th grade  
Lakeside School • Town Hall Seattle (Seattle, Washington)



**FUN FACT**

Madeline can solve a Rubik's Cube in two minutes or less.

**#228 MADELINE YVONNE FEINSTEIN**

13 years old • 8th grade  
Summersville Middle School • Charleston Gazette-Mail (Charleston, West Virginia)



### FUN FACT

Isaac loves video games, especially Minecraft, and hopes to attend college for engineering or coding.

### #229 ISAAC T. BOYCE

13 years old • 7th grade

Bridgeport Middle School • The Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram (Clarksburg, West Virginia)



### FUN FACT

In his free time, Aiden likes to solve various math puzzles such as sudoku and KenKen.

### #230 AIDEN DEVMINA

#### WIJEYAKULASURIYA

12 years old • 7th grade

Blessed Sacrament School • Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, Wisconsin)



### FUN FACT

Cooper watches documentaries for fun.

### #231 COOPER TATE SMITH

12 years old • 6 grade

Saratoga Middle/High School • Sweetwater County BOCES (Rock Springs, Wyoming)

