

February 2025

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio once said, "Don't wait around for someone else to tell your story. Do it yourself by whatever means necessary."

On February 21 and 22, Kentucky students from Murray to Morehead and Hebron to Hindman told their stories – and won trophies for doing so – at the 2025 State Junior Speech Tournament sponsored by the Kentucky High School Speech League. The contest was held in Lexington at Frederick Douglass High School.

The winners of seven regional contests held around Kentucky earlier this month faced off in three preliminary rounds of competition in twelve speech events. In each of these contests, the top twelve scoring entries in preliminary rounds advanced to compete in the State Semifinals, with the top six in each advancing to the State Finals; additionally, in the three largest events, twelve more entries were named Quarterfinalists and competed in an extra round before State Semifinals.

Lexington's School for the Creative and Performing Arts (SCAPA) won the state title with second place going to the Lexington School. Rowan County Middle placed third, followed by Calloway County Middle, Hindman Elementary School, Highlands Middle, Hebron Middle, Murray Middle, the June Buchanan School, and Kentucky Country Day School as the top ten schools.

Crittenden County Middle School won the Sustained Excellence Award given to teams for outstanding performances over time; their team total for this honor will reset to zero, and they will begin earning points toward this trophy again next year.

Additionally, Beechwood Middle School and LaRue County Middle School were honored as Schools of Distinction for outstanding performances in the state meet.

Hindman Elementary's Mary Allen Amburgey was voted Coach of the Year by the coach collective, and Lexington School 8<sup>th</sup> grader Ismail Khan received the Blyton Book Award, an annual honor given to an outstanding eighth grade student in honor of Gifford Blyton, longtime KHSSL Executive Director and debate coach at the University of Kentucky.

The speech season in Kentucky runs from October to January with 14 Regional Tournaments (Junior and Senior) held in February around the Commonwealth to qualify for State. Junior Division students compete in twelve speech and drama categories from Radio Broadcasting to Storytelling to Oratory.

KHSSL offers membership to all schools -- public, private, and homeschools -- serving students in grades 4-12 in Kentucky. With member schools from Paducah to Paintsville and from Boone County to Bowling Green, Kentucky's oldest student activity (since 1920) grows grit in Kentucky's kids and trains students how to conduct themselves in public settings, how to successfully communicate ideas, how to empathize with others via character analysis, how to read critically, and how to research properly with contests that encourage excellence. For more information browse to [www.khssl.org](http://www.khssl.org).

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*Award winners list attached including logo and team awards. For further information, contact KHSSL Executive Director Steve Meadows at [khssl@khssl.org](mailto:khssl@khssl.org) or 859-927-1100. He can also easily put you in touch with the coaches for local teams for stories, quotes, etc.*

**TEAM AWARDS:**

**TOP TEN TEAMS (TEAM SWEEPSTAKES):**

- 1 SCAPA, Bluegrass**
- 2 The Lexington School**
- 3 Rowan County Middle School**
- 4 Calloway County Middle School**
- 5 Hindman Elementary School**
- 6 Highlands Middle School**
- 7 Hebron Middle School**
- 8 Murray Middle School**
- 9 The June Buchanan School**
- 10 Kentucky Country Day School**

**SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION:**

**BEECHWOOD MIDDLE**

**SCHOOL**

**LARUE COUNTY MIDDLE**

**SCHOOL**

**BLYTON BOOK AWARD:**

**ISMAIL KHAN, THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL COACH OF THE YEAR:**

**MARY ALLEN AMBURGEY, HINDMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE AWARD (TRAVELING TROPHY):**

**CRITTENDEN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

# Broadcast Announcing

KHSSL JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

PI	Name	School
1	Ezra Anglin	The Lexington School
2	Lucy Shepherd	SCAPA, Bluegrass
3	Ayaan Rallapalli	Kentucky Country Day Middle School
4	Ellie Crawford	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5	Carlee Whitaker	East Perry Elementary
6	Calvin Harvey	The Lexington School
SF	King El-Amin	The Lexington School
SF	Brandon Mays	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Lydia Smith	Murray Middle School
SF	Conrad Smith	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Callaway Weinberg	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Jada Horton	Rowan County Middle School
QF	Liberty Fitch	Calloway County Middle School
QF	Bentley Allen	Hebron Middle School
QF	Peyton Claycomb	LaRue County MS
QF	Lana Carver	Rowan County Middle School
QF	Addison Short	Hindman Elementary School
QF	Robert Slone	Beechwood Middle School
QF	Lujain Saad	Kentucky Country Day Middle School
QF	Juhie Patel	LaRue County MS
QF	Tasha Durbin	Bardstown Middle School
QF	Kensley Hutson	Calloway County Middle School
QF	Paul Kissel	June Buchanan School
QF	Aristotle Brown	Burns Middle School

SF = STATE SEMIFINALISTS (TOP 12); QF = STATE QUARTERFINALISTS (TOP 24)

## Declamation

KHSSL JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

PI	Name	School
1	Magdalene Ezinma	Calloway County Middle School
2	Ezra Anglin	The Lexington School
3	Cason Hall	Rowan County Middle School
4	Lydia Smith	Murray Middle School
5	Kayla Kliever	Hebron Middle School
6	Lucy Shepherd	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Quincy Newbern	Paducah Middle School
SF	Emily Beck	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Bentley Allen	Hebron Middle School
SF	Kensley Hutson	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Nina Richards	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Brynna McClain	Rowan County Middle School

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## Dramatic Interpretation

KHSSL JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

<b>PI</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
1	Kallie Slone	June Buchanan School
2	Kate Roberts	Rowan County Middle School
3	Yunia Huffman	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Averie Collins	Hindman Elementary School
5	Alyssa Marino	SCAPA, Bluegrass
6	Graecen Fugate	East Perry Elementary
SF	Zan Burress	Hebron Middle School
SF	Patton Barlow- Fiero	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Brielle Shively	The Lexington School
SF	Lola Roberts	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Cylah Slone	Jones Fork Elementary
SF	Addison Short	Hindman Elementary School

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## Duo Acting

KHSSL JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

PI	Name	School
1	Windhorn & Gillispie	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Douglas & Owens	SCAPA, Bluegrass
3	Whitaker & Fugate	East Perry Elementary
4	Davis & Hack	LaRue County MS
5	Cornett & Wright	Rowan County Middle School
6	Isaac & Short	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Hair & Hair	Highlands Middle School
SF	Hutchens & Marino	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	El-Amin & Harvey	The Lexington School
SF	Foss & Black	Beechwood Middle School
SF	Dunnaway & Howland	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Bachman & Knott	Rowan County Middle School

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**Extemporaneous Speaking**

KHSSL JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

<b>PI</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
1	Ismail Khan	The Lexington School
2	Caitlyn Douglas	SCAPA, Bluegrass
3	Ayaan Rallapalli	Kentucky Country Day Middle School
4	Neya Sathya	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5	Hiram Mincey	Rowan County Middle School
6	Skyler Sorenson	Hebron Middle School
SF	Kate Roberts	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Jason Sung	The Lexington School
SF	Devanshi Shastri	Murray Middle School
SF	Lucas Sung	The Lexington School
SF	Zachary Maurmeier	Hebron Middle School
SF	Nina Richards	Rowan County Middle School

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## Humorous Interpretation

KHSSL JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

<b>PI</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
1	Jonathan Owens	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Robert Slone	Beechwood Middle School
3	Kaylee Waddell	Hindman Elementary School
4	Leah Gillispie	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5	Mallory Baldwin	Rowan County Middle School
6	Asher Kieffer	Murray Middle School
SF	Keaton Watts	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Maddie Roe	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Cat Bravo	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	King El-Amin	The Lexington School
SF	Sophia Noah	Highlands Middle School
SF	David Azeem	The Lexington School

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**Impromptu**

KHSSL JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

<b>PI</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
1	Neya Sathya	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Noor Badin	SCAPA, Bluegrass
3	Ismail Khan	The Lexington School
4	Lucas Sung	The Lexington School
5	Kate Roberts	Rowan County Middle School
6	Hayden Gilbert	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Lucy Shepherd	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Jason Sung	The Lexington School
SF	Devanshi Shastri	Murray Middle School
SF	Magdalene Ezinma	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Allyson Turner	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Levi Smith	Hebron Middle School

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# Improvisational Duo

KHSSL JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

PI	Name	School
1	Barlow-Fiero & Harris	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Bravo & Windhorn	SCAPA, Bluegrass
3	Luebbers & Noah	Highlands Middle School
4	Allen & Davis	LaRue County MS
5	Walter & Mercer	The Lexington School
6	Hack & Walsh	LaRue County MS
SF	Mabry & Watts	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Durbin & Hardaway	Bardstown Middle School
SF	Slone & Mullins	June Buchanan School
SF	Badin & Duan	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Khan & Harvey	The Lexington School
SF	Saad & Mayel	Kentucky Country Day Middle School
QF	Holliday & Holliday	Murray Middle School
QF	Dunnaway & Hill	Calloway County Middle School
QF	Baldwin & Wright	Rowan County Middle School
QF	Bowling & Bryant	Hebron Middle School
QF	Wyatt & Brasher	College View Middle School
QF	Cook & Maggard	Whitesburg Middle School
QF	Gilbert & Scott-Duncan	Calloway County Middle School
QF	Dikeos & Myers	Highlands Middle School
QF	Gregory & Hall	Rowan County Middle School
QF	Sorenson & Burress	Hebron Middle School
QF	Beverly & Sims	Hindman Elementary School
QF	Collins & Pigman	Hindman Elementary School

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## Original Oratory

KHSSL JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

<b>PI</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
1	Caitlyn Douglas	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Ezra Anglin	The Lexington School
3	Callaway Weinberg	Hindman Elementary School
4	Neya Sathya	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5	Magdalene Ezinma	Calloway County Middle School
6	Liberty Fitch	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Matthew Cornett	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Lucie McCaffrey	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Kosuke Morinaga	Kentucky Country Day Middle School
SF	Lily Knott	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Hiram Mincey	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Sylvia Beckers	Murray Middle School

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# Poetry

KHSSL JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

PI	Name	School
1	Henry Walter	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Kallie Slone	June Buchanan School
3	Katelyn Windhorn	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Hatto Mercer	The Lexington School
5	Lana Carver	Rowan County Middle School
6	Dezi Martinho	Hebron Middle School
SF	Meghan Scott-Duncan	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Allyson Turner	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Maliya Daniels	Highlands Middle School
SF	Liam Sweeney	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Susan Todd	Murray Middle School
SF	Payton Withrow	Beechwood Middle School
QF	Brielle Shively	The Lexington School
QF	Payton Hathorn	Burns Middle School
QF	Jasper Bunte	Beechwood Middle School
QF	Elizabeth Isaac	Hindman Elementary School
QF	McKenna Hopgood	Calloway County Middle School
QF	Celia Koch	Beechwood Middle School
QF	Ainsley Walsh	LaRue County MS
QF	Lainey Paul	Hebron Middle School
QF	Reece Gregory	Rowan County Middle School
QF	Alicia Lavaquerie	Murray Middle School
QF	Maggie Hair	Highlands Middle School
QF	Raegan Mullins	June Buchanan School

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**Prose**

KHSSL JUNIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

<b>PI</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
1	Ella Harris	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Alyssa Marino	SCAPA, Bluegrass
3	Carlee Whitaker	East Perry Elementary
4	Finley Mallory	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5	Philippa Bryant	Hebron Middle School
6	Jada Horton	Rowan County Middle School
SF	McKenna Hopgood	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Arlo Vance	Murray Middle School
SF	Alice Hair	Highlands Middle School
SF	Avery Black	Beechwood Middle School
SF	Cylah Slone	Jones Fork Elementary
SF	Lily Knott	Rowan County Middle School

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**Storytelling**

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

<b>PI</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
1	Carys Moore	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Andrew Dunnaway	Calloway County Middle School
3	Harper Luebbers	Highlands Middle School
4	Finley Mallory	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5-T	Clayton Fulton	Neon Middle
5-T	Maddie Roe	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Avery Hore	The Lexington School
SF	Elin Davis	Murray Middle School
SF	Amelia Mabry	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Baeleigh Switzer	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Zoe Dikeos	Highlands Middle School
SF	Callaway Weinberg	Hindman Elementary School

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Kentucky High School

**SPEECH**

**LEAGUE**

Kentucky High School

**SPEECH**

**LEAGUE**