

28 February 2024 (updated)

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

Nobel Peace Prize Winner Kailash Satyarthi, an Indian children's activist, once wrote that, "The power of youth is the common wealth for the entire world. The faces of young people are the faces of our past, our present and our future. No segment in society can match with the power, idealism, enthusiasm, and courage of young people." Kentucky students from Hindman to Fort Thomas to Murray and all parts in between raised their voices in competition at the annual Kentucky High School Speech League State Speech Tournament February 23-24 at the University of Kentucky; the future is brighter in the Commonwealth because of the common wealth we share – these young speakers and performers.

The winners of seven regional contests held 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 Rowan County Middle. Hebron Middle placed third, followed by Calloway County Middle, the Lexington School, Hindman Elementary, Highlands Middle, Beechwood Middle, Murray Middle, and Bardstown Middle.

SCAPA 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, Carr Creek Elementary, College View Middle, Emmalena Elementary, Kentucky Country Day, and LaRue County Middle were all honored as Schools of Distinction for outstanding performances in the state meet.

Hebron Middle's Woody Zorn was voted Coach of the Year by the coach collective for the third year in a row, and Calloway County Middle School's Faith McCafferty 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 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 to encourage excellence. For more information browse to www.khssl.org.

Award winners list attached including logo and team awards. For further information, contact KHSSL Executive Director Steve Meadows at 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 Rowan County Middle School**
- 3 Hebron Middle School**
- 4 Calloway County Middle School**
- 5 The Lexington School**
- 6 Hindman Elementary School**
- 7 Highlands Middle School**
- 8 Beechwood Middle School**
- 9 Murray Middle School**
- 10 Bardstown Middle School**

SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION:

CARR CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

COLLEGE VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

EMMALENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

KENTUCKY COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

LARUE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

BLYTON BOOK AWARD: FAITH MCCAFFERTY, CALLOWAY COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

COACH OF THE YEAR: WOODY ZORN, HEBRON MIDDLE SCHOOL

SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE AWARD (TRAVELING TROPHY): SCAPA

Broadcast Announcing

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Brandon Geary	Hebron Middle School
2	Caedmon Rossini	Highlands Middle School
2	Niva Patel	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Lucy Shepherd	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Carrie Mills	Murray Middle School Speech Team
6	Parker Morris	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Anthony Kehdy	Kentucky Country Day Middle School
SF	Simeon Beeken	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Brandon Mays	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Collin Naber	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Hattie Litton	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Lujain Saad	Kentucky Country Day Middle School
QF	Jaylah Lawhorn	Rowan County Middle School
QF	William Mooney	Beechwood Middle School
QF	Callaway Weinberg	Hindman Elementary School
QF	Kensley Hutson	Calloway County Middle School
QF	Henry Allen	LaRue County MS
QF	Kori Cecil	College View Middle School
QF	Joe Thompson	Bardstown Middle School
QF	Asher Gallagher	Kentucky Country Day Middle School
QF	Caleb Thornsberry	Beaver Creek Elementary
QF	Ainsley Walsh	LaRue County MS
QF	Caroline Tompkins	Murray Middle School Speech Team
QF	Ezra Anglin	The Lexington School

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

Declamation

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Angie Chen	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Jaylah Lawhorn	Rowan County Middle School
3	Debra Satterly	Hebron Middle School
4	Lucy Shepherd	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5	Mackenzie Counts	Beechwood Middle School
6	Chloe Kuebel	Beechwood Middle School
SF	Bentley Allen	Hebron Middle School
SF	Brynna McClain	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Lydia Smith	Murray Middle School Speech Team
SF	Carrie Mills	Murray Middle School Speech Team
SF	Emma Ahlers	Beechwood Middle School
SF	Harper Wells	SCAPA, Bluegrass

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Dramatic Interpretation

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Eden Potterton	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Haylee Miko	Rowan County Middle School
3	Kallie Slone	Hindman Elementary School
4	Lana Carver	Rowan County Middle School
4	Caitlyn Douglas	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5	Payton Siegrist	Beechwood Middle School
SF	Avery Shelton	Hebron Middle School
SF	Ellie Kimmel	Bardstown Middle School
SF	Faith McCafferty	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Lyla Holliday	Murray Middle School Speech Team
SF	Sophia Hutchens	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Lucy Holland	Rowan County Middle School

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Duo Acting

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Douglas & Owens	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Lawhorn & Miko	Rowan County Middle School
3	Combs & Turner	Hindman Elementary School
4	Beeken & Raybould	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Bruce & Morris	Calloway County Middle School
6	Carver & Hall	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Hair & Hair	Highlands Middle School
SF	Marino & Saturday	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Foss & Laskey	Beechwood Middle School
SF	Daniels & Stamates	Highlands Middle School
SF	Cornett & Mincey	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Haws & Moore	Calloway County Middle School

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Extemporaneous Speaking

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Ismail Khan	The Lexington School
2	Neya Sathya	SCAPA, Bluegrass
3	Wells Moore	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Jason Sung	The Lexington School
4	Prajna Pathak	Murray Middle School Speech Team
6	Gabi Lezcano	Hebron Middle School
SF	Zain Mardini	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Lucas Sung	The Lexington School
SF	Tyler Saalwaechter	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Lucy Holland	Rowan County Middle School
SF	John Barsamian	Hebron Middle School
SF	McKinley Marshall	Calloway County Middle School

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Humorous Interpretation

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Alex Slone	Beechwood Middle School
2	Kaylee Waddell	Hindman Elementary School
3	Clara Raybould	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Debra Satterly	Hebron Middle School
4	Leah Gillispie	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5	Cat Bravo	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	King El-Amin	The Lexington School
SF	Brandon Mays	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Kate Roberts	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Hattie Litton	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Sophia Noah	Highlands Middle School
SF	Emma Lanier	Calloway County Middle School

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Impromptu

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Wells Moore	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Hayden Gilbert	Calloway County Middle School
3	James Owen Taylor	Highlands Middle School
4	Simeon Beeken	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Ismail Khan	The Lexington School
6	Levi Smith	Hebron Middle School
SF	Alyssa Slone	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Zain Mardini	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	Ezra Anglin	The Lexington School
SF	Astyn Combs	Hindman Elementary School
SF	John Barsamian	Hebron Middle School
SF	Lucas Sung	The Lexington School

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Improvisational Duo

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Barlow-Fiero & Harris	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Frantz & Compton	Hebron Middle School
3	Walter & Moore	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Badin & Duan	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5	Cecil & Easley	College View Middle School
6	Khan & Harvey	The Lexington School
SF	Geary & Morris	Hebron Middle School
SF	Dawson & Whitlock	The Lexington School
SF	Taylor & Smith	Highlands Middle School
SF	Isaac & Weinberg	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Bryant & Shingleton	Hebron Middle School
SF	Baldwin & Watts	Rowan County Middle School
QF	Luebbers & Noah	Highlands Middle School
QF	Allen & Davis	LaRue County MS
QF	Hack & Walsh	LaRue County MS
QF	Royals & Wright	Highlands Latin School
QF	Holliday & Vance	Murray Middle School Speech Team
QF	Mincey & Roberts	Rowan County Middle School
QF	Haws & Moore	Calloway County Middle School
QF	Lanier & Scott-Duncan	Calloway County Middle School
QF	Goff & Herslip	Beaver Creek Elementary
QF	Collins & Turner	Hindman Elementary School
QF	Barton & Doerge	The Lexington School
QF	Myers & Killebrew	Highlands Middle School

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Original Oratory

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Niko Heidinger	Kentucky Country Day Middle School
2	Neya Sathya	SCAPA, Bluegrass
3	Caitlyn Douglas	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Wells Moore	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5	Kate Roberts	Rowan County Middle School
6	Liberty Fitch	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Haylee Miko	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Tyler Saalwaechter	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Hayden Gilbert	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Stacia Marcione	Rowan County Middle School
SF	Prajna Pathak	Murray Middle School Speech Team
SF	Zachary Maurmeier	Hebron Middle School

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Poetry

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Layla Del Angel	Bardstown Middle School
2	Eden Potterton	SCAPA, Bluegrass
3	Angie Chen	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Madison Callahan	Hebron Middle School
5	Avery Shelton	Hebron Middle School
6	Ellie Kimmel	Bardstown Middle School
SF	Madeline Dawson	The Lexington School
SF	Hina Saylor	SCAPA, Bluegrass
SF	James Owen Taylor	Highlands Middle School
SF	Maggie Hair	Highlands Middle School
SF	Piper Lang	Highlands Middle School
SF	McKenna Hopgood	Calloway County Middle School

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Prose

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Niva Patel	SCAPA, Bluegrass
2	Lana Carver	Rowan County Middle School
3	Ella Harris	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Alyssa Marino	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Keaton Watts	Rowan County Middle School
6	Abigail Smith	Hebron Middle School
SF	Ethan Campbell	The Lexington School
SF	Zelda DeYeso-Danz	Murray Middle School Speech Team
SF	Cylah Slone	Jones Fork Elementary
SF	Lyla Holliday	Murray Middle School Speech Team
SF	Isabella Herslip	Beaver Creek Elementary
SF	Cambre Sims	Hindman Elementary School
QF	Madison Callahan	Hebron Middle School
QF	Maddie Kirkland	Beechwood Middle School
QF	Leah Hughes	Calloway County Middle School
QF	Kadalyn Cornett	Carr Creek Elementary
QF	Ainsley Walsh	LaRue County MS
QF	Carmen Sanchez	The Lexington School
QF	Emma Ahlers	Beechwood Middle School
QF	Brenley Collins	Hindman Elementary School
QF	Jaylinn Davidson	Beaver Creek Elementary
QF	Kesha Gayheart	Beaver Creek Elementary
QF	Kinzleigh Hack	LaRue County MS
QF	Emma Workman	Rowan County Middle School

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Storytelling

KHSSL JUNIOR State Speech Tournament

PI	Name	School
1	Faith McCafferty	Calloway County Middle School
2	Clara Raybould	SCAPA, Bluegrass
3	Katelyn Windhorn	SCAPA, Bluegrass
4	Cat Bravo	SCAPA, Bluegrass
5	Hattie Litton	Rowan County Middle School
6	Harper Luebbers	Highlands Middle School
SF	Callaway Weinberg	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Willow Howland	Calloway County Middle School
SF	Clayton Fulton	Neon Middle
SF	Averie Collins	Hindman Elementary School
SF	Katie Easley	College View Middle School
SF	Tinsley Mosley	Emmalena Elementary

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Kentucky High School

S P E E H

LEAGUE