**29 FEBRUARY 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**LEXINGTON:** The Kentucky High School Speech League (KHSSL) held its annual Junior State Speech tournament on the campus of the University of Kentucky February 28-29 . Students in grades 4-8 from Paducah to Pippa Passes competed in twelve speech categories for State honors after advancing from seven Regional tournaments held around the Commonwealth in February. The tournament is the first of three state contests sponsored by KHSSL, which is celebrating its 100th state events this year after first sponsoring a statewide debate in 1921 with speech events added the year after. The State Debate tournament is March 11-12 with the State Senior Speech tournament March 13-14 – both at the University of Louisville.

Lexington’s School for the Creative and Performing Arts (SCAPA) won the overall contest, its twenty-third straight win, taking six of the twelve state titles. Hindman Elementary was second, followed by Bardstown Middle, Kentucky Country Day Middle, Calloway County Middle, Beechwood Middle, Gray Middle, Turkey Foot Middle, Fleming-Neon Middle, and Carr Creek Elementary in the top ten. Kentucky Country Day was recognized for Sustained Excellence over time with one year’s custody of the Traveling Trophy. Horizon Awards for up-and-coming smaller teams were presented to Bowling Green Junior High, Hazard Middle, Highlands Middle, LaRue County Middle, and Robinson Elementary.

Bardstown Middle School’s Amy Roblero Perez received the Blyton Book Award, named for past KHSSL Director and University of Kentucky debate coach Gifford Blyton, in recognition for her outstanding contributions to speech, debate, and drama in her home school and across the state. Additionally, Mary Allen of Hindman Elementary was voted the Coach of the Year after being nominated from the Upper Kentucky River Region.

Students in the Junior State Speech tournament competed in three preliminary rounds Friday with the top eighteen in each event advancing to the State Semifinals Saturday morning. After another round of contests before panels of judges, six Finalists were named in each event. Those six Finalists competed again for a new panel of judges with state award winners named from the results of the Final round.

The State Finalists are listed on the next pages. For further information, please contact Executive Director Steve Meadows (contact information below) and browse to our website.

###

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BROADCASTING** | **DECLAMATION** | **DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION** | **DUO ACTING** |
| 1st Kennedy Faulconer,Bardstown Middle | 1st Maddie Andreatta,SCAPA | 1st Cameron Combs, Hindman Elementary | 1st Cameron Combs & Tyson Smith,Hindman Elementary |
| 2nd Holly Taylor,SCAPA | 2nd Kaden Stone, Bardstown Middle | 2nd Mary Gibson,Jones Fork Elementary | 2nd Anna Curry &Owen Scott,SCAPA |
| 3rd Samantha Miculinich, SCAPA | 3rd Minhal Nazeer, Kentucky Country Day | 3rd Garrett Milby,East Hardin Middle | 3rd Seth Dossa &Ronan Duke,Turkey Foot Middle |
| 4th Kennedi Combs, Hindman Elementary | 4th Amy Roblero Perez,Bardstown Middle | 4th Melody Daniels, SCAPA | 4th Eloise Logsdon & Annelise Brown,SCAPA |
| 5th Garrett Milby,East Hardin Middle | 5th Slone Smith,Carr Creek Elementary | 5th Rebekah McAuley, Fleming-Neon Middle | 5th Mason Franklin & Addison Conley,Hindman Elementary |
| 6th Robert Grigsby, Hindman Elementary | 6th Kyla Raglin,Letcher Middle | 6th Seleen Maya, Kentucky Country Day | 6th Ellie Miller &Molly Sandlin, Hindman Elementary |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING** | **HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION** | **IMPROMPTU SPEAKING** | **IMPROVISATIONAL DUO** |
| 1st Maddie Andreatta, SCAPA | 1st Sylvia Wessel, Beechwood Middle | 1st Sophie Watson, SCAPA | 1st Bei Bei Sheng & Nina Tay, SCAPA |
| 2nd Sawyer Noe, Hindman Elementary | 2nd Cameron Combs, Hindman Elementary | 2nd Sawyer Noe,Hindman Elementary | 2nd Owen Scott &Evan Riegert,SCAPA |
| 3rd Sara Nath,Gray Middle | 3rd Aina Marti,SCAPA | 3rd Louis Schlosser, Beechwood Middle | 3rd Quinn Hall &Rowan Hall,Kentucky Country Day |
| 4th Maya Nair,Gray Middle | 4th Brooklyn Smith, Calloway County Middle | 4th Prat Bhave,Gray Middle | 4th Allie Bailey &Scarlett Stamper,Fleming-Neon Middle |
| 5th Molly Sandlin,Hindman Elementary | 5th Katherine Worrell, SCAPA | 5th Maddie Andreatta, SCAPA | 5th Braden Smith & Hunter Smith, Hindman Elementary |
| 6th Prat Bhave,Gray Middle | 6th Braely Kersy,East Perry Elementary | 6th Carson Sims,Hindman Elementary | 6th Christian Banks & Slone Smith,Carr Creek Elementary |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ORIGINAL ORATORY** | **POETRY** | **PROSE** | **STORYTELLING** |
| 1st Samantha Miculinich, SCAPA | 1st Kaden Stone,Bardstown Middle | 1st Robert Grigsby,Hindman Elementary | 1st Aina Marti, SCAPA |
| 2nd Amy Roblero Perez, Bardstown Middle | 2nd Amy Roblero Perez, Bardstown Middle | 2nd Minhal Nazeer, Kentucky Country Day | 2nd Ava Slone,Hindman Elementary |
| 3rd Louis Schlosser, Beechwood Middle | 3rd Seleen Maya, Kentucky Country Day | 3rd Naya Singal, Kentucky Country Day | 3rd Gracie Stewart, Fleming-Neon Middle |
| 4th Kennedy Faulconer, Bardstown Middle | 4th Kennedi Combs, Hindman Elementary | 4th Sophie Watson, SCAPA | 4th Leyton Morris, Paducah Middle |
| 5th Ian McNair,Gray Middle | 5th Lily Woolley, SCAPA | 5th Lila Hayden, Kentucky Country Day | 5th Evelyn Hruby, SCAPA |
| 6th Katie VonderHaar,Kentucky Country Day | 6th Benjamin Gollar, Beechwood Middle | 6th Kelsie Huff,Carr Creek Elementary | 6th Benjamin Gollar, Beechwood Middle |