

Monday, March 9, 2026

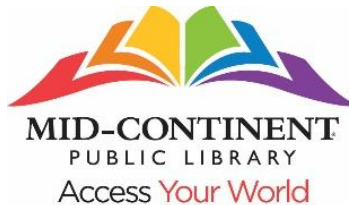
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Local Students Compete in MCPL Spelling Bee, 6th Grader Wins

MCPL Regional Finals Spelling Bee Winner Advances to National Bee in D.C.

Independence, MO – On Saturday, March 7, Mid-Continent Public Library hosted 39 students from around the metro who competed for the title of regional spelling bee champion. Held at MCPL’s Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, local 6th grader Beckett Griffin emerged as the winner of the Mid-Continent Public Library Regional Finals Spelling Bee.

The Bernard Campbell Middle School student outlasted the 38 other talented spellers during 18 rounds of intense competition, clinching the win with the final word: “bungalow.” This win makes Beckett a two-time champion, having taken the title last year as well. She will go on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. in May.

“This is the 14th year we’ve hosted the bee, and it never ceases to amaze me how smart and prepared these kids are,” said MCPL Reader Engagement Assistant Manager Mariah Hone, whose team organizes the bee. “Their knowledge and dedication are truly impressive, and as a library, we’re proud to support them as they take their literacy skills and vocabularies to the next level!”

Saturday’s competition was a single-elimination competition, meaning that if a participant misspelled one word, they were no longer be in the running. The spellers were evaluated by a panel of judges, and Charlie Keegan from Kansas City’s KSHB 41 News, served as this year’s Bee pronouncer.

In addition to hosting the regional bee, which qualifies a speller for the Scripps National Spelling Bee, MCPL will cover travel expenses for both the student and their parent or guardian, to attend nationals in Washington, D.C. Other family and community members can watch the Scripps National Bee, which will be broadcast.

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Founded in 1965, [Mid-Continent Public Library](#) is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 34 branches and serving nearly 880,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. MCPL is

an award-winning library system that strives to enrich citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. Connect with the Library on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).