KENOSHA, Wis. (Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015) – Kenosha Unified School District students won the top three places at the CESA #1 Regional Spelling Bee on Feb. 20 at the CESA #1 offices in Pewaukee, Wis.

Nash Elementary School fifth-grader Hanna Ghouse, who took second place at the second annual KUSD Elementary Spelling Bee in January, competed against both elementary and middle school students for the regional title. Her first-place accomplishment also qualified her to compete at the Badger State Spelling Bee.

Washington Middle School seventh-grader Maryrose Waller also competed to the end and was not eliminated until the 17th round, taking second place overall in the CESA #1 Regional Spelling Bee. In addition, Lance Middle School sixth-grader Kalei Martin finished in third place after being eliminated in the 11th round.

Other KUSD students competing at regionals included Washington Middle School sixth-grader Sam Strash and KTEC-East fifth-grader Sam Arnold, who were eliminated in the ninth round; KTEC-West fifth-grader Jethro “Jet” Steinke, who was eliminated in the eighth round; Mahone Middle School seventh-grader Nayef Hamdan, who was eliminated in the sixth round; Lance Middle School eighth-grader Deena Alsabbah and Stocker third-grader Matthew Torresin, who were eliminated in the fifth round; Roosevelt fourth-grader Bella Wulterkens, who was eliminated in the fourth round; and Jeffery fourth-grader Marisa Heinzen, who was eliminated in the third round.

The Badger State Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, March 28, at Madison Area Technical College’s Mitby Theater in Madison. The top three finishers at the state spelling bee will represent Wisconsin at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in May.

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Kenosha Unified School District’s (KUSD) mission is to assure every child experiences high quality, personalized learning success. KUSD is the third largest public school district in Wisconsin, serving nearly 23,000 students. The district, created in 1967, includes the city of Kenosha, village of Pleasant Prairie and town of Somers. The district is lead by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis. The district’s board of education has seven elected officials.