STUDENTS ADVANCE TO REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

KENOSHA, Wis. (Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015) – Six middle school students will advance to the regional spelling bee after qualifying as finalists during Kenosha Unified School District’s 38th Annual Middle School Spelling Bee on Monday (Jan. 26) at Indian Trail High School and Academy.

The best spellers from KTEC, Bullen, Lance, Lincoln, Mahone and Washington middle schools participated in the bee. The top six winners from Monday’s competition – Deena Alsabbah (Lance, eighth grade), Nayef Hamdan (Mahone, seventh grade), Sam Strash (Washington, seventh grade), Kalei Martin (Lance, sixth grade), Maryrose Waller (Washington, seventh grade) and Mia Torres (Washington, seventh grade) – will advance to the regional spelling bee at CESA #1 in Pewaukee on Friday, Feb. 20.

Middle school alternates are seventh-place winner Sterling Oliver (Bullen, sixth grade), eighth-place winner Evelin Galvan (Bullen, seventh grade) and ninth-place winner Katie Riese (Lance, seventh grade).

Six finalists from the Jan. 19 KUSD Elementary School Spelling Bee – first-place winner Jethro “Jet” Stienke (KTEC-West, fifth grade), second-place winner Hanna Ghouse (Nash, fifth grade), third-place winner Sam Arnold (KTEC-East, fifth grade), fourth-place winner Bella Wulterkens (Roosevelt, fourth grade), fifth-place winner Matthew Torresin (Stocker, third grade) and sixth-place winner Marisa Heinzen (Jeffery, fourth grade) – also will compete in the regional spelling bee.

In addition to spelling, the regional competition will include two vocabulary rounds, which will require students to understand the definitions of the spelling words they have studied.

The champion from each of the five regional bees will advance to the Badger State Spelling Bee in Madison on Saturday, March 28. Then, 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.