
News Release

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Media Contact: Mari Irby
601-432-6286 | mari.irby@mpbonline.org

Mississippi's Top Spellers Compete March 15 Live on MPB TV

JACKSON, Miss. – Mississippi Public Broadcasting will broadcast the 2011 Mississippi Statewide Spelling Bee live on Tuesday, March 15 at 10 a.m. Twenty nine students from across the state will compete in the event.

Spelling Bee finalist and Copiah Academy sixth grader Emily Claire Coates said, “The fact that the event is televised makes me nervous and exhilarated at the same time.” Coates is the daughter of Henry and Brandi Coates of Hazlehurst, Miss.

“Mississippi Public Broadcasting is pleased to broadcast the Statewide Spelling Bee again this year,” states MPB Acting Executive Director Jay Woods. “Our statewide network is the perfect platform to promote Mississippi’s exceptional students and their dedication to learning.”

Michael Rubenstein, Executive Director of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame & Museum, will pronounce the competition again this year.

The event is sponsored by Mississippi Association of Educators (MAE). “The Mississippi Association has been honored to sponsor this event for the past three years and working with Mississippi Public Broadcasting has been an enormous benefit as well,” says Kevin F. Gilbert, President of MAE. “Once again, we are excited to showcase the scholastic talents of some of Mississippi’s most extraordinary students.”

According to the E. W. Scripps Company, which administers the National Spelling Bee program, the spelling bee is open to students who have neither turned 16 nor passed beyond the eighth grade and who currently attend schools that officially enrolled with the spelling bee program for the current academic year. A complete list of rules can be found at www.spellingbee.com.

MAE will provide the winner with a cash award toward expenses to compete in the 84th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., June 1-2, 2011.

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Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) provides relevant instructional and public affairs programming to Mississippians through its statewide television and radio network. MPB enhances the work of educators, students, parents and learners of all ages by providing informative programming and educational resources. MPB’s locally-produced programming focuses on the people, resources and attractions that reflect Mississippi’s unique culture and diverse heritage. Children’s television programs constitute a major portion of the daytime and weekend morning schedules. MPB provides a valuable resource to Mississippians in disseminating information as part of the state’s emergency preparedness and response system. Since 1970, MPB has won over 350 national, regional and statewide awards, including Emmy®, Edward R. Murrow and Parents’ Choice® Awards.