



**Celeste Land Wins HPS 2012 Spelling Bee!**

## **Northview Middle Student WINS Hickory Spelling Bee!**

Celeste Land, a sixth grade student at Northview Middle School, won the 2012 Spelling Bee for Hickory Public Schools on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>!

Celeste, 11 years old, competed against student winners representing third through eighth grade at their respective schools. The contest took place in the auditorium of Northview Middle School—which was filled with parents, siblings, teachers and other community supporters.

The daughter of Michael and Menaka Land, Celeste says that she put in only two nights worth of studying—but made sure she felt confident with the 200-word practice list.

Celeste shares that her love of reading is what helped her to win. “I read at least two books per week,” she said. Her favorite book is *House Rules* by Jodi Picoult, who also happens to be her favorite author. Celeste’s winning word was “dilemma,” a word that she says is used frequently in several of her favorite novels. A love for reading will certainly come in handy for Celeste, since she aspires to become a defense attorney in criminal law.

Celeste will now begin to study her spelling more intensely—as she prepares for the regional spelling bee scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup> in Charlotte. Thirty students will compete for the win. If she wins that contest, she will be awarded an “all-expense paid” trip to Washington, D.C. for another spelling bee.

Other school winners who participated in the district’s spelling bee 2012 finals include:

**Jenkins Elementary: Benjamin Moore, Paige Starnes, Bryce Stober**  
**Southwest Elementary: Jaqueline Galan-Rodriguez, McKenzie Jones, Stacey Pope**  
**Longview Elementary: Kaitlyn Dang, Noah Griffin, Nicholas Stewart**  
**Viewmont Elementary: Reed Bass, Axavier Byrd II, Nicholas Nelson**  
**Oakwood Elementary: Owen Bolick, Claire Hutto, Colby Shepler**  
**Grandview Middle: Daniel Arguello, Brandon Lee, Sophie Sauer**  
**Northview Middle: Tyler Cochran, Celeste Land, Jane L’Amoreaux**

The event welcome and introductions were provided by Janie Sigmon, HPS interim director of curriculum and instruction. The Hickory High School JROTC presented the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance.

The Spelling Bee pronouncer was Anne Williams, director of resource development at CVCC. The Spelling Bee judges included: Lamar Mitchell, director of Education Matters, Meg Sandner, children’s librarian/Patrick Beaver Library; and Amanda Graham, English instructor with Hickory Career and Arts Magnet High School.

**Congratulations to all student participants—as they are all winners for each of their schools—and a special congratulations to Celeste Land, the 2012 Spelling Bee winner for Hickory Public Schools!**





**(L-R): Meg Sandner, Amanda Graham, Celeste Land (winner), Janie Sigmon, Anne Williams, and Lamar Mitchell.**



**HHS JROTC**