



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA ALERT – Tuesday, May 18, 2021
Fargo Public School District #1

SPELLING BEE TRADITION EXPANDS AT CLARA BARTON HAWTHORNE

The event expansion allows for students to get an earlier start to the spelling bee process and put their skills to the test.

WHAT: Clara Barton Hawthorne Spelling Bee
WHEN: Thursday, **May 20 at 1:15 p.m.** at Hawthorne
Monday, **May 24 at 10:00 a.m.** at Clara Barton
CONTACT: **Anna Wuitschick**, Clara Barton Hawthorne Elementary Gifted and Talented Teacher, 701.446.4513, or email wuitsca@fargo.k12.nd.us for more information.

In the age of autocorrect and spellcheck, Clara Barton Hawthorne Elementary School is putting an extra emphasis on language arts by expanding its spelling bee competition to younger students. Kindergarten through grade two students at Hawthorne will have their first chance on May 20 to impress their teachers and friends with their spelling abilities. Third through fifth grade students at Clara Barton will continue their annual spelling bee tradition on May 24.

Students at Clara Barton Hawthorne have already been given a list of words to study that vary based off their grade level. Everyone will start out with a written exam, and the top 25 spellers will move on to the oral round. This will be done in a relaxed setting with a limited audience to aid performance and decrease stress for competitors. Only judges, the announcer, and competitors will be allowed in the room. The top speller at Clara Barton will receive a trophy, while second through fifth place will receive medals. At Hawthorne, the top three competitors will all receive medals. Champion spellers normally move on to county and state competitions, however, those were canceled this year due to COVID-19. Expanding the event to younger students allows them to get more practice in a spelling bee setting before they become eligible for state competitions.

Media members are invited to attend these spelling bee events. All visitors must wear a mask.

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