



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: April 25, 2022

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Three BCPS students selected to compete in National Civics Bee

Participating students represent Franklin Middle School and the Northwest Academy of Health Sciences

TOWSON, Md. – Three of Maryland’s 10 middle school student finalists to compete in the upcoming National Civics Bee are Baltimore County Public Schools students.

These students are:

- Michael Atika, Franklin Middle School, Grade 8
- Oluwanifemi Afolabi, Franklin Middle School, Grade 7
- Rayn Mohammed, Northwest Academy of Health Sciences, Grade 7

The [Maryland Chamber Foundation](#) selected the finalists from among 101 student entries from across the state. In their initial entries, students were challenged to write 500-word civics-themed essays. The finalists will compete in the National Civics Bee on Saturday, May 7, at Bowie State University. The final round of the competition will test the students’ civics knowledge in a live quiz-style event. Clarence Crawford, president of the Maryland State Board of Education will present a keynote address at the event.

The launch of the 2022 National Civics Bee in Maryland was announced in February by the Maryland Chamber Foundation. The National Civics Bee, organized by [The Civic Trust](#) of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, is designed to encourage more young Americans to become civically active and better informed. The competition is sponsored in Maryland by Amazon.

In a news release about the event, Whitney Harmel, executive director of the Maryland Chamber Foundation and executive vice president of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, said, “We are thrilled to bring the National Civics Bee to Maryland and to give our students the opportunity to learn how to productively engage in our democracy because sparking an interest in civics in the next generation is critical for a prosperous, unified Maryland in the long-term. We were impressed by the caliber of essays we received from students in 47 ZIP codes across our state on important public issues in their communities and are honored to have such an esteemed panel of judges joining us for the competition to test their knowledge. It will be a very memorable day for us all.”

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation’s 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).