



# Loudoun County Public Schools Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 22, 2024

**ASHBURN, Va.** - Oviya Amalraj, a J. Michael Lunsford Middle School student, won the 42nd Annual LCPS Regional Spelling Bee on March 21, 2024. Amalraj, a 7th grader, won the competition for the second year in a row by correctly spelling Sufi, a NOUN that means an ascetic Muslim mystic. The spelling bee lasted 14 rounds before Amalraj took the competition over Arnav Bhaharth Kumar, a 6th grader at Mercer Middle School.

Amalraj now moves on to the 97th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will occur at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, from May 26 to May 30. Spellers from across the country and world will compete on national television. Students will get the opportunity to participate and win grand prizes and gain significant recognition for their skills. The purpose of the spelling bee is to improve spelling skills, build students' vocabularies and promote proper usage of the English language.

“We are proud of all spelling bee participants and congratulate them on their achievement,” said Dr. Aaron Spence, LCPS Superintendent. “We also thank their families, teachers and friends for their support of these amazing spellers as they embody LCPS’ commitment to academic excellence.”

To learn more about the LCPS Regional Spelling Bee, visit [lcps.org/spelling](https://lcps.org/spelling). For information about the Scripps National Spelling Bee, [visit their website](#).

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