



Muscofee County School District

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NEWS RELEASE

Hardaway Student to Compete at State Level Poetry Out Loud Finals



(Columbus, GA)-Jeremiah Alexander Russ II will represent Hardaway High School at the Poetry Out Loud state finals March 20, 2011, in Atlanta. Russ, a sophomore, is one of three finalists from the regional contest held in Perry, Georgia in February. If he wins the state competition, he will receive \$500 and an all expense paid trip to compete in the national competition in late April 2011, where \$50,000 in awards will be given away to the top winners.

The Poetry Out Loud (POL) national poetry recitation competition is an innovative program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance of the written word. It incorporates the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into English and drama class. POL began in 2005 and helps students improve public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn great poetry in literature.

In partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and Georgia Council for the Arts, The Literary Center at the Margaret Mitchell House administers POL for the state of Georgia.

For more information, visit www.poetryoutloud.org, or call Kathy Honea, (706) 748-2766.