

FMS's Estey feels good about 'B'

Seventh-grader going to second straight geography bee

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COVENTRY – Ethan Estey, a seventh-grader at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School, is taking his geography knowledge to the top.

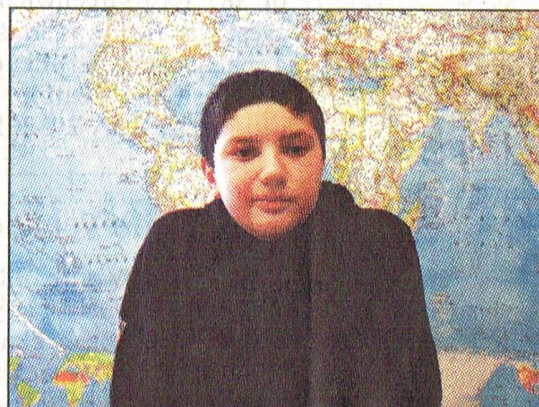
Estey, who won the school competition last year only to move on to states and see his quest end there, is going for the championship for a second time. If he wins that, then he'll compete at the national level on May 11.

The Geography Bee is sponsored by National Geographic and takes place once a year.

Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society.

The contest is designed to inspire students to be curious about the

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Submitted photo

Ethan Estey, seventh-grader at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School, will be going to the Geography B state championship

Estey excited for geography bee

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world. Schools with students in grades 4 through 8 are eligible for this entertaining and challenging competition.

Now, everyone is preparing for the upcoming State Geo Bee on March 27 in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Rhode Island's will be held at Rhode Island College.

"Last year I didn't go to the states but this year I'm going to try for the top 10 final round of the states," said Estey, who has been taking online quizzes and preparing through his World History class.

Ted Mitchell, the curriculum coordinator, said Estey might be downplaying his achievement, but behind closed doors he's very excited and said to his friends he can talk of nothing else.

"He's all over it. He's eating, breathing and being geography," Mitchell said.

"Last year he was the first sixth grader to win the school competition and to have the same student win that again is awesome," Mitchell said. "We don't teach geography here but geography is embedded in our curriculum for World History and he just gets his hands on whatever he can and he did exceptionally well in the school competition — and the questions aren't all that easy."

The National Competition of the Geo Bee will begin May 11 at the National Geographic Society's headquarters in Washington, D.C. Contested over three days, it will be televised on May 15 at 8:00 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel and NG Wild.

According to National Geographic, "The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for this entertaining and challenging test of geographic knowledge."

The process began in September 2014, when registration for the National Geographic Bee (Nat Geo Bee) began online.

A minimum of six students from the eligible grade levels must participate in the school competition in order for the school champion to be eligible to qualify for the state competition.

The champion from each state is invited to compete in the Nat Geo Bee National Championship in Washington, D.C., May 11-13, 2015.