

Spelling Bee Guidelines

Please read through these with your child so they are familiar with the guidelines that will be followed.

1. Spellers will be competing with others in their own age group.
2. We will begin with Grade 1 and work upward.
3. All spellers at each grade level will be in a line and given words one at a time. The speller should step forward for his or her turn.
4. The pronouncer will give the speller a word, the speller will be encouraged to pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it. However, no speller will be eliminated for failing to pronounce a word.
5. The speller may request the pronouncer to pronounce the word again, define it, or use it in a sentence. The speller may ask for the language origin of a word. No other information about the etymology or history of a word will be given. If the speller has a specific root word in mind, the speller may ask if the dictionary lists that word as the root of the word to be spelled. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller. The judges may disqualify any speller who ignores a request to start spelling.
6. Having started to spell a word, a speller may not stop and start over. Each letter repeated will be considered a continuation of that spelling; i.e.: the word cat, “c-a c-a-t” this would be counted as an incorrect spelling.) *This may not be enforced for younger grades.*
7. The spelling bee shall be conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in the round, except as provided in Rule 8.
8. Upon missing the spelling of a word, a speller immediately drops out of the spelling bee, except as provided in rule. 9. The next word on the pronouncer’s list is given to the next speller.
9. If none of the contestants remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during the round, all shall remain in the spelling bee.
10. If only one of the contestants remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during the round, the speller shall be given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list. If the speller succeeds in correctly spelling the new word the speller shall be declared the champion. Otherwise, all the contestants remaining in the spelling bee at the start of the round shall remain in the spelling bee. A new round begins, with all the contestants spelling in their original order.