

Academic SPELLING BEE

Student Eligibility

Elementary	Junior High	Senior High
1 student (4 th)	2 student	2 students
1 student (5 th)		
1 student (6 th)		

Specific Rules

1. All contestants must be present at the beginning of competition to compete. Competition will begin on time.
2. Spelling will be conducted in a traditional spelling bee fashion. A contestant will be eliminated upon his first error.
3. ***Words will be taken each year from the official Merriam – Webster’s Spell It! lists, which can be found online. The following will be the lists each year.***
Junior and Senior High: French, Latin, German, Dutch, Greek, Italian, and Spanish
Elementary: Words You Need to Know, Old English, and New World Languages
4. Spelling Bee Procedures:
 - a. All contestants will stand, forming a single line facing the Spelling Master.
 - b. Words will be given to contestants from left to right.
 - c. Words will be chosen from the official Spelling Bee word list. After words from the official Spelling Bee list have been exhausted, additional words may be used from previous competitions.
 - d. Pronunciation will be according to the diacritical markings in the dictionary used by the judges.
 - e. With the approval of the judges, the Spelling Master may give a more detailed explanation of the meaning of a word to supplement the dictionary definition(s) quoted.
 - f. Before spelling the word, the contestant may first write the word.
 - g. During competition, after the Spelling Master gives the contestant a word, the contestant may also pronounce the word before spelling it.

- h. The contestant may request the Spelling Master to re-pronounce the word, define it, give its part of speech, or use it in a sentence. The Spelling Master will grant the requests until the judges agree that the word has been made clear to the contestant who ignores a request to begin spelling.
- i. The contestant will have exactly fifteen seconds to spell the word.
 - 1) Timing will begin at the contestants repeating of the word, at his writing the word, or at the commencement of the spelling of the word.
 - 2) If the contestant wishes clarification or further definition, to prevent the starting of the clock, he will signify his request by saying, "Request a clarification, please," or "Request another clarification, please."
- j. Having begun to spell a word, a contestant may stop and begin again, retracing the spelling from the beginning ; but in retracing there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first spelled. If the letters or their sequence is changed in the re-spelling, the speller will be declared in error.
- k. When the contestants have been reduced to two, the procedures change. At that point, when one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant will be given the opportunity to spell that same word. If the second contestant spells that word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncer's list, he will be declared the champion.
- l. If both of the remaining two spellers misspell the same word, both continue in the bee. The misspelled word's correct spelling will be announced by the Spelling Master, and the bee will continue with the giving of the next word to the one who erred first on the prior word.
- m. Any question relating to the spelling of a word will be referred to the judges immediately. The deadline for lodging a protest will be before the affected contestant would have received his next word had he not been eliminated. When only two spellers remain, a protest must be made immediately (before the second speller has begun to spell the word, or, if both have missed the same word, before the correct spelling is given to the audience).
- n. The judges have complete authority and control in these matters. Their decision is final.

If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him, then the misspelled new word will be referred to the first speller. If the first speller then succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the judge's list, then he shall be declared champion.