

## **Spelling Bee Protocol**

Our Spelling Bee organizers hope this Bee will realize the goals of celebrating learning, providing an example of fair, healthy competition, and being a whole lot of fun for everyone. With these goals in mind, Spelling Bee organizers have three requests from the audience.

1. That the audience refrains from talking and using electronic devices, and gives the participants, judges, and timekeepers attention and respect.
2. That the audience refrains from approaching participants, judges, timekeepers, or committee members, as spelling, pronouncing words to be spelled, and judging takes concentration.
3. That the audience provides only positive encouragement to classmates and teams when participants are not actively spelling.

### **Spelling Bee Rules**

1. Each team will consist of three members. One member will be designated as the team's writer.
2. The Master of Ceremonies (MC) will pronounce the word, give the definition of the word, use it in a sentence, and pronounce the word once more. Spellers are encouraged to listen closely to determine whether the word provided is used in its plural form or a particular verb tense.
3. The word will be repeated once more if a team asks.
4. Individual note pads and pencils will be at each table, and team members may collaborate on the spelling of the word. Each team will print the word legibly on a team white board that is provided within 30 seconds. Spellers will be instructed to put down all markers at that time. Timekeepers will give a 10 second warning.
5. All teams will display their white boards at the same time as directed by the MC.
6. Spellers do not need to specify whether the word begins with an initial capital.
7. When a team misspells a word, the team will be eliminated, unless all remaining teams also spell the word incorrectly. If that happens, no one will be eliminated, and a new word will be given. All teams in a round remain on stage until the round is completed.
8. When only one team has not been eliminated, that team will be declared the winner of that round. The winning team of each round will then compete in the Championship Round until there is one winning team for the grade level.
9. Members of the winning team at each grade level will receive a trophy and a gift certificate. All participants will receive a t-shirt.
10. Most, but not all, words in the Spelling Bee will be selected from the National Spelling Bee Pronouncer's Guide.
11. Judges' decisions are final.