

PARISH SPELLING BEE

Each school has a competition by grade level and the first place grade level winner from each school competes in the Parish Spelling Bee held at one of the high schools in the month of April. A winner is declared in each grade from grades 1-6; one winner from grades 7-9 and one winner from grades 10-12. **A total of eight winners will be declared as Parish Spelling Bee Winners.**

PARISH SPELLING BEE RULES

PRONOUNCER'S ROLE:

1. The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings in the Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster.
2. Homonyms: If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer indicates which word is to be spelled by defining the word.
3. Speller's requests: The caller responds to the speller's requests for a definition, sentence, part of speech language(s) of origin, and alternate pronunciation(s). When presented with requests for alternate pronunciations, the pronouncer or an aide to the pronouncer checks for alternate pronunciations in either *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* and its addenda section, copyright 2002, *Merriam-Webster* or *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. The pronouncer does not entertain root word questions, requests for alternate definitions or requests for markedly slower pronunciation.

JUDGE'S ROLE:

1. The judge upholds the rules and determines whether or not words are spelled correctly. He/She also renders final decisions on appeals in accordance with the Appeal protocol. He/She is in complete control of the competition, and his/her decision is final on all questions.
2. Interaction with the speller: Because seeing the speller's lip movements may be critical in detecting misunderstandings or misspellings, the judge encourages spellers to face them when pronouncing and spelling the word.
3. Notice of rules: The judge ensures that all spellers and audience members are given an opportunity to receive a complete copy of the rules prior to the start of the spelling bee.
4. Misunderstandings: The judge participates in the exchange of information between the speller and pronouncer if he or she feels that clarification is needed. Also, the judge listens carefully to the speller's pronunciation of the word; and, if he/she senses that the speller has misunderstood the word, the judge works with the speller and pronouncer until he/she is satisfied that reasonable attempts have been made to assist the speller in understanding the word. While the judge is responsible for attempting to detect a speller's misunderstanding, it is sometimes impossible to detect a misunderstanding until a spelling error has been made. The judge is not responsible for the speller's misunderstanding.
5. Pronouncer errors: The judge compares the pronouncer's pronunciation with the diacritical markings in the word list. If the judge feels that the pronouncer's pronunciation does not match

the pronunciation specified in the diacritical markings, the judge directs the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.

6. Disqualifications for reasons other than clear misspelling: The judge will disqualify a speller (1) who refuses a request to start spelling (2) who does not approach the microphone when it is time to receive the word; (3) who does not comply with the eligibility requirements; (4) who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct; (5) who, in the process of retracing a spelling, alters the letters or sequence of letters or sequence of letters from those first uttered; or (6) who, in the process of spelling, utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds.
7. Speller activities that do no merit disqualification: The judge may not disqualify a speller (1) for failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it, (2) for asking a question, or (3) for noting or failing to note the capitalization of a word.

SPELLER'S ROLE:

1. The speller makes an effort to face the judge and pronounces the word for the judge before spelling it and after spelling it. The speller while facing the judge makes an effort to utter each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judge. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech, provide the language(s) of origin, and/or provide an alternate pronunciation or pronunciations.
2. Misunderstandings: The speller is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless (1) the pronouncer never provides a correct pronunciation; (2) the pronouncer provides incorrect information regarding the definition, part of speech, or language of origin; or (3) the speller correctly spells a homonym of the word and the pronouncer fails to either offer a definition or distinguish the homonyms.

Misspelling:

Upon incorrectly spelling a word, the speller immediately drops out the competition.

End-of-bee procedure:

1. When two spellers remain: A new round begins when one of the spellers spells incorrectly; the other speller will be given the opportunity to spell the same word. If the speller spells the word correctly, the same speller is given the anticipated championship word. If the speller spells the anticipated championship word correctly, the speller is declared the champion. If the speller spells the anticipated championship word incorrectly, a new round begins.

Appeals:

The speller's parent(s), legal guardian, or teacher may appeal to the judge for the speller's reinstatement provided that the appeal is in compliance with the appeal protocol. The judge renders a final decision on the appeal in accordance with the reinstatement protocol.

1. Appeal protocol: A written appeal must be hand delivered to the designated official (usually the spelling bee coordinator/director). The deadline for delivering an appeal is before the speller affected would have received his/her next word had he/she stayed in the spelling bee; however to minimize disruptions to the spelling bee, every effort should be made to deliver an appeal by the end of the round in which the speller was eliminated. When three or fewer spellers remain, the written appeal requirement is suspended, and an oral appeal must be made before the speller

would have received his/her next word had he/she stayed in the spelling bee. A written appeal must provide the speller's name, the word in question, and the reason the speller should be reinstated.

2. While the competition is in session, individuals who have filed appeals may not directly approach the judge unless explicit permission to approach the judge has been given. The judge will contact the speller if he/she decides to reinstate the speller. To minimize disruption to the pace of the spelling bee and the concentration of the spellers, the judge is under no obligation to stop the spelling bee in order to discuss with the speller's parent(s), legal guardian, or teacher a denied appeal. The judge's decisions are final!