

SPELLING BEE RULES (3/6/08)

1. The spelling words used for the in-class Spelling Bee come from the current Voorhees reading program, *Literacy Place* and will be sent home at least three weeks prior to the Spelling Bee. The words in the grade-level finals will come from *Literacy Place* and the students' science, social studies and math textbooks. These additional words will be given to students at least one week prior to the Finals.
2. A Word Pronouncer will pronounce each word. When homonyms are involved the Pronouncer will also provide a definition.
3. Each speller will be encouraged to pronounce the word given by the Word Pronouncer, spell the word and then pronounce the word again. A contestant will not be disqualified for failing to pronounce the word before or after he/she has spelled it. The contestant may be reminded by the Judge to complete his/her turn by saying the word after spelling it. A turn shall be limited to twenty (20) seconds.
3. Having started to spell a word, a speller may stop and start over, but there can be *no* change of letters or sequence of letters during the respelling or the student shall be eliminated.
4. A speller may ask for a re-pronunciation of the word. A speller may also request a definition of the word and/or for the Word Pronouncer to use the word in a sentence, so that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller. The Word Pronouncer shall grant the request until the Judge agrees that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. The Judge may disqualify a speller who ignores a request to start spelling and twenty seconds have elapsed.
5. If the Judge feels that a speller misunderstood a word due to difficulties with the sound system or acoustics in the room, they will ask the Word Pronouncer to pronounce it again.
6. The Spelling Bee is based on single elimination. Upon missing the spelling of a word, the speller is immediately eliminated from the

competition. The Word Pronouncer should give the correct spelling of the word. The next word is given to the next speller.

7. When the spellers are reduced to five children, the in-classroom spelling bee will be concluded. These five children will be invited to move onto the grade-level Spelling Bee.

8. During the *Final Grade Level Spelling Bee* when the spellers are reduced to two spellers the elimination procedures change. At this point when one of the spellers misspells the word, the other speller will be given the opportunity to spell the same word. If the other speller spells that word correctly, plus the next word given to her/him by the Word Pronouncer, then that speller shall be declared the winner.

If one of the last two spellers misspells a word, and the other after correctly spelling that word misspells the new word given to her/him, then the misspelled word will be given to the other speller. If this speller correctly spells the misspelled word, and correctly spells the next word given to him/her by the Word Pronouncer, then that speller shall be declared the winner.

If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue. The speller who first misspelled the word will be given a new word to spell and the Spelling Bee will continue as stated until a winner is determined.

8. Scholastic's *Literacy Place* (The reading program currently in use), shall serve as the final authority for the spelling of words and definitions. The speller shall not be disqualified for failing to note that a word is capitalized.

9. The Judge(s) is in complete control of the Spelling Bee. The Judge's decision shall be final on all questions.

10. If an eliminated speller has an issue relating to the spelling of a word then a protest by that speller, and not their parent, must be lodged prior to when the affected speller would have received their next word. If a protest is lodged the Bee will be temporarily suspended until the Judge makes an oral decision and pronounces it to all in attendance.

11. These rules are patterned on those of the Scripps National Spelling Bee and various state and local procedures.

