

# Spelling Bee 2019

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| <b>Spelling Bee Date:</b>       | Week of February 10 <sup>th</sup> through 14 <sup>th</sup>   |
| <b>Competitions:</b>            | Each grade will compete alone.   |
| <b>Winners:</b>                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> place will be awarded in each BHA class competition.   |
| <b>Islamic Interschool Bee:</b> | 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade winners will be eligible to compete at the Orange Crescent School in Los Angeles on Friday March 20, 2020. |

**Spelling Bee Guidelines** (taken from the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington, D. C.)

- ◆ The teacher will give the word to the student.
- ◆ The student should say the word, spell it, and then say the word again. (Students will not be penalized for forgetting to say the word.)
- ◆ Having started to spell a word, a speller may stop and start over one time. However, he/she may NOT change any letters or sequence of letters already fully pronounced. If letters or sequences of letters are changed, the speller will be disqualified.
- ◆ Students need to be careful if they stop and then continue to spell a word. They shouldn't repeat a letter that they don't want repeated in the spelling. (Example: cat, c-a-pause-a-t, cat. This would come out caat and be wrong.)
- ◆ Students will spell the words orally; they cannot write down the word in order to spell it.
- ◆ Students may ask for the word to be repeated, used in a sentence, or for the definition. Once a speller starts to spell a word, they may NOT ask for any more information.
- ◆ The speller must start the word within 30 seconds.
- ◆ Students will be told if a word is a homophone and told which form to spell. If they are not told, then any spelling would have to be acceptable. (Example: to, too, two)
- ◆ Students will also be told when words are possessive and if they are singular or plural possessive.
- ◆ Students must remember to include capitalization of proper nouns, spaces, hyphens, apostrophes, accents, or punctuation marks of any kind when spelling the words.
- ◆ Upon incorrectly spelling a word, the speller will immediately drop out of the competition until the end-of-bee procedure comes into effect (outlined below).
- ◆ Two teachers will listen as each student spells a word. If they both agree that a word has been misspelled, then the decision is final.

## Words for Spelling Rounds:

- ◆ Spellers will initially be given words from the lists that they were given to study. There will be three rounds using their grade level words. This is known as Phase 1. Those spellers who spell all these words correctly will advance to Phase 2 which will utilize words from the next grade up. There will be three rounds using these words. Spellers who spell all of the phase two words correctly will proceed to Phase 3 which will consist of words from unseen Challenge Lists. Spellers will be asked to spell more advanced words as the Phases progress.

## End-of-Bee Procedure:

- ◆ Full rounds will be finished to insure that all students have an equal chance, whether they are at the beginning or end in sequence.
- ◆ If none of the spellers remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, all remain in the competition and a new round begins.
- ◆ All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place. If a tie needs to be broken to determine who will be the alternate for Los Angeles, this will be done through a written competition which will happen at least by the next day.
- ◆ If only one speller spells correctly in a round, a new one-word round begins and the speller is then given one more “anticipated championship word” for a one-word round. If the speller spells the word correctly, they are declared the champion.
- ◆ If the speller misspells the new “anticipated championship word,” a new round will begin with ALL the spellers who had spelled in the previous round (both incorrectly and the one who had spelled correctly).
- ◆ In summary, a winner will be declared once one student spells a word correctly in a round while no one else does, PLUS spells an additional “championship word” correctly.
- ◆ If after only two students are left and they keep going on indefinitely (5 rounds), then co-champions will be declared.

## Winners:

- ◆ There are a total of 2 winners per grade – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. If there are co-champions, they will both tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place with no 2<sup>nd</sup> place. (There will still only be a total of 2 winners.)
- ◆ The 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner is runner up for the alternate position in the Los Angeles Bee in case the winner is not eligible to attend for some reason.
- ◆ Los Angeles is only admitting the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners for competition.

**Disqualifications** – students may be disqualified for any inappropriate behavior which may include:

- Seeking or accepting any assistance (or being the provider of any assistance).
- Talking during the spelling bee while still a participant.
- Deliberately missing words, using a strategy to benefit others, or any other such behavior.

## Participation in the Spelling Bee:

Participation in the spelling bee is optional. Parents should notify the teacher if their child does not wish to participate in the spelling bee.