

GFUSD Spelling Bee Informational Meeting



Classroom Bee

- Classroom Bee for students 4th- 8th grade should be held to determine who will participate in the School Bee.
- An option is giving all students a written spelling test of 20 words. Choose 2-3 winners per class depending on the number of classes.
- Form a word list for the Classroom Bee by randomly choosing words from the **Level 2 Study Bee Words (4th-6th) and Level 3 Study Bee Words (7th-8th)**

School/District Bee

- Important: School Bee should follow the same process and rules as the District Bee.
- Two students from each site may participate in the **District Bee. Two students** (winner and runner-up) from the District Bee will compete in the County Bee.
- Provide spellers and parents a complete copy of the rules before the competition.
- To help your students prepare, give them the grade-specific 100-word study list from *spellingbee.com*. under Parent and Student Materials and the full **2024 School Spelling Bee Study List** if they seek a challenge.
- For the school bee, start at word 51 in the pronouncers guide and proceed to word 76 for round 2 and continue that way for every 25 words because they increase in difficulty every 25. Remember that if the word has instructions like **“say to the student”** you must read what it says after you pronounce the word.
- A bus is scheduled to transport participants and chaperones to and from the district competition. Please plan to have at least one school staff member to chaperone.



Before the Spelling Bee:

- Plan where spellers will sit. Know where spellers will exit the stage and sit after being dismissed from the stage.
- Provide each student with a number tag that they will wear. It represents the order in which they will spell. Have students sit in order.
- Plan to have no distractions (bells, announcements, etc.)

What's Needed?

- ✓ Number tags
- ✓ Pronouncer-pronounces the words from the confidential list,
- ✓ Dictionary Judge-looks up the word to give part of speech, definition, language of origin, alternate pronunciation if requested
- ✓ Recording Judge-completes record keeping sheet, records whether the answer is correct or not.
- ✓ Stage monitor-tends to students, watches crowd to discourage the giving of clues by onlookers
- ✓ Two microphones/sound system/microphone stand-the pronouncer and speller will both speak in a microphone.
- ✓ Tape recorder -optional
- ✓ Copies of the rules and recordkeeping sheet
- ✓ Dictionary-Merriam-Webster Unabridged, the official dictionary of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, available at <http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com/>.
- ✓ Prizes-certificates, medals, trophies etc. Arrangements should be made with school site administration for awards for the School Bee. District will pay for awards for the district competition.

Spelling Bee Process

1) Seat spellers at the front of the room facing the judges. Stage monitor stands off to the side in the front of the room, judges will be at the judges table.

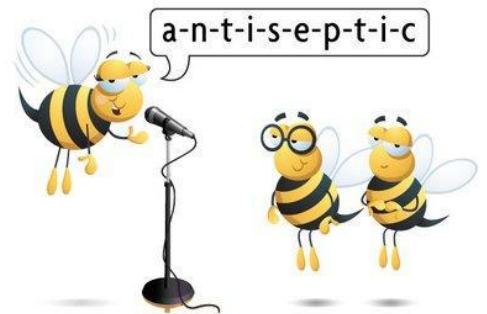
2) On stage monitor welcomes parents, congratulates contestants and introduces the judges.

3) Pronouncer goes over the process and rules with contestants, asks if there are any questions, mentions that a copy of rules is available for anyone if interested, and instructs the audience not to applaud until the end of the bee.

4) As a warm up round, students will be called by number to come to the microphone and spell their first name.

5) Round 1 begins. Pronouncer calls for the 1st contestant to face the judges. He/she pronounces the word, if the word has a homonym, then he/she will indicate which word is to be spelled by defining the word. Pronouncer may offer word information without the speller having requested the information if he/she senses that the information is helpful and is presented in the entry for the word in a 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee word list.

6) The contestant may request that the judge repeat the word, a definition, sentence, language(s) of origin, part of speech, and/or alternate pronunciation(s). Before spelling, the contestant repeats the word, spells it and then repeats the word again. The contestant must make an effort to utter each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by judges.



7) Recording judge gives the ruling of incorrect or correct. If it is incorrect, the student returns to their seat until the end of the round. At the end of the round, the pronouncer will dismiss from the stage all students who misspelled their words.

8) End-of-bee procedure-(Tricky!) The spelling bee takes place in rounds. If only one speller spells correctly in a round, a new one-word spelling round begins and the speller is given an opportunity to spell a word (the anticipated championship word). If the speller spells it correctly, the speller is declared the winner. If the speller misses the championship word, a new spelling round begins with all spellers who participated in the previous round.

Stopping

A speller is allowed to stop during the spelling process and begin again from the beginning but may not change any letters that he/she began with. The speller is eliminated. Note: Be sure to teach spellers to think before they speak because every utterance counts. Also, they should ask questions if they are confused.

Disqualification

The judges 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 from those first uttered;
- (6) who, in the process of spelling, utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds;

The judges may not disqualify a speller: because

- (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, the presence of a diacritical mark, the presence of a hyphen or other form of punctuation, or spacing between words in an open compound.