

BVES SPELLING BEE 2018 RULES

Dear Spellers and Parents,

Congratulations on entering the ninth annual BVES Spelling Bee to be held on February 7, 2018! It should be a fun night for you, your competitors and all the spectators! There are some rules, however, so here goes...

- **Spellers, please sign in for the Spelling Bee starting at 4:30pm in the gym and be fed and seated on stage by 5:00pm on February 7th so we can get started on time. Once the competition begins, late spellers will not be permitted to participate.**
- **You will only be competing with the other spellers in your grade.**
- **You will be assigned a randomly selected starting number. When you sign in you will be given your number. That will be your number in the spelling order. You will sit in the chair for your grade's row with that number on it.**
- **Prior to the start of the competition, we will demonstrate the spelling procedure so everyone has a chance to see what it will be like to spell at the microphone.**
- **We continue to emphasize our sportsmanship rule. If you act in a manner that is disrespectful to your fellow competitors such as cheering when they misspell or disrupting their turn by talking or making unkind comments, you will be warned once and disqualified by decision of the judges after one warning has been issued.**
- **When it is your turn to spell, you will stand up to the microphone.**
 - **After the Pronouncer says your word, you can ask to have it used in a sentence if you wish, but only BEFORE you start to spell it.**
 - **After hearing the sentence, you MUST repeat the word, spell it, then repeat the word again. For example, if your word is *school*, you would ask to hear it in a sentence if you wish. Then you'd say, "*School ... s-c-h-o-o-l ... school.*"**
 - **If you feel that you have made a mistake BEFORE you have repeated the word for the second time, you can ask, "*May I please start over?*", and you can start again.**
 - **You will get ONE "start over" per word, so take your time! You can only start over if you haven't repeated the word for the second time. For example, if your word is *school* and you say, "*School ... s-k-o-o-l ... May I start again?*", you will be permitted to start again. But if you say, "*School...s-k-o-o-l...School...May I start again?*", you will not be able to start again.**
 - **Be sure that you have spelled the word just as you'd like before you repeat it the second time. When you repeat the word the second time, it is the signal to the judges that you are finished and that they need to make their ruling.**
 - **Be sure you do not add extra letters in while contemplating a word. Answers will be assessed based on the audible portion of contestants response. Facial expressions indicating repeated letters or gestures that imply starting over are subjective and should not be interpreted by judges. Kids are given one chance to start over for exactly this reason. Judges will judge as if their eyes were closed and judgment is based solely on**

audible portion of response. For example if a student is given the word "thief", and they respond "t, h, i,....(long pause/thinking about 'i before e' rule....) ... um,.....hmmm,....okay, i,e, f, thief" -- They would be incorrect, having spelled the word as: t-h-i-i-e-f .

- Please practice at home before the Spelling Bee!
- Competition words will initially be drawn from study lists that will be provided to you. The Pronouncer will use words not on the spelling lists in the later rounds of the competition. The Pronouncers will be the final authorities for the spelling of words. Individual grade contests are independent and word complexity may increase at different rates depending on the number of spellers in each grade and rate of misspell.
- If you spell the word correctly, you will return to your assigned seat and you will move on to the next round. If you spell your word incorrectly, you will return to your assigned seat and cheer on your classmates as they continue to spell! At the end of each round, those who have been eliminated will be congratulated on their excellent work and asked to step off the stage.
- When there are only two final contestants per grade, one person cannot win just by having his/her opponent spell a word incorrectly. He/she must spell his/her word correctly to win and then correctly spell another word. For example, if it is down to Bobby and Jane, and Bobby spells his word wrong, Jane must spell her word for that round correctly and then spell another word correctly to win. If Jane spells her word wrong, then both get to spell again until one contestant gets his/her word correct and then another word correct when the opponent spelled his/her word wrong.
- Every participant will receive a participation pin, and there will be 1st, 2nd & 3rd place medals for the top spellers of each grade.
- Please remain quiet in the gym when a speller is at the microphone. If you need to leave the gym, please do it between spelling rounds.
- Do not assist any speller at the microphone. Spellers who have been assisted will be given another word or will be disqualified at the discretion of the judges. Monitors are placed about the stage and gymnasium.
- No one (including children) may sit on the floor in front of the audience chairs. Please note that no child may roam the school unsupervised. The school is not secured during this event and children must always be directly supervised while not on stage.
- Food will be available in the cafeteria and must be consumed in the cafeteria.

Good luck studying! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for your enthusiasm. We look forward to a fun-filled Spelling Bee!

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