

## FAQ'S

### **1. Will grades 1-5 compete in the same Final School Spelling Bee?**

Yes. Each student will be given the same vocabulary test, and any of the 450 words may be used for the Final School Bee regardless of the student's grade level. All participants use the same word list and will have the same opportunity to win. All students must first pass the Written Round Test (multiple choice vocabulary test) to be eligible to participate in the final school Spelling Bee.

### **2. Who makes the rules?**

Scripps National Spelling Bee makes the rules for how spelling bees are conducted at the school level all the way up to the national level.

### **3. Are any adjustments being made for the younger participants?**

The word list begins with 1st grade level words and increases in difficulty every 25 words. The participants will be randomly numbered within their grade beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> graders and proceeding upward through to 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This is the order in which they will be seated and will receive their words.

Therefore, the youngest students will start out with words at their grade level, and as they successfully complete the rounds the words will progress in difficulty. We will conduct the mock bees this way also.

#### **4. How should my child prepare for the spelling bee?**

We have posted Study Tips on our website

[http://normanrockwellpta.org/Page/Programs/SpellingBee\\_Home](http://normanrockwellpta.org/Page/Programs/SpellingBee_Home) that are very useful.

It can take some time to learn the definitions of the words and the Written Round test comes first before the Spelling Bee itself, so it is a good idea to start with vocabulary first and at the same time pay attention to the spelling. Students are not expected to memorize the full definitions but instead develop a good understanding of the word's meaning.

Students do better when they have support from a family member or friend to test them and be their audience!

#### **5. Previously you used the Word Club program for the whole class, but this year do we have to pay for it ourselves?**

Yes, but it's optional. Since we have moved away from after school sessions, we can no longer provide Word Club to the students as a group. It can be purchased individually by going to [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com) and clicking on Word Club. It is a very helpful study tool.

#### **6. How will you help the students study through the website?**

We will post instructions and practice tests approximately once in 2 weeks on our website. Answer keys will also be posted.

We will post puzzles and games for the students to download and print from the website to help them practice their words.

### **7. I don't think my child can win the spelling bee...should s/he still participate?**

Yes! A school spelling bee is really about the experience. It is an opportunity for good academic competition, and to challenge oneself! Year after year we are amazed at the students' hard work and courage. Students develop a wonderful sense of pride that they can carry with them forever.

### **8. What are the prizes?**

Scripps offers a FREE one-year membership to Britannica Online for Kids (a \$69.95 value) to our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners. Depending on our budget, we will also try to arrange for prizes for runner ups and each grade level champion. Each participant will also receive a certificate.

### **9. My child has changed her mind or will not be able to participate in the Spelling Bee. Can we have a refund of our registration fee?**

We are sorry, but we cannot issue a refund because it was made online.

### **10. How does the Written Round work?**

There are 2 parts to the test: 1. Spelling test: a few spelling words are read out loud by the instructor and the student must write the correct spelling on his/her paper. 2. Vocabulary test: multiple choice questions are given on paper where students circle correct answer.

Passing grade to be determined.

Results will be emailed the following day.

### **11. How long does the Final Spelling Bee last?**

The Bee itself is from 9am -1pm (approximately) with an award ceremony following. Last year we finished everything by about 3pm. There will be a short break for lunch.

We may have to modify the exact times based on the number of students we have participating.

### **12. Do parents need to volunteer?**

Yes, we will need a few parents to help out with the mock bees, the Written Round Test, and the Final Spelling Bee. We will put a call out to all parents as we get closer to those dates.