

Michigan State Charter School Spelling Bee

Spelling Bee Rules

1. Each school may enter two participants into each division of the spelling bee. The divisions are 3rd-5th grade and 6th-8th grade.
2. The spelling bee will be conducted orally, no pencils or paper will be allowed.
3. The bee will begin with a practice round. Each child will be asked to pronounce, spell and then pronounce their name again.
4. In competition, after the moderator gives the speller a word, the speller will pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it.
5. Having started to spell a word, a speller may stop and start over, retracting the spelling from the beginning. In retracting however, there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or their sequence is changed in the respelling, the speller will be ruled incorrect.
6. The speller may ask the moderator to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech. The moderator shall grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller.
7. The judges may disqualify any speller who ignores a request to start spelling.

8. The role of the moderator:
 - *Correctly pronounce the words.
 - *Give a sentence, definition, and other information about the word at the spellers request.
9. The role of the judges:
 - *Determine whether the speller has spelled the word correctly.
 - *The judges will be in complete control of the bee at all times and their decisions will be final.
10. The competition will be conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round will spell one word in the round.
11. Upon missing the spelling of a word, the speller must retire from the match at the end of that round. The next word on the moderator's list is given to the next speller.
12. If a word is a homonym, and the definition of the homonym is not given, the correct spelling of either word will be accepted. When a contestant is given the definition of a homonym or it is used in a sentence, he must spell the word defined.
13. A contestant will not be disqualified for failing to note that a word is capitalized.
14. When the number of spellers is reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when one speller misspells a word, the other speller will be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second speller spells that word correctly, plus the next word on the moderators list, then the second speller will be declared the champion. If one of the last two spellers misspells a word and the other speller spells that word correctly, but then misspells the new word, that word will be referred to the other speller. If this

speller then succeeds in spelling it correctly and spells the next word on the list correctly, he or she will be declared the champion.

If both spellers misspell the same word, both will continue in the competition, and the one who first misspelled the word first will be given a new word to spell.

15. The judges will have the right to decide on any question not covered or not fully covered by these rules.