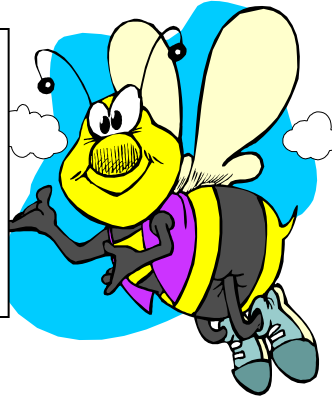


*Oakland Unified School District*

*Spelling Bee*

*General Information*



We have received your 'intent to participate form and thank you for participating in the Oakland Unified School District Spelling Bee. We expect to have a wonderful event. Currently, we plan to have one elementary and one middle school competition. This configuration could change depending on the number of registered participants. Please select both a winner and several runners up at your school site should there be an opportunity to send more than one student speller to the competition. OUSD Bee winners will go on to compete in the Alameda County Spelling Bee in March. Oakland's spelling bee follows the rules of Alameda County and the State of California Spelling Bee. It does not conform to the rules of the National Spelling Bee and is not an entry level competition to that event. We hope that the general information on this handout and in this packet will prepare you for an enjoyable experience.

### **The Basics -**

- **When:** December 13, 2007 (Thursday) 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Levels will compete separately and students will only be able to join the audience once their competition has been completed. Spellers need to arrive 30 minutes before their competition to register, get numbers, practice, and so forth. Timing is somewhat unpredictable but the expected competition times are as follows: Elementary – 5:00-6:30 and Middle School 6:45-7:45. Please note that competition levels, number of competitions, and times may change once registration closes and the number and age of participants is known.
- **Where:** Auditorium on the Havenscourt Middle School Campus, 66th Avenue at International Blvd. There will be ample off-street parking.
- **Who:** School site winners, site coaches and coordinators, interested parents and observers
- **What:** Oral competition at each grade level with multiple rounds of increasing difficulty resulting in a winner and several runners-up who will go on to county competition.
- **Why:** Promote interest in correct spelling, celebrate excellence, honor student achievement, prepare for county competition

### **Site Coordinator/Coach Responsibilities**

- Submit required participant's form by December 6, 2007.
- Bring originals or insure arrival of signed parent permission slips to the spelling bee on December 13, 2007.
- Arrange transportation for spellers (can be parents or staff with proper insurance).
- Give student spellers copies of the rules and frequently asked questions.

## Student Speller Suggestions

- Study the lists sent to your school sites. Words for rounds 1 and 2 will come from those lists. Words in subsequent rounds will come from a variety of sources with *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* being the official source of information
- Have someone practice a few rounds with you using the competition format found in the rules you were given. Be aware of what you can ask as clarifying questions and what you cannot ask or do.
- Practice looking at someone as you practice. Speak loudly and clearly. On the day of the event you may be asked to use a microphone.
- Plan to wear event clothes that are comfortable and require no extra attention. You'll want your focus to be totally on spelling.

## Parent/Observer Responsibilities

- Read thoroughly and sign the permission slip required at the time of registration on December 13, 2007.
- Transport or make arrangements for transportation for your student speller. **Insure that your speller arrives on time.**
- Understand and respect the need for silence during the pronunciation and spelling of the words.

## What to expect at the event

- Participants will sign in, turn in permission slips, and draw numbers for seating. They will wait in a study room before being escorted to the auditorium.
- Participants will sit on the stage in number order. Participants will spell in the order they are seated.
- The spelling bee will be conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the competition will spell one word in that round. Upon missing the spelling of a word, the participant will follow the procedure established at the beginning of the event. Eliminated spellers may join the audience for the rest of the competition.
- Scratch pads will be available to allow participants to write the word before spelling orally.

We hope to provide refreshments. Please be aware, however, that food and drink will **not be allowed** in the auditorium.