

# ST. PETER LUTHERAN SPELLING BEE GUIDELINES

Updated February 2019

- The St. Peter School Spelling Bee is held close to the third Friday of February. There will be a Grades 3-4 Spelling Bee followed by a Grades 5-8 Spelling Bee. The Grades 3-4 Spelling Bee will take place in the gym at 12:15 p.m. followed by the Grades 5-8 Spelling Bee at approximately 1:15 p.m.
- For the Grades 3-4 Spelling Bee, teachers in Grades 3-4 will choose a maximum of six spellers and a possible alternate to compete in the school spelling bee.
- The Grades 5-8 Spelling Bee will be comprised of four spellers from each grade. The four students with the highest average Spelling test scores from the first two quarters of the school year will represent their classes in the school spelling bee. The student in each grade with the fifth highest Spelling test average will be the alternate for his/her grade.

## GENERAL RULES FOR THE GRADES 5-8 SPELLING BEE

- **Spellmaster's responsibility:** The spellmaster will state each word clearly and with correct pronunciation. He/she will provide a definition or sentence if requested by the speller.
- **Judges' responsibility:** The judge(s) will make the determination if a word is misspelled. If a word is misspelled, a judge will ring the bell signaling an error. The judge(s) are also responsible to keep a scoresheet.
- **Speller's responsibilities:**
  - The speller makes an effort to face the judges and pronounce the word for the judges before spelling it and after spelling it. The speller *while facing the judges* makes an effort to state each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judges. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech, provide the language(s) of origin, and/or provide an alternate pronunciation or pronunciations.
  - **Misunderstandings:** The speller is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless (1) the pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation; (2) the pronouncer provided incorrect information regarding the definition, part of speech, or language of origin; or (3) the speller correctly spelled a homonym of the word and the pronouncer failed to either offer a definition or distinguish the homonyms.
  - If a speller starts spelling a word and then wishes to start over, the speller must pronounce the word again and then start spelling the word over again.
  - Once an error is made, the spelling is declared incorrect – even if the speller goes back and spells the word correctly.
  - If a speller says the word incorrectly, but spells the word that he/she said correctly, the speller will be given an opportunity to hear the correct word again and spell it again.
  - If a speller says the given word correctly but spells a different word, the speller will not receive credit for the word even if his/her spelling of the word was correct.
  - If an audience member has a challenge on a judge's ruling about an incorrect spelling, that challenge must be made within the next round of spelling. The challenger is to simply approach the judge's table and make the challenge known. However, alternate spellings for words on the studied list will not be accepted.

- **Spelling Bee Format:**
  - St. Peter will use the same word list that is used for the Saginaw Lutheran Spelling Bee.
  - There will be six preliminary rounds of words.
  - If a speller misses a word during one of these six preliminary rounds, he/she is **NOT** eliminated from the competition.
  - At the end of the six preliminary rounds, the scorers will determine who will advance to the finals. Those students who have not misspelled a word in the preliminary rounds will advance to the finals.
  - If a student misses a word in the finals, he/she is not necessarily eliminated. See finals procedures below.
  
- **Rules for the Finals:**
  - All of the general rules apply.
  - **Correction of a misspelling:** The pronouncer and judges will not ask the speller to correct another speller's misspelling, even in end-of-bee circumstances.
  - **If all spellers in a round misspell:** If none of the spellers remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, all remain in the competition and a new round begins.
  - **Ties:** All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place. After the champion has been determined, spelling bee officials may opt to conduct tiebreakers (of their own design) if tiebreakers are necessary for the awarding of prizes or the determination of qualifying spellers for the next level of competition.
  - **If only one speller in a round spells correctly:** If only one speller spells correctly in a round, a new one-word round begins and the speller is given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list (anticipated championship word). If the speller succeeds in correctly spelling the anticipated championship word in this one-word round, the speller is declared the champion.
    - **Example 1:** In Round 12 there are four spellers. Spellers 6 and 21 misspell. Speller 30 spells correctly. Speller 42 misspells. So, Speller 30 is the only speller in the round to spell correctly. Speller 30 begins Round 13—a one-word round—and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 30 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.
    - **Example 2:** Two spellers spell in Round 10. Speller 14 misspells. Speller 25 spells correctly. Speller 25 begins Round 11—a one-word round—and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 25 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.
    - **Example 3:** Two spellers spell in Round 16. Speller 3 spells correctly. Speller 9 misspells. Speller 3 begins Round 17—a one-word round—and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 3 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.
    - **VERY IMPORTANT:** If a speller misspells the anticipated championship word in a one-word round: A *new* round begins with ALL the spellers who spelled in the previous round. These spellers spell in their original order.

#### **SELECTION FOR THE SAGINAW LUTHERAN SCHOOLS SPELLING BEE**

- The highest finisher in each grade in the St. Peter Spelling Bee will be St. Peter's representative in the Saginaw Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee.
- After the grade representatives have been determined, the fifth highest finisher, regardless of grade, in the St. Peter Spelling Bee will be St. Peter's fifth representative in the Saginaw Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee.
- The sixth highest finisher, regardless of grade, in the St. Peter Spelling Bee will be the alternate for the Saginaw Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee.
- In the event that one of the representatives cannot attend the Saginaw Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee, the next highest finisher in the St. Peter Spelling Bee in each grade will be asked to represent St. Peter.