Orange County Department of Education
Educational Services Division

2022 Orange County Spelling Bee

CONTEST RULES AND FORMAT

The following rules and format apply to the written round:

1. All Orange County Spelling Bee competition participants must be currently enrolled in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade.

2. Participants must attend school in Orange County, unless they are attending a school that is 100% virtual. Students enrolled in a completely virtual school must reside in Orange County in order to participate in the Orange County Spelling Bee.

3. The written round consists of twenty words and five multiple choice vocabulary words. The highest-ranking students will become finalists and proceed to the final (oral) round.

4. At least 50% of the written round spelling words will be taken from the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee *Words of the Champions* booklet. The remaining words will be taken from the *Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online Dictionary.*

5. The Pronouncer will pronounce the word, define it, use it in a sentence that matches the definition given, and pronounce the word again. Language of origin may be requested following the Pronouncer's description of the word. The time limit (20 seconds) will then begin and students will write the given word. The five vocabulary questions will be shown on the screen and students will answer within the given time limit. No questions will be allowed once students start writing. **Members of the audience, coaches, or parents will not be allowed to ask questions about the words or pronunciations.**

6. The Orange County Spelling Bee uses word lists generated by the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Words shall be pronounced according to the diacritical markings in the *Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online Dictionary*. No other dictionary will be used to verify the spelling of a word.

7. All materials are the property of the Orange County Register and may not be taken from the competition.

8. Finalists advancing to the oral round will be announced on the Orange County Spelling Bee website on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 by 3:00 p.m.

The following rules and format apply to the oral/final round:

1. Finalists will draw numbers to determine the order in which they will spell in the oral/final round.

2. The final round consists of rounds of oral spelling. All spellers will spell one word in each round. Upon incorrectly spelling a word, the speller is immediately eliminated from the competition, except as provided below under "End-of-Bee Procedure." All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place.

3. The Pronouncer will pronounce the word, define it, use it in a sentence that matches the definition given, and pronounce the word again. Language of origin and alternate pronunciation may be requested following the Pronouncer's description of the word. The student will say the given word, spell the word, and then pronounce the word again. **Members of the audience, coaches, or parents will not be allowed to ask questions about the words or pronunciations.**

4. Contestants will be allowed to use a pencil and paper their first time at the podium. The pencil and paper will be removed after the first round.

5. The judge may disqualify a contestant who does not begin speaking when prompted to start spelling.

6. After starting to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning; but in retracing, there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or their sequences are changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.

7. End-of-Bee Procedure: If none of the spellers remaining in the Spelling Bee at the start of a round spell a word correctly during that round, all remain in the competition and a new round begins.

8. The Orange County Spelling Bee uses word lists generated by the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Words shall be pronounced according to the diacritical markings in the *Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online Dictionary*. No other dictionary will be used to verify the spelling of a word.

9. Dictionaries and spelling word lists are not allowed in the oral round area.

10. Appeals**:** The speller's parent, legal guardian, or teacher may appeal to the judges for the speller's reinstatement provided that the appeal is in compliance with the appeal protocol described below. The judges will render a final decision on the appeal in accordance with the reinstatement protocol.

Appeal Protocol
A written appeal must be hand delivered to the challenge recorder. The deadline for delivering an appeal is before the speller affected would have received their next word had they stayed in the Spelling Bee. However, to minimize disruptions to the Spelling Bee, every effort should be made to deliver an appeal by the end of the round in which the speller was eliminated. A written appeal must provide the speller's name, the word in question, and the reason the speller should be reinstated. When five or fewer spellers remain, the written appeal requirement is suspended, and an oral appeal must be made before the speller would have received their next word had they stayed in the Spelling Bee. While the competition is in session individuals who have filed appeals may not directly approach the judges unless explicit permission to approach the judges has been given. The judges will contact the speller if they decide to reinstate the speller. To minimize disruption to the pace of the Spelling Bee and the concentration of the spellers, the judges are under no obligation to stop the Spelling Bee in order to discuss a denied appeal with the speller's parent, legal guardian or teacher. The judges' decisions are final and are subject neither to review nor to reversal by the Scripps National Spelling Bee headquarters office. Challenges will not be accepted after the competition is over.

The Head Judge and Competition Manager are the final authorities on all contest questions.

I have read and understand the 2022 Orange County Spelling Bee Contest Rules.

_____   _____   _____
Spelling Bee Coordinator Signature   **Print Coordinator Name**   **Date**

_____   _____   _____
Parent Signature   **Print Parent's Name**   **Date**

_____   _____   _____
Student Signature   **Print Student's Name**   **Date**