



Spelling List & Suggestions for 5th Grade Coaches / Parents

Hi Spellers, Coaches, Parents, and Guardians!

We're so glad you signed up to participate in the 5th grade Willard School 2011 Spelling Bee, scheduled for 7:00 pm, Friday, March 2 in the Willard Cafeteria. This note is a brief overview of what to expect at the Bee and some suggestions about how to begin preparing.

The Bee:

- 5th graders should arrive and sign-in at 6:45 pm (the 4th grade Bee will be finishing up at this time).
- The 5th graders will likely start at 7:00– possibly a little earlier.
- The Pronouncer will call each team on stage by name.
- Each team will be seated at a table and provided with paper and pencils.
- 4th graders are tested on the 4th grade words (attached).
- When the Pronouncer calls on a team to spell, they will hear the Pronouncer announce the word, provide a definition, and then one of the judges will use the word in a sentence. The team may ask the Pronouncer to repeat the word.
- The entire team can work on the word to get it written correctly. (Please emphasize to your team that the judges will NOT see the paper, but will only judge on what the student spells into the microphone).
- Only one student should spell the word into the microphone. Please work out how and when your team will take turns at the microphone, or simply designate one as the speller.
- There will be elimination rounds until two teams are left.
- Each team will receive a new word with the exception of the final team. The winning team must properly spell the incorrectly spelled word from the prior team in addition to one more new word.
- Eliminated teams should stay on stage until the end of the given round, and then leave the stage - taking a bow, or giving a jaunty wave ;).
- After the winning team is congratulated, all participants will receive recognition for participating.
- The 5th grade contest will follow the 4th grade contest.

Preparation:

5th graders are receiving 250 words to study. At the Bee, the pronouncer will choose words from the entire list, generally starting with easier, early lower-numbered words first and moving forward to the more difficult words. Please help your student understand that sometimes it can seem that some participants get easier words than others – this is not intentional, but just the nature of the word list. If we need to go to further words (this hasn't happened before), we will choose words that came from a previous word list from www.myspellit.com, the official National Spelling Bee resource.

Encourage your student to start studying right away and break the big list down into manageable chunks for study just a day or two at a time. In this manner, you and your speller will soon be pleasantly surprised at how many words they already know, or almost know already. Their progress will speed up and their excitement will grow, as you get closer to the contest. Students may wish to visit www.spellingbee.com which is the national bee website.

Thank you to all coaches for volunteering! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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