

# Crescent Elementary

## Spelling Bee Information Packet



**Date:** November 14, 2018

**To:** Students, grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, Parents, and Teachers

**From:** Mrs. Moore, Spelling Bee Coordinator

It's time to gear up for Crescent Elementary School's annual Spelling Bee. This is the first step toward:

1. Being named among Crescent Elementary's top 2018-2019 spellers
2. The Orange County Spelling Bee, at the Orange County Department of Education, February 29, 2019 (**Open to 6<sup>th</sup> grade Champion and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Runners-Up**)
3. The \$1,000 National Kids Spelling Bee, in Long Beach, March 10, 2019 (**Open to ALL 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Finalists**)

The **preliminary round** is a written spelling test and will take place in each classroom on **Wednesday, December 5th**. **Students absent on the day of the preliminary round forfeit participation**. Each teacher will administer the preliminary round spelling test, using a provided word list for the grade level of about 15 words. **\*\*Mrs. Tamaki will announce the grade level finalists on Friday, December 14th.\*\***

Classroom teachers will grade the preliminary round spelling tests and forward the results to the Spelling Bee Coordinator. **Individual scores and classroom results may not be provided until final grade level results are announced by Mrs. Tamaki**. Scores are tabulated across each grade level and the top spellers in each grade, school wide, as determined by their score in the preliminary round, will advance to their grade level's **final round** Spelling Bee:

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Tuesday, 1/22 at 1:00 in the Cafeteria**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Friday, 1/25 at 1:15 in the Cafeteria**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Thursday, 1/24 at 1:15 in the Cafeteria**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Monday, 1/28 at 1:15 in the Cafeteria**

The official dictionary and source of words for the Crescent Elementary Spelling Bee is the same as used by the Scripps National Spelling Bee: *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster, (*Webster's Third*) is the final authority for the spelling of words. All words given in competition are entries in *Webster's Third*.



To prepare for the preliminary round spelling bee, students are to master the Study Words list for their grade level and one grade level above. You will notice there is overlap between the grade level lists. \*\*Please note, each grade level will have approximately three tiebreaker words, which are not provided in advance.

To prepare for the final round spelling bee, finalists will be given a copy of the the School Spelling Bee Study List and directed to the Crescent PTA website [www.crescentpta.org](http://www.crescentpta.org) to download a copy of the Scripps 2019 Spell It! which students can study once they have mastered the School Spelling Bee Study List.

Students are also welcome to visit the Scripps National Spelling Bee website [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com) for preparation tips. For additional practice: 1) Word Central <http://wordcentral.com/games.html>, 2) Quia Spelling <http://www.quia.com/pop/13123.html> and 3) Interactive Spelling <http://www.learner.org/interactives/spelling/> are just a few online spelling games, however there are numerous free spelling games that can be found online.

The final round spelling bees will include words from the 2018-2019 School Spelling Bee Study List, the Scripps 2019 Spell It!, as well as the plethora of entries in *Webster's Third*.

### General Information

1. ALL grades 3, 4, 5, & 6 students are eligible to participate.
2. The preliminary round competition is written and the final round is an oral competition.
3. The top spellers, school wide, as determined by their preliminary round written score, will advance to the final round for their grade level.
4. Elimination during the final round of competition will be on a "miss-and-out" basis in the traditional spelling bee manner.

### Spelling Bee Procedures

1. The Pronouncer will say a word, read a sentence in which the word is used so that its meaning cannot be confused with any homonym/homophone, and then repeat the word. If a word has a homonym/homophone, the contestant must spell the word that has the meaning of the word used in the sentence.
2. Should the Pronouncer mispronounce a word, the judges will direct the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.
3. A contestant may request that a word be repeated.
4. The definition, part of speech, and languages(s) of origin, of a given word may be requested.
5. Obsolete and archaic spellings will be regarded as errors.

6. The judges will monitor the contest by verifying correct and incorrect responses.
7. In competition, contestants will be encouraged to pronounce the word, spell the word, and pronounce the word again. Contestants will not be disqualified because of failing to pronounce the word before and/or after spelling it.
8. The competition will be completely oral. No paper or pencil may be used. Once a contestant begins to spell orally, no opportunity will be given to change letters once pronounced. **A student may retrace, provided letters and their sequence are not changed in the retracing.** If letters or their sequence are changed in the retracing, the speller will be eliminated.
9. A student's time at the microphone should not exceed 1 minute after the Pronouncer has provided the word, the sentence, and then repeated the word. When 1 minute has elapsed, the judges will encourage a speller who has not begun to start spelling. Judges may disqualify a speller who refuses requests to start spelling.
10. When a contestant fails to spell a word correctly, he/she drops out of the contest and another word shall be given to the next contestant.

### **End-of-bee Procedures**

1. 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.
2. 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 the one-word round, the speller is declared the champion.
3. **VERY IMPORTANT:** If a speller misspells the anticipated championship word in a one-word round: A *new* round begins with ALL spellers who spelled (correctly *and* *incorrectly*) in the previous round. These spellers begin the new round and spell in their original order.

*Every student is encouraged to participate in the preliminary round Spelling Bee.*



*Good luck!*