

**SEVEN HILLS CHARTER  
PUBLIC SCHOOL  
SPELLING BEE  
2008-2009**



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: Should I read the rules?

A: Yes. You and your family should read the rules so everyone understands how the competition is conducted. The rules will be read out loud prior to the start of the competition.

Q: What information can I request from the Spelling Master regarding the word?

A: You can ask for the definition of the word and that it be used in a sentence. The judge will not syllabify (divide into syllables) the word or provide the part of speech or the language of origin. (See Rule 5)

Q: Is there a word source for me to study?

A: Yes. A word list is posted on the Seven Hills Charter Public School website. Your teacher will give you a hard copies upon request after February vacation.

Q: Should I pronounce the word before spelling?

A: Yes. You say the word before spelling it so that the Judges know that you heard the word correctly. After you pronounce your word, pause briefly before spelling so the Judges can correct you if necessary.

Q: How shall I spell a word that is capitalized – like Monday?

A: There are two ways. You could say, “capital M” and then spell the rest of the word, or, you could spell the entire word, then say “the M is capitalized”. Use this same method for words requiring punctuation (e.g. hyphens, apostrophes) or accent marks.

Q: Once I begin, can I stop spelling and start over?     A: Yes. (See Rule 4)

Q: Is there a time limit before I must begin spelling?

A: We do not use a stopwatch or buzzer. The Spelling Master and Judges will allow you a “reasonable” time period, then give you a warning if you are taking too long.

Q: Can there be a tie?

A: No. The competition continues until we have 3 winners for the GRADE LEVEL bee and 1 winner from each Academy at the ACADEMY LEVEL bee.

Q: What if I know the word I am given is a homonym?

A: You should ask for a definition or sentence. When a speller is given the definition of a homonym, he or she must spell the word defined.

Q: How many words can I miss before I am eliminated from the competition?

A: One. When you misspell one word, you will be eliminated from the competition.

Q: What do I do if I misspell a word?

A: The Judge will provide you with the correct spelling, congratulate you on your effort.

Q: What if I have to use the restroom?

A: You may be excused to use the restroom either before you are given a word to spell or after your turn. You will not be excused to use the restroom after a word has been given to you and before you have spelled it. Breaks will be provided during rounds.