



SPELLING BEE

**2023-2024
INFORMATION PACKET**

**ROB GREGOR
YUBA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Yuba County Spelling Bee

About the Program

The Spelling Bee competition is for students in grades 4 through 8. The Bee helps students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts and develop correct English usage. Students study the correct spelling of words from prepared study lists and participate in “round” competition in which contestants are eliminated as they misspell a word.

Yuba County Program

Within Yuba County, the competition begins at the school level. The top spellers from each district then advance to the county level competition. The top Yuba County speller from elementary and junior high advances to the statewide competition. Please see the breakdown of representatives from each district/charter on the following page.

Completed test packets and rosters are due by the close of business on **March 8, 2024**. Email the information below to amy.nore@yubacoe.k12.ca.us

Student packet includes: name, grade level, DOB, home address, parent's phone number(s) and email(s)

Key Dates

Yuba County Office of Education Spelling Bee:

- March 28 2024 (check-in 5:00pm) -Yuba County Government Center, 915 8th St., Marysville
 - Yuba County Spelling Bee Oral Competition Grades 4-6, 5:30pm
 - Yuba County Spelling Bee Written Competition Grades 7-8, 6:30pm (approx)

California State Spelling Bee:

- April 27, 2024 – State Spelling Bee for Elementary & Junior High at the San Joaquin County Office of Education, Stockton

Spelling Bee Contest Rules

Eligibility

- Students from grades four (4) through eight (8) may qualify.
- Please send the following number of representatives to participate at the county level:

District	<i>Elementary Finalist</i>	Junior High Finalist
Marysville Joint	4	4
Wheatland Elementary	2	2
Plumas Lake	2	2
Camptonville	2	2
Paragon	2	2
YES	2	2
CORE	2	2

Word Lists

Words used in the contest shall be selected from (but not limited to):

- California State Junior High Spelling Championship
- Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee
- California State Spelling Championship Elementary Word List
- Other sources.

County Competition

Oral (4-6) & Written (7-8) Competition

- One (1) *pronouncer*, four - five (4-5) *judges*, one (1) *dictionary clerk*, one (1) *recorder*.
- The *pronouncer* facilitates the oral contest and pronounces the words.
- The *judges'* decisions are final on all questions.
- The *dictionary clerk* will be called upon to look up any word in question.

**Yuba County Elementary School
Spelling Bee Rules
Grades 4 - 6**

1. This competition is open to students from each school in Yuba County in grades 4-6 who have been certified as champions by their school coordinator or principal.
2. Each contestant will be given a randomly assigned number.
3. Seating will be according to numbers issued at the time of registration.
4. This is an **ORAL COMPETITION** in which students will be eliminated after **their first misspelling**. Paper and pencil are available on the table for the spellers to write the spelling word for their use, but the speller must then spell the word orally for competition. Paper and pencil are not allowed except as provided on the table.
5. A study word list was compiled to aid the students in preparing for the competition. However, actual words used throughout the competition will not be limited to this list or any other word list. Rather, words may be chosen from any source deemed appropriate by the Judges and the Spelling Master.
6. In competition, spellers may pronounce words before spelling, after spelling, or not at all. However, students are encouraged to pronounce the word BEFORE spelling to ensure that the word was heard correctly. For instance, if the word given is *baseball* and the student spells *baseballs*, the spelling would be considered incorrect. An additional example is, if you are given *absence* and you spell *absent*, your spelling will be considered incorrect.
7. Once you begin to orally spell a word, you will not have a chance to change letters once pronounced. A speller may repeat the word orally, provided letters and their sequence are not changed. The speller must indicate words with apostrophes, capitals, and other punctuation and any accent marks either over the letter or at the end of the word.
8. At any time, a speller may request that a word be re-pronounced, defined or used in a sentence. The Spell Master shall grant the request(s) until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller.
9. Judges may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start the spelling of a word within a reasonable time.
10. If, no definition of a homonym is given, the correct spelling of either word shall be accepted as correct. When a speller is given the definition of a homonym, he/she must spell the word defined.
11. **There is an element of chance in this competition.** Spellers will be eliminated in the order in which they misspell words. That is, when a speller fails to spell a word correctly, he/she must drop out of the competition and return to the audience. Another word shall be given to the next speller in line. The last spellers standing will be the winners.
12. **When only two (2) spellers remain, the elimination procedure changes.** At that point, as soon as one speller misspells a word, the other speller will be given the opportunity to spell the same word. If the second speller spells the word correctly PLUS the next word on the Spell Master's list, the second speller will be declared the champion. If one of the last two spellers misses a word and the other speller, after correcting the error, misspells the new word given, then both will continue in the contest with a new word. If both misspell the same word, both will continue in the contest and a new word will be given. The last two students are eligible to advance to state competition.
13. The decision of the Judges and Spell Master will be final in all questions. Any problem relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the Judges immediately (before the beginning of the next round). No protest will be entertained after the contest has ended.
14. In the event of a protest or dispute, decisions will be based on Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged – the official contest dictionary. No other source will be allowed.
15. Once the competition begins, spellers must remain in the competition area. Family and friends must remain in the audience. If spellers need to be excused to use the restroom, they must notify the judges to be excused.
16. To minimize disruptions during the competition, we ask audience members to turn off cell phones. Please hold your applause until a participant returns to the audience.

Yuba County Intermediate School
Spelling Bee Rules
Grades 7- 8

1. This competition is open to students from each school in Yuba County in grades 7 – 8 who have been certified as champions by their school coordinator or principal.
2. This is a written test. A note pad and pencil will be available for each contestant to print the spelling word.
3. The spelling master will read the word, use it in a sentence and then read the word again. This will be followed by a pause to make sure the word is clearly understood. The spelling master will then say BEGIN and students may write the pronounced word.
4. A contestant may request that a word be re-pronounced, defined, or used in a sentence before the start signal is given. The spelling master shall grant the request until the judge agrees that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. Students may write the word as many times as needed before the 15-second STOP signal. However, all words except the one to be corrected must be crossed out at that time. When STOP is called, students must immediately raise their pencils.
5. The judge may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start or stop the spelling of a word.
6. If, inadvertently, no definition of a homonym is given, the correct spelling of either word shall be accepted as correct. When a speller is given the definition of a homonym, he/she must spell the word as used in the context of the sentence.
7. In competition, proctors will check each word and note whether the word is spelled correctly or not. Words should be printed clearly! The word is marked with a "C" if it is correct; and, if incorrect, checked "X". The word will then be spelled correctly by the spelling master.
8. When a speller **fails to spell four words correctly on the note pad**, he/she must drop out of the contest.
9. In competition, words will be chosen from any source deemed appropriate by the judges, including the official Junior High Word List. Words will not be limited to any specific list; however, all words will be taken from Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged - the official reference for the competition.
10. The spelling master, proctors and judge will be in complete charge of the contest. Their decision will be final on all questions. Any problem relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the judges immediately (before the beginning of the next round). No protest will be entertained after the contest has ended.
11. Once the competition begins, spellers must remain in the competition area. Family and friends must remain in the audience. If spellers need to be excused to use the restroom, they must notify the judges to be excused.
12. To minimize disruptions during the competition, we ask all in attendance to turn off cell phones and pagers and please hold your applause until a participant returns to the audience.