

Rules for BANA Spelling Bee (Primary and Elementary)

1. Eligibility

- a. Primary: Students entering Grades 1st through 3rd in upcoming school year.
- b. Elementary: Students entering Grades 4th through 5th in upcoming school year.

2. Spelling bee consists of oral rounds only (there is no written test).

3. All the contestants will be arranged per their ID sequence. The spelling bee will be elimination upon an incorrect spelling. The bee begins with published words and then move to unpublished list.

4. The winners from 1st position to 5th position will be selected with the elimination process. For instance, if we have 6 contestants qualified for this phase then each of the contestants will be asked to spell a word, if he/she spells correctly, then he/she will go to the next round. If one of the contestants spells the word correctly and rest do not, the contestant who spelled correctly will be the winner at 1st position and then the rest will continue to fight for the next positions (2nd-5th). The contest will continue until we have identified the winners for all five positions.

5. During oral rounds, contestants are highly recommended to pronounce the word loud enough so that judges can ensure that the contestant has the same understanding of the word.

6. For all rounds in each of the phases, having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from beginning. While retracing, contestant can't change the letters or their sequence of the letters that are already spelled.

7. Parents will be allowed in the room, but we strongly request to maintain silence at all the times. This is to help the judges listen clearly to the answers of the contestants. Any member of the audience may be asked to leave the room if he/she attempts to help contestants or interfere in the spelling bee process.

8. Contestants are allowed to ask the word to be repeated. They can also ask for the meaning of the word, part of speech, alternate pronunciations (if available), and use the word in a sentence. The Merriam Webster Dictionary 3rd edition will be used to answer all such questions.

9. In case of a homonym, the pronouncer will automatically give the definition.

10. **Appeals:** Appeal may be made at the end of the round. Appeals can only be made for the following four cases: (i) mispronunciation, (ii) homonym not identified, (iii) judges misheard the spelling, or (iv) information given to the contestant is not correct. It is the responsibility of the contestant to make sure he/she heard the word, and ask for the required information.

11. The decision of the presiding judges is always final. Parents are welcome to give suggestions or ask questions at the end of the contest.