



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

San Joaquin County Junior High Spelling Bee Grades 7– 9th

Rules and Procedures

1. Participating schools may use any selection process to choose their student representatives. Students must qualify at their local site/district bee before advancing to the county competition.
2. This is a written test. Paper and pencil will be available for each contestant to print the spelling word.
3. The spell master will read the word, use it in a sentence and then read the word again. The 20 second time will begin at that point.
4. A contestant may request that a word be re-pronounced, defined, and/or used in a sentence. Requests are part of their 20 second time. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the student to understand the word from pronunciation, definition, and sentence.
5. The spell 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 20 second bell signal. However, all words except the one to be corrected must be crossed out at that time.
6. Once the bell rings, all students must immediately put their pencils down.
7. After each word, the judges will check each word and note whether the word is spelled correctly or not. Words should be printed clearly.
8. If the word is right, the word is left alone. If the word is wrong, the word is circled.
9. Once the judges are done correcting, the spell master will spell the word orally for the audience.
10. When a speller misses their second word, he/she will take their seat in the audience.
11. The first 15 words in the finals will be taken from the 7-9th practice list posted on the SJCOE website.
12. When there are just 2 students remaining, the one who is eliminated first is the first runner up, and the one still seated is the champion.
13. The spell master, proctor and judges will be in complete charge of the contest. Their decision will be final on all questions.
14. The Webster's Third New International Dictionary, unabridged, (copyright 2002) will be the official contest dictionary. No other source will be allowed.