**FQ COMMUNITY SPELLING BEE RULES**

Students can prepare for spelling bees using a variety of materials including those provided by First Quarter, CSi as available, the local library and area school resources.

*Resources*

*Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, copyright 2002, Merriam Webster*

*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, eleventh edition, copyright 2003, Merriam-Webster*

**Eligibility**

In general terms, this program is open to students who have neither turned 16 nor passed beyond the 8th grade.

1) Only registered competitors are allowed to compete.

2) No additions after registration deadline will be permitted.

3) No competitor substitutions on the day of the competition

4) No late entries after the competition begins. GAME DAY

5) Parents/Guardians must read and sign appropriate eligibility forms and participant release documents

6) Participants, parents/guardians & volunteers must be respectful and cordial.

7)Students can compete in the following competition

A) 5th Grade reading/spelling level: competitors allowed from 3rd grade, 4th Grade, and 5th Grade

B) 8th Grade reading/spelling level: competitors allowed from 6th grade, 7th Grade, and 8th Grade

8) The spellers must not have passed beyond the 5th grade on or before June 1, 2025;

9) The spellers must not have passed beyond the 8th grade on or before June 1, 2025; the speller must not have reached his/her 15th birthday on or before January 31, 2025

10)The speller must not have earned the legal equivalent of a high school diploma.

11)The speller must not have completed or have been enrolled in more than six high school-level course or two college-level courses on or before 31 December, 2024

12) FQ Community Spelling Bee will, in its sole discretion, determine the speller’s eligibility status on or before, 11 January, 2025.

13) The speller must not bypass or circumvent normal school activity to study for spelling bees. FQ Community Spelling Bee defines normal school activity as adherence to at least four course of study other than language arts, spelling, Latin, Greek, vocabular and etymology for at least five hours per weekday through the Journey to the Bee, January 2025.

14) The speller must not have been disqualified at any level of a sponsor’s spelling bee program. Further, if the speller becomes disqualified at any level of a sponsor’s spelling bee program, FQ Community Spelling Bee will require speller to forfeit any prizes, rank and other benefits according to afforded to the speller as a result of participation in the Community Spelling Bee.

15) Students that are not present at START OF COMPETITION cannot compete.

**Special Needs**

The Bee strives to provide accommodation for spellers who have diagnosed medical conditions. All requests for accommodations of special needs should be directed in writing to the executive director of the Bee, email at fqcsi25@gmail.com, before 11 January, 2025. The judges have discretionary power to amend spelling requirements on a case-by-case basis for spellers with diagnosed medical conditions.

**General Rules for Spelling Bee**

1)Students will be given the respective 450-word list to study for the 5th or 8th grade Spelling Bee.

2) Students will have 1 min and 30 seconds to spell the word. The clock begins when the pronouncer first pronounces the word.

3) When given the word, students may ask for clarification in the form of putting the word into a sentence, be given the definition and alternate pronunciation.

Information Request Questions:

1. May I have the word in a sentence please?
2. May I have the definition please?
3. May I have the alternate pronunciation please?
4. Can you repeat the word, please?

4) The speller is held responsible for any misunderstanding of a word except when: the pronouncer mispronounces the word or does not give a proper definition or sentence to distinguish it from another word.

5) The speller is automatically eliminated if he misspells a word.

6) A speller is allowed to stop at any point during the spelling process and

start over from the beginning. However, he is not allowed to change any letters that he began with before the point at which he stopped. This is cause for elimination.

7) During a Spelling Bee the speller traditionally repeats the word before and after he has spelled. Spellers are encouraged to do this in order to make sure they heard the word correctly. This is also a way to tell the judges and pronouncer that they are finished spelling the word. The speller is not eliminated if they forget to repeat the word or if they do not pronounce the word correctly.

Ex: Speller →father, f-a-t-h-e-r, father

8)The rules change when the competition gets down to the final two. If the first speller misses a word, the second speller must correctly spell that word and then another in order to win. If the second speller misspells the new word, then the first speller gets the chance to correct it. If he spells it correctly, he then gets a new word and if he spells that word correctly he is declared the winner.

9) Participants, parents/guardians & volunteers must be respectful and cordial.

10) Parents, coaches, and volunteers must remain quiet during the spelling bee.

11) Parents or Staff **cannot** be on stage at any time.

12) There will be at least three (3) judges.

13) The judge’s word is final

**Bee Journey Expectations**

We are excited to have an opportunity for our kids to participate in this fantastic brain sport. We recognize that it is tremendous learning undertaking and has many different challenging aspects in studying new words, understanding the bee protocol and building confidence for public speaking.

To better assist the speller and parents in navigating through to game day, registration fees include at least 2 practice runs for familiarization and protocol, a movie night to unwind, refreshments and prizes.

Training Locations/Practice Run venues/times: To Be Determined

* Baker Civic Center
* Baker Branch Library

 03 NOV 24 Spelling Bee Meet & Greet 2-4p

 w/ Practice Run

 17 NOV 24 Practice Run 10-2

 07 DEC 24 Practice Run 2-4p

 22 DEC 24 Practice Run 10-2p

 05 JAN 25 Practice Run 10-2p

\*18 JAN 25 BEE DAY 5th Grade 8a -12p and 8th Grade 1-4p

1) Anticipate competition day, Saturday, January 18, 2025

a. will begin at 9 AM for 5th grade competition

b. will begin at 1 PM for 8th grade competition

2) All students are to report at least 30 mins prior to START to the Baker Branch Library to sign-in and position for competition.

\*Event held at Baker Civic Club 2640 Magnolia Drive, Baker LA

PLEASE VISIT FQCSI.ORG/SPELLINGBEE TO STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Thank you for encouraging your child(ren) to participate in the Community Spelling Bee. Our purpose, as innate to the cause, is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that will help them all of their lives.

Feel free to contact First Quarter, fqcsi25@gmail.com if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Denise, Program Coordinator

225.205.0835

Like us on Facebook @First Quarter CSi to see the latest Bee happenings.

Best Wishes to All Contestants! You Can Do It!!