

MAESA Spelling Bee 2025



Mid-Atlantic Episcopal School Association
Friday, April 25, 2025
St. Albans School, Washington, D.C.

GUIDELINES

Contact: JT Miller jtmiller@stalbansschool.org
Stacy Gray maesaschools@gmail.com

Number of Participants: Two (2) participants and one (1) alternate per age group

Age Groups: Grades 4-6 & Grades 7-8

Competition Times: Grades 4-6: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Grades 7-8: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- **Please indicate on the registration form the names of faculty members who have agreed to help with the judging of *both* grade level events.**
- **For each age group, awards will be presented to the top three individuals.**

RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. The spell-off for finalists will be an oral competition with elimination on a “miss and out” basis in the traditional spelling bee manner.
2. **ONE PRACTICE ROUND** will be held for all spellers, which does **NOT** count in the competition.
3. Words used in the finals will be selected from the provided word lists entitled “Spelling Bee Practice List Grades 4-6” and “Spelling Bee Practice List Grades 7-8.” The spellings on the lists will be considered accurate spellings in the Bee.
4. During the competition, words may be given to contestants in any order (not necessarily the order in which they appear on the word lists).

5. While the grades 4-6 list is intended for use in the grades 4-6 competition, and the grades 7-8 list is intended for Grade 7-8, *another word list may be used if the participants successfully complete all of the words in their bracket.*
6. Each school's winner should be chosen early enough so that a student can review the study word lists provided.
7. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant the word, the contestant will pronounce the word before spelling it and again after spelling it.
8. The contestant may request the pronouncer to re-pronounce the word, define it, or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer will grant the request a limit of two (2) times during the competition.
9. Having started a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing from the beginning, but in the retracing there can be no change of letters and their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters and their sequence are changed in the respelling, the contestant will be disqualified.
10. Upon missing the spelling of a word, the contestant immediately drops out of the contest. The next word on the pronouncer's list is given to the next contestant. All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place.
11. When the contestants are reduced to two (2), the elimination procedure changes. At that point when one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant will be given the opportunity to spell that same word. If the second contestant spells that word correctly plus the next word on the pronouncer's list correctly, that contestant will be declared the winner.
12. If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correctly spelling the missed word, misspells the new word, then the misspelled new word will be referred to the first speller. If the first speller then succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer's list, then he/she will be declared the winner.
13. If both spellers misspell the same word, both will continue in the contest and the one who first misspelled the word will be given a new word to spell. The contest will then continue under rules 9 and 10.
14. Any questions relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the judges immediately. No protest will be entertained after the word has been given to another speller. When only two spellers remain, a protest must be made immediately, that is before the second speller has started to spell the word given to him/her.
15. In the event that all of the words have been spelled correctly and contestants remain, the judges may select words from an alternate list or the dictionary and follow the procedures above until the bee is complete.
16. The judges' decision will be final on all questions.