

• **ENTRIES.** As many as THREE students from each grade level (grades 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, and COMBINED grades 7/ 8) OR ages 7, 8, 9, 10,11, 12 and 13 respectively by Sept. 1 of the current school year, if in an ungraded school, may be entered in the Spelling District Contest from each school. Adults representing each school will select contestants to represent the campus at the District Meet based on their abilities in spelling, as well as other factors, which are decided upon by each school.

• **ADVANCING TO STATE.** 4 students must compete in each grade level in order for the top two students from each contest to advance to State (See p. 8 for complete rules.)

• **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** *The tie-breaker portion of this contest has been eliminated.* Contestants learn by memory to write or print (in pencil or dark ink) the spelling words found on the current year's "PSIA Spelling List." The spelling lists change each year, and the full list consists of 600 words for grades 2 & 3, 800 words for grades 4 & 5, and 900 words for grades 6 & 7/8. The tests in competition consist of the following numbers of words:

Grades 2 & 3:	<b>50</b> words on test
Grades 4 & 5:	<b>75</b> words on test
Grades 6, & 7/8:	<b>100</b> words on test

Should there be an error on the Spelling Lists, the NEWS section of the PSIA website will have it posted as the first news item. ALL PSIA member schools will receive an email regarding any error, and reminder emails will be additionally sent to schools. Approximately 25% of the words pronounced in the spelling test will be from "outside." OUTSIDE for the purpose of this contest means that the words pronounced are taken from the official source for spelling verification, the *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Outside words are not on the study list. Grades 2 & 3 will have 13 words from outside. Grades 4 & 5 will have 19 words from outside. Grades 6, & 7/8 will have 25 words from outside. Some words on the test may be derivatives of the original word, or have different suffixes or prefixes. (example: "orderly" may be "orderliness")

• **WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST.**  
 The contest director will announce the time and



place that contestants and one adult should report for verification of the scoring of tests. (If you are an alternate or substitute taking the place of a registered contestant

who is absent, be sure to let the contest director know as you enter the room to save time in roll call.) Contestants are then given an identification half page, on which their Contestant ID label containing the student's name, school, city, and grade level, has already been placed. Answer sheets for the tests are then distributed, and contestants are asked to place their ID numbers and grade levels in the spaces provided on each page.

The contest director will begin the contest by playing the CD that will have a person pronouncing words TWICE at approximate 10 to 12-second intervals, and at about 5 to 6 words per minute. Additional time may be provided for more difficult words for which the CD pronouncer provides a sentence and/or definition. As contestants hear the words pronounced on the CD, they should begin writing/printing the spelling of the word in the spaces provided on the answer sheet. The Contest Director and Assistant Director in the room will monitor students and adjust sound on CD player, as needed. Contestants must NOT request the re-pronunciation of words, and they may not speak during the contest pronunciation time. Directors of the contest **MUST NOT repeat words**. The CD presentation must stand as the test. Contestants must use clean erasers and they may not write on their erasers or on any of their body parts before or during the contest. Words should be written only on the blanks provided on the test answer sheet.

• **SCORING.**

Add 5 points for each word spelled correctly. No points are added or deducted for misspelled, skipped or unanswered test items. Only proper nouns may be capitalized, and letter formation throughout the word MUST be correct (including capital letters, dotted i's and diacritical marks, such as umlauts and accents) for the contestant to receive credit. The word list provides correct capitalization for each word. Words MUST be written beside the correct word number to be counted correct. Word numbers are pronounced for each word on the CD.

• **VERIFICATION PERIOD.**

Please follow instructions provided on page 14 of the *PSIA Academic Handbook*. Use your *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*, to look up any word that may be in question.