

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONTESTANT

• **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.** 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: | 50 words on test |
| Grades 4 & 5: | 75 words on test |
| Grades 6, & 7/8: | 100 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, 11th 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. **Outside words on each test will be pronounced AFTER the list words and carry a greater value than the regular list words.** 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 **MUST** be written only on the blanks provided on the test answer sheet by the correct number for each word.

• **SCORING.**

Add 5 points for each Spelling List word spelled correctly. **Add 7 points for each outside 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 15 of the *PSIA Academic Handbook*. Use your *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition*, to look up any word that may be in question.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COACHES / CONTEST DIRECTORS

• **PREPARATION FOR CONTEST.** Read and follow all instructions provided in the "Rules for ALL Participants" section of the *PSIA Academic Handbook*. Observe and practice with students all rules and procedures delineated in the "Instructions for the Contestant" and in the "Checklist for Contest Directors" and the "Grader Instructions." Preparation for the Spelling Contest should include instruction in the rules of the English language, prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Providing meanings and definitions for words that are more difficult or those that have multiple meanings and spellings is helpful in providing differentiation during the contest.

• **PERSONNEL NEEDED FOR CONTEST.**

1. *Contest Director.* May be a coach of contestants in the contest, but preferably not.
2. *Assistant Director 1.* A knowledgeable coach from a different school other than director's.
3. *Assistant Director 2.* A knowledgeable coach from a different school other than director's.
3. *Graders.* Director/Pronouncer and Assistant Director should also serve as graders. To expedite the grading process, provide at least two graders for every 6 papers.

(Note that detailed instruction will come in the packet to the Contest Director/Pronouncer regarding the functions of each person assisting with the contest.)

• **SCORING (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION).**

The contestant's score shall be determined by awarding 5 points for each correct spelling of regular list words and 7 points for each correct outside word. There are no deductions for missed words or for mark-outs and erasures. For each correct spelling, place a checkmark ✓ before each correct word. At least 2 people should score each paper with a different color of ink or pencil, and a third person must score papers that appear to rank in the top 10. After marking all correct words, count the number of list words that are correct and multiply by 5 and count the number of correct outside words and multiply by 7. Add the 2 totals together to compute the test score. The contestant with the highest score shall be given first place; the one with the next highest score, second place; and so on. ALL scores of all contestants MUST be placed in PENCIL on the Contest Roster for verification. Post ranks only to 10.

Remember to have a *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition*, along with the official PSIA Spelling List, on hand during grading and

at the Verification Period. These will be the only "official" sources for word spellings. Unless otherwise indicated on the official Spelling List, British spellings of words are not to be considered as correct spellings in this contest.

If a contestant scores 100% in this contest at the District or State level, Contest Directors should notify the state office by faxing the form found in the index of the *PSIA Academic Handbook*. A copy of this form should be made available in the tournament tab room.

• **SPELLING LISTS and RESOURCES.**

The official current year "Spelling List," consisting of rules, tips, and spelling words for all grade levels may be ordered on the PSIA "Study Materials Order Form" found in the back of the *PSIA Academic Handbook* and on the PSIA website www.psiacademics.org, under "All PSIA Forms."

CDs, tapes, definitions, sentences, computer practice software, and other resources are available through these supplemental companies:

ASW Enterprises

Box 737

Abilene, TX 79604-0737

800 627-9030

www.aswenterprises.com

TEP (35% Off Price of Dictionary)

800 443-2078

www.tepbooks.com

HEXCO, Inc.

800-PAJAMAS

www.hexco.com

