

**Dear Parent,**

**Congratulations!** You are receiving this notification because your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade student has signed-up to participate in the Mead Elementary Spelling Bee!

1. Phase 1 Spelling Bee – Will be a grade level bee held on **January 30 (4<sup>th</sup> grade) and 31 (5<sup>th</sup> grade), 2024** during lunch and lunch recess. **Unfortunately no parents will be allowed to observe due to space restrictions.** The finalists will move on to Phase 2.
2. Phase 2 Spelling Bee – Finalists will participate in the school spelling bee held during the assembly on **February 7, 2023.**
3. One finalist from the Phase 2 spelling bee will go on to the regional spelling in Boulder, CO. BVSD Regional Spelling Bee will be held on March 16, 2024, 8am - 3:30pm, at Nevin Platt Middle School. The winner of the Regional Event advances on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee scheduled for May 28, 2024.

**Tips for helping your child get ready for the spelling bee:**

**Spend some time each day with your child and go over the spelling words.** Spelling is a skill and, like sports or math, you don't get better at it without practice! Start with their grade level words and move on to the other grade level words when they feel ready to. Let your child practice the spelling words over and over until they are able to spell them without looking at the spelling list. Use a dictionary to study word roots, origins, languages, etc. **IMPORTANT:** The format they will be practicing:

1. Say the word
2. Spell the word
3. Say the word

This is to help the students be sure of the word they are spelling, to give them a second to slow down and think, and to notify the judge when they are finished spelling the word. Once they begin spelling they cannot start over.

**Make sure your child is comfortable on stage.** Some people have stage fright, but if your child wants to succeed at the Spelling Bee, they must have the courage to get on stage and spell the word.

**Word Lists** are available for students to download on their iPads using QR codes that are available at:

**meadpac.org**

In addition there is a free app called **Word Club** from Scripps Spelling Bee available on App Store or Google Play. Students can choose from five spelling play modes and track their progress as they conquer the *School Spelling Bee Study List* and *Words of the Champions*. This is the recommended study resource for classroom, school, regional qualifier and regional spelling bees.

If you have any questions, please send me an email at [marycat716@gmail.com](mailto:marycat716@gmail.com) .

**Mary Amelotte**

**Mead Elementary PAC**

**Spelling Bee Chairperson**