SPELLING QUESTION TYPES

There will be two types of questions:

- **TYPE IN THE WORD** - Students will type out their spellings using a keyboard.
- **MULTIPLE CHOICE** - Students will select the correct answer from four possible choices.

NUMBER OF SPELLING AND VOCABULARY WORDS

The Semi-Final Bee will include 30 questions: 15 spelling words and 15 vocabulary words.

The 15 spelling words will have the following information displayed: an audio pronunciation of the word (and alternate pronunciation(s) if applicable), part of speech, origin, definition, the word used in a sentence, and any additional information needed to spell the word. These questions will require students to type in the word spelling using a keyboard.

Students will also answer 15 multiple choice vocabulary questions. These multiple choice questions will require spellers to select the correct answer from four possible choices.

WORD SELECTION

Words used and definitions given in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch 2021 Regional Spelling Bee MAY BE SELECTED from words that appear in the current edition of SpellCheck, the School Spelling Bee Study List and Words of the Champions, generated by the Scripps National Spelling Bee (SNSB). Also, these word lists end with a section of words that do not appear in the aforementioned study resources and are for use at the local/regional spelling bee, if the local/regional bee officials determine that their use in the spelling bee is warranted. All words appearing on 2021 SNSB word lists are entries in Merriam-Webster Unabridged, the official dictionary of the SNSB, available at http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com/. Merriam-Webster Unabridged is the final authority and sole source for the spelling of words; the primary source used to craft the pronunciations, definitions and language origins for the SNSB word lists; and the only authority to be consulted by spelling bee officials, as well as the sole source used during the spelling bee to verify the information in 2021 SNSB word lists. Some alternate pronunciations appearing in 2021 SNSB word lists may have been drawn from Merriam-Webster print publications because the SNSB deemed the information helpful to the speller.

TESTING WINDOW

The Semi-Final Bee will be held virtually on March 6, 2021. The Bee will automatically begin at 10:00 A.M. Students who log in after 10:00 A.M. will not be able to enter the Bee. We suggest logging into the online testing platform by 9:40 A.M.

The Bee will last approximately 15 minutes and end at completion of the test. After the testing window has closed, the speller will be unable to log back in. All divisions will test at the same time.

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TIMED TEST
Spellers have 30 seconds to answer each question after which the test will automatically continue to the next question. Spellers are unable to change their answers once the question has passed.

TEST ADMINISTRATION
The online testing platform is supported on the following browsers: Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. We recommend use of a desktop, laptop or tablet for the best user experience.

Spellers must have a secure internet connection to take the test. Spellers that refresh their browser and lose a portion of their questions will NOT be able to resubmit the questions lost. Spellers will not be able to re-enter the test after closing the browser window.

TEST COMMUNICATIONS
The Parent Email Address from the Online Waiver will be used as the login to enter the Semi-Final Bee on March 6, 2021. Testing instructions will also be sent to this email address 48 hours before the Bee begins.

AFTER THE TEST
The finalists from the virtual Semi-Final Bee will be announced on the NIE website (STLtoday.com/bee) BY 6 P.M. ON SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021.

Each finalist will receive an email with specific instructions on the Final Bee. ONLY finalists will compete in the finals on Saturday, March 13, 2021, location to be determined.

OBTAINING A COPY OF TEST RESULTS
Due to COVID-19 concerns, a copy of the test results for spellers who do not qualify for the oral final bee may be obtained through a special request after March 15.

Please email nie@post-dispatch.com for more information.