

# NYS STANDARDS

- ELA-S1: Language for Information and Understanding*
- ELA-S2: Language for Literary Response and Expression*
- ELA-S3: Language for Critical Analysis and Evaluation*
- ELA-S4: Language for Social Interaction*

Students participating in SPELLBOUND will meet as a group to listen, speak, read, and write while collecting data on the English language. This is not meant to be a memorization of the dictionary, but more of a learning of our language while playfully interacting with peers.

Students will explore more than spelling in SPELLBOUND. Many students will analyze the pronunciation, definitions or the historical context of the words...and find that spelling is just one facet to increasing their vocabularies, learning language concepts and developing correct English usage.

Some coaches encourage the students to perform skits about certain letters, create Power Point presentations of a selected word history, design pronunciation food dishes to eat, or produce artwork of fun idioms. This connection allows language for self-expression and artistic creation.

Students are encouraged to participate in research, gestures and conversations to better prepare for competitions and a life long use of the English language.



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# SPELLBOUND: PRE-SPELLING BEE



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# WHAT IS SPELLBOUND?

Spellbound is a language-based competition for students in grades 3-8. Teams of students prepare to answer not only how to spell correctly, but they learn the pronunciation, definition, language of origin and parts of speech.

Teams compete in a round-robin format with nearby schools, and division winners may advance to a regional Spelling Bee, the New York Spelling Bee and/or the National Spelling Bee. Winning teams are recognized with plaques. All participants receive certificates.

The purpose of the competition is to encourage and reward ELA skills and to provide recognition to students in their accomplishments in spelling.



## ELIGIBILITY:

Students in Grades 3-8

## TEAMS:

Teams of eight will compete at each mini-bee, against other school teams.

## COACHES:

Each team will be led by a maestro of words! The Enrichment Specialist will provide supplemental work for teams to grow and learn more about the English language.

## MINI-BEES:

Teams will compete on a rotating schedule. The mini-bees may consist of written word lists, oral word lists, language of origin, pronunciation, part of speech and definitions.

The mini-bees are meant to be engaging and fun, as they are the preparation to the optional Regional, New York, and National Spelling Bees.



bee: (noun) a community social gathering in order to perform some task, engage in a contest: *a sewing bee; a spelling bee*

# WHAT'S THE BUZZ...

How do you pronounce *newspaper*?  
-nooz-*pey*-per

What is the definition of *acrid*?  
-sharp and harsh; bitter

How do you spell *abstruse*?  
-ab-STROOS; uhb-STROOS, *adjective*  
Difficult to comprehend or understand.

What part of speech is *calmly*?  
-adverb

What is the language of origin for *brío*?  
[Origin: 1725-35; < It < Sp *brío*  
energy, determination < Celtic *\*brigos*; cf. OIr  
*brig* (fem.) power, strength, force, Middle Welsh  
*bri* (masc.) honor, dignity, authority]

How do you pronounce *undulant*?  
-UN-juh-lunt; UN-dyuh-lunt

What is the definition of *supercilious*?  
-disdainfully arrogant

What part of speech is *clamber*?  
-verb

What is the language of origin for *myriad*?  
[Origin: 1545-55; < Gk *myriad*- (s.  
of *myriás*) ten thousand; see -AD<sup>1</sup>]

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