



2016 Middle School Spelling Bee



NOTES:

You can download for FREE the 2015-2016 State Spelling Bee Procedures, Rules, & Regulations via the GAE Website at www.gae.org/spellingbee. You also download the Order form for Spelling Bee Pins, or GAE Spelling Bee Certificates, etc.

The Bee's Official study guide from Merriam-Webster,
2016 Spell-It is available ONLINE at www.myspellit.com

GISA Middle School Spelling Bee Timetable

August 14, 2015 - October 15, 2015	Enrollment Period for Scripps' National Spelling Bee Deadline to enroll your school to participate in the State Level Spelling Bee via online registration at www.spellingbee.com
December 4, 2015	Confirmation Letter from principals due in GISA Office. Confirmation letter should indicate that the school will send two (2) contestants and should include the name of the faculty member willing to assist in the competitions and in what capacity.
January 22, 2016	Due date for the names of two contestants and two alternates from your school who will be participating in the GISA Unit Bee.
February 11, 2016	Round 1 of GISA Middle School Spelling Bees at the five area sites. Two contestants from each GISA school will compete at the designated areas.
February 23, 2016	Rounds 2 & 3 (GISA Unit Finals) of GISA Middle School Spelling Bee Competition at The Atlanta Academy, Roswell
March 18, 2016	GAE State Final in Atlanta, GA
May/June, 2016	Scripps National Competition, Washington, D.C.

Please note: No student may compete in Round 2 unless he/she participates and is a top scorer in Round 1. No student may compete in Round 3 unless he/she participates and is a top scorer in Round 2. No student may compete in the GAE State Spelling Bee unless his/her school has enrolled and paid the \$136 school fee (www.spellingbee.com).

Georgia Independent School Association 2016 Middle School Spelling Bee

1. Each GISA school may select two contestants from its school to enter the first round of the GISA Middle School Spelling Bee.
2. An ELIGIBLE STUDENT must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Speller is enrolled in Grades 4 thru 8, and has not passed beyond Grade 8 on or before February 1, 2016;
 - b. Speller has not reached his/her 15th birthday on or before August 31, 2015;
 - c. Speller has not repeated any grade for the purpose of extending spelling bee eligibility. If the speller has repeated any grade, the speller must notify the Scripps National Spelling Bee of the circumstances of grade repetition by March 31, 2016; and the Scripps National Spelling Bee will, in its sole discretion, determine the speller's eligibility status on or before April 30, 2016.
 - d. Speller – or the speller's parent, legal guardian, or school official acting on the speller's behalf – must not have declared to another entity an academic classification higher than 8th grade for any purpose, including high school graduation equivalency or proficiency examinations and/or examinations such as the PSAT, SAT, or ACT.
 - e. Speller must not have earned the legal equivalent of a high school diploma.
 - f. Speller must not have completed nor ever been enrolled in more than six high school-level courses or two college-level courses on or before April 30, 2016.
 - g. Speller must not bypass or circumvent normal school activity to study for spelling bees. The Scripps National Spelling Bee defines normal school activity as adherence to at least four courses of study other than language arts, spelling, Latin, Greek, vocabulary, and etymology for at least four hours per weekday for 34 of the 38 weeks between August 25, 2015 and May 16, 2016.
 - h. Speller must have been declared a champion of a final local spelling bee on or after February 1, 2016.
 - i. Speller must not have won the Scripps National Spelling Bee championship in the Washington, DC area.
 - j. has not, and neither has his/her parents, legal guardians, relatives, acquaintances nor educators, obtained a copy of the 2016 School Pronouncer Guide to study for competition;
 - k. has not qualified in GAE Final Bee for the National Finals by spelling any of the words found in the 2016 School Pronouncer Guide
3. Each school may set and use its own criteria to select the two contestants who will participate in the first round of the competition.
4. Each school that sends contestants to participate in the GISA Middle School Spelling Bee must also furnish the name of a faculty member from the school who will assist with the competition, if requested.

Round 1 – GISA Unit Bee

5. Round 1 of the GISA competition will be held at the five area sites on Thursday, February 11, 2016. Area sites will include two in Atlanta, one in Macon, Savannah and Albany. School contestants will be assigned to the site in their area.
6. Round 1 will be a written test of 50 vocabulary and 50 words with ten additional tie breaker words. "Tie breakers" will be used only in the case of ties. To compete, all competitors must be present when the competition begins. "Late comers" will not be allowed to begin the competition after official word calling begins.
7. Rules governing written tests for Middle School Spelling Bee are included in this packet.
8. After checking the written tests, judges will post the names of the top scorers. The number of "top scorers" for each area will be dependent on the number of schools eligible for participation in Round 1. The designated "top scorers" from each area will compete in Round 2 at The Atlanta Academy on Tuesday, February 23, 2016.
9. Answer sheets will not be returned to participant or faculty advisors.
10. Certificates of Participation will be presented to all students who participate in Round 1 of the 2016 GISA Middle School Spelling Bee.

Rounds 2 & 3 – GISA Unit Finals

11. Rounds 2 and 3 will be held at The Atlanta Academy in Roswell on Tuesday, February 23, 2016.
12. Round 2 will be a written test of 50 vocabulary and 50 words with ten additional "tie breakers." "Tie breakers" will be used only in the case of a tie. To compete, all competitors must be present when the written competition begins. "Late comers" will not be allowed to begin written competition after official word calling begins.
13. Rules governing written tests for Middle School Spelling Bee are included in this packet.
14. After checking the written tests, judges will post the names of the students who will advance to the Finals (Round 3) in the afternoon.
15. Participants in the Round 3 will be the top 20 scorers of the morning written test.
16. Finals (Round 3) will be conducted in the afternoon of Tuesday, February 23, 2016. Competition will continue until a winner is determined.
17. Rules governing oral tests for the Middle School Spelling Bee are attached.
18. Plaques will be presented to the top four (4) places. In addition, the winner will receive cash awards from GAE.

19. The GISA Winner and Runner-up will participate in the GAE State Finals on March 18, 2016 (if they are registered and paid the fee).
20. The competition on March 18, 2016, will be an oral bee and will follow the rules of oral competition listed in the State Spelling Bee 2015-16 Procedures, Rules, and Regulations, published by the Georgia Association of Educators.
21. The winner of the Georgia State Finals will compete at the National competition in Washington, D.C.
22. The official dictionary to be used during all rounds of the Middle School Spelling Bee is Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its Addenda Section copyright 2002.

Contact Information

Round 1 @ 5 Area Sites
Thursday, February 11, 2016

Area Sites	Host School	Coordinator	Email Address
Atlanta # 1	Mill Spring Academy	Victoria Jones	vjones@millsprings.org
Atlanta # 2	Woodward Academy	Lorrie McNeill	lorrie.mcneill@woodward.edu
Macon	Mount de Sales Academy	Keith Bartlett	kbartlett@mountdesales.net
Savannah	Memorial Day School	Stephanie King	sking@memday.org
Albany	Deerfield-Windsor School	Shealy Sinyard	shealy.sinyard@deerfieldwindsor.com

Each Area Coordinator is responsible for sending directions to their site to the faculty representatives of each participating school coming to their site.

Rounds 2 and 3*
Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Hosted by The Atlanta Academy, Roswell

GISA Spelling Bee Coordinator:

Robin Aylor, GISA Office

E-mail: robin@gisaschools.org

Tel: 706-938-1400

*A faculty representative is expected to be present at Round 2 and Round 3 with any student who competes.

Directions to The Atlanta Academy are printed at the bottom of Schedule for Round 2 and 3 on February 23, 2016 (included in this packet).

(GISA Unit Finals Winner and Runner-up will participate in the GAE State Finals on March 18, 2016 in Atlanta)

GI SA Middle School Spelling Bee

Round 1 Schedule

10:00 am – 10:30 am
Registration

10:30 am
Assembly

10:45 am
Round 1 (Written competition)

12:00 pm – 1:20 pm
LUNCH "on your own"

1:30 pm
Names of TOP SCORERS posted

1:45 pm
Recognition Assembly
(All competitors will be recognized)

GI SA Middle School Spelling Bee

Rounds 2 & 3 Schedule

Tuesday, February 23, 2016
@ The Atlanta Academy, Roswell

9:00 am – 9:30 am
Registration

9:45 am – 10:45 am
Round 2 (Written Competition)

11:00 am – 12:15 pm
LUNCH “on your own”

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
Posting of Finalists

1:15 pm
Round 3 (Oral Competition)

At the conclusion of Round 3,
plaques will be presented
to the top four (4) spellers.

Directions to

The Atlanta Academy
2000 Holcomb Woods Parkway
Roswell, GA 30076

From the South:

Travel on GA 400 North
Exit 7A Norcross and merge onto Holcomb Bridge Road
Pass over Old Alabama Road
Take a LEFT at the light onto Holcomb Woods Parkway
Pass Home Depot and the school will be the next driveway on your RIGHT.

From the North:

Travel GA 400 South
Exit 7 Holcomb Bridge Road
Take a LEFT onto Holcomb Bridge Road
Pass over Old Alabama Road
Take a LEFT at the light onto Holcomb Woods Parkway
Pass Home Depot and the school will be the next driveway on your RIGHT.

Eligibility Directives from the sponsors
of the Statewide Spelling Bee of Georgia

The Statewide Spelling Bee of Georgia is under the auspices of the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE). The publishing company, E.W. Scripps Company, however, is the ultimate authority over all participation and eligibility requirements concerning the contests leading to the National Spelling Bee competition. Scripps has the authority to determine which schools may compete in competitions sponsored by newspapers throughout each state in the United States.

Unfortunately, Scripps has eliminated 21 counties from competition sponsored by GAE and has assigned the schools both public and private in these counties to competition sponsored by the newspapers or cable companies. All schools (both public and private) in the following counties are affected.

Burke	Emanuel	McDuffie	Walker
Catoosa	Glascok	Richmond	Warren
Chickamauga City	Grady	Screven	Washington
Columbia	Jefferson County	Taliaferro	Whitfield
Dade	Jenkins	Thomas	Wilkes
Dalton City	Lincoln	Thomasville City	
Decatur County			

Schools in these counties must now enter competition sponsored by the Augusta Chronicle, The Chattanooga Times, or The Tallahassee Democrat as presently assigned by Scripps.

GISA schools are affected by this decision are listed below. We regret this decision tremendously. Some of the schools affected are ones who have participated in the GISA Middle School Spelling Bee from its beginnings and their students and faculty have given wonderful support to the program.

As sponsors of the Rounds 1 through 3 competitions, GISA invites students from these ten schools to participate in Round 1 competition, and if a top scorer, in Rounds 2 and 3 accordingly. However, one directive must be made very clear to each student who participates from these ten schools. **NO STUDENT FROM ONE OF THE SCHOOLS LISTED BELOW WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE COMPETITION ON MARCH 18, 2016.**

If a student from one of the ten schools is one of the two top scorers in Round 3 of GISA competition, he/she will be replaced in the statewide competition by the third top scorer if appropriate. If you are an ineligible school and wish to enter your students in the GISA competitions, a faculty member at that school should make the above regulation very clear to the students and parents involved.

Elsewhere in this packet is the list designating the area that each GISA school is assigned for Round 1 Competition. If a school listed below (those ineligible to participate in the GAE Spelling Bee) wishes to send representatives to Round 1 competition, the faculty moderator should contact Robin Aylor at the GISA Office at (706) 938-1400 or Email: robin@gisaschools.org to be assigned to the appropriate area for Round 1 competition.

**GISA Schools Ineligible to Participate in the
GAE State Spelling Bee**

Augusta Preparatory Day School
Brentwood School
Briarwood Academy
Brookwood School

David Emanuel Academy
Edmund Burke Academy
Westminster Schools of Augusta

Atlanta Area # 1 @ Mill Springs
Atlanta Area # 2 @ Woodward

Top 15 Scorers advance
Top 10 Scorers advance

	Atlanta Area # 1 @ Mill Springs	Atlanta Area # 2 @ Woodward
1	Academy of Scholars, The	Academe of the Oaks
2	Atlanta Academy	Arlington Christian School
3	Atlanta Country Day School	Athens Academy
4	Atlanta Girls' School	Atlanta International School
5	Atlanta Jewish Academy	Bedford School, The
6	Atlanta Speech School	Bethlehem Christian Academy
7	Ava White Academy	Cliff Valley School
8	Berry Elementary & Middle School	Community Christian School
9	Brandon Hall School	Eagle's Landing Christian Academy
10	Center Academy	Furtah Preparatory School
11	Christ the King School	Heirway Christian Academy
12	Chrysalis Experiential Academy	Heritage School, The
13	Community School, The	High Meadows School
14	Cornerstone Christian Academy	Howard School, The
15	Cottage School, The	Lovett School, The
16	Cumberland Academy of GA	Notre Dame Academy
17	Darlington School	Oak Mountain Academy
18	Davis Academy	Our Lady of Victory School
19	Dominion Christian School	Pace Academy
20	Eaton Academy	Paideia School
21	Fellowship Christian School	Prince Avenue Christian School
22	Friends School of Atlanta, The	Schenck School, The
23	Fugees Academy	Solid Rock Academy
24	Fulton Science Academy	St. John the Evangelist School
25	Galloway School, The	Strong Rock Christian School
26	GRACEPOINT School	Trinity Christian School, Sharpsburg
27	Greater Atlanta Christian School	Trinity School
28	Heritage Preparatory School	Waldorf School, The
29	Holy Innocents' Episcopal School	Westminster School, Atlanta
30	Holy Redeemer Catholic School	Whitefield Academy
31	Holy Spirit Preparatory School	Woodward Academy
32	King's Ridge Christian School	Young Americans Christian School
33	Lakeview Academy	
34	Lionheart School, The	
35	Little School, The	
36	Marist School	
37	McGinnis Woods Country Day School	
38	Mill Springs Academy	
39	Mount Bethel Christian Academy	
40	Mount Paran Christian School	
41	Mount Pisgah Christian School	
42	Mount Vernon Presbyterian School	
43	Pinecrest Academy	
44	Porter Academy	
45	Providence Christian Academy	
46	Sophia Academy	
47	Springmont School	
48	St. Benedict's Episcopal School	
49	St. Francis School	
50	St. Jude the Apostle School	
51	St. Martin's Episcopal School	
52	St. Mary's Catholic School	
53	Swift School, The	
54	Tallulah Falls School	
55	Torah Day School of Atlanta	
56	Walker School, The	
57	Wesleyan School	
58	Wildwood Christian Academy	

Macon Area @ Mount de Sales
 Savannah Area @ Memorial Day
 Albany Area @ Deerfield-Windsor

Top 10 Scorers advance
 Top 5 Scorers advance
 Top 5 Scorers advance

Macon Area @ Mount de Sales		Savannah Area @ Memorial Day	
1	Bethlehem Temple Christian School	1	Bulloch Academy
2	Brookstone School	2	CAN Academy
3	Covenant Academy	3	Chatham Academy
4	First Presbyterian Day School	4	First Presbyterian Christian Academy
5	Flint River Academy	5	Frederica Academy
6	Fullington Academy	6	Grace Christian Academy
7	Gatewood School	7	Hancock Day School
8	George Walton Academy	8	Heritage Christian Academy
9	Griffin Christian High School	9	Memorial Day School
10	John Hancock Academy	10	Pinewood Christian Academy
11	John Milledge Academy	11	Robert Toombs Christian Academy
12	LaGrange Academy	12	Savannah Christian Prep School
13	Loganville Christian Academy	13	Savannah Country Day School
14	Montessori of Macon	14	St. Andrew's School
15	Mount de Sales Academy	Albany Area @ Deerfield-Windsor	
16	Piedmont Academy	1	Citizens Christian Academy
17	Rock Springs Christian Academy	2	Crisp Academy
18	Southland Academy	3	Deerfield-Windsor School
19	St. George's Episcopal School	4	Georgia Christian School
20	Stratford Academy	5	Highland Christian Academy
21	Tattnall Square Academy	6	Southwest Georgia Academy
22	Trinity Christian School, Dublin	7	Terrell Academy
23	Twiggs Academy	8	Tiftarea Academy
24	Westfield School, The	9	Valwood School
25	Windsor Academy	10	Westwood School

Rules Governing Written Tests of Middle School Spelling Bee

(All students must be present when competition begins.
"Late comers" will not be allowed to begin written
competition after official word calling begins.)

1. All word will be taken from Webster's 3rd New International Dictionary, copyright 2002.
2. All written spelling tests must be written in ink.
3. The first "writing" of the word will be scored.
 - a. Contestants will not be permitted to write a word or words anywhere other than the answer sheet.
 - b. If an error is made, it is not permissible to start over on a new sheet with the next word and recopy the previous word or words.
 - c. After the original test sheet has been completed, it is not permissible to recopy the test.
4. When papers are corrected, the following are counted as errors:
 - a. All words so poorly written that they are considered unreadable.
 - b. All words written over as an "i." over an "e".
 - c. All words which show erasures and/or changes.
 - d. All words erased and/or crossed out and rewritten.
 - e. All words omitted.
 - f. All words in which the preferred spelling is not used. When a word can be spelled two or more ways, the preferred spelling will be the correct spelling.
5. A contestant may ask the caller for a definition of a word and/or the use of the word in a sentence.
6. After the vocabulary and words of Rounds 1 and 2 are checked, if two or more contestants are tied, the "tie breakers" will be used. "Tie-breakers" will be checked word by word in the order given. An error will eliminate a contestant or contestants until a winner is determined.
7. No audience will be present for Rounds 1 and 2 (written tests) of the Middle School Spelling Bee.
8. Only students who are designated school representatives to Round 1 of GI SA Middle School Spelling Bee and faculty members designated by the site coordinator may be in the room during the written competition.

Rules Governing Oral Test of the Middle School Spelling Bee

1. An audience may be present at Round 3 - Oral Bee.
2. All words shall be pronounced according to the diacritical markings in Webster's 3rd New International Dictionary, and its Addenda Section, Copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster.
3. A tape recorder will be used to assist the judges in clarifying questions regarding word pronunciations and /or word spellings.
4. Contestants will participate in a practice round before competition begins.
5. In competition, contestants shall pronounce the word both before and after spelling it; however, no speller will be eliminated for failing to pronounce a word. All spelling words will consist of single, non-hyphenated words. Failure to capitalize a word will not be penalized. Personal names will not be included.
6. When a contestant fails to spell a word correctly, he/she must step out of the contest and a different word shall be given to the next speller, except as provided for in Rules 11-12 of this section.
7. After having started to spell a word, a speller shall not be given any opportunity to change letters once pronounced. The speller may retrace the letters of the word from the beginning only, provided no letters or their sequence are changed from those first pronounced. If letters and/or their sequence are changed in the respelling, then the speller shall be eliminated.
8. The speller may ask the caller to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech, add alternate pronunciation and/or provide the language of origin of the word before attempting to spell it. Root word questions will not be entertained by the caller or judges. No other information about the etymology or history of a word shall be provided. The caller shall grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller. The judges may disqualify any speller who ignores a request to start spelling.
9. If no definition of a homonym is provided by the caller, the correct spelling of either word shall be accepted. When a definition or sentence is given, the speller must spell the correct word.
10. Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its Addenda Section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster, shall serve as the final authority for the spelling of words. If more than one spelling is listed for a word that the caller has provided for the speller to spell, any of these spellings shall be accepted as correct if all of the following three criteria are met: (1) the pronunciations of the words are identical; (2) the definition of the words are identical; and (3) the words are clearly identified as being standard variants of each other. Spellings at other locations having temporal labels (such as archaic, obsolete), stylistic labels (such as substand, nonstand), or regional labels (such as North, Midland, Irish) which differ from main entry spellings not having these status labels shall not be accepted as correct.
11. **COMPETITION BETWEEN TWO FINALISTS:** When contestants are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. When a round results in only two spellers who have correctly spelled their words, they will be declared the finalists. The last person before the finalists are determined will be considered the alternate.

12. When one speller misses a word, the other speller will spell the next word on the caller's list. If the contestant spells that word and the next word on the list correctly, he or she will be declared the winner. If he or she misspells either of those two words, the other speller will be given the next word on the caller's list to spell. If that speller spells the next word and the next correctly, he or she will be declared the winner. If both spellers misspell their word, both spellers shall continue in the Bee and the one who first misspelled his or her word shall be given the next word on the caller's list to spell. The bee shall then resume under Rule 11 above.
13. When only two spellers remain, an objection must be made immediately before the second speller has started spelling.

Challenging a Procedure or Spelling of a Word

1. Any questions relating to the procedures or spelling of a word should be referred to the judges immediately. The deadline for making an objection is before the affected speller would have received his or her next word had he or she stayed in the bee.
2. No objection shall be entertained after the bee is terminated.
3. An objection may be filed by a parent, legal guardian, or school representative of the affected speller. This designated person is the only one who may object on behalf of the speller during the bee. Only the designated person for a speller may voice an objection for his or her speller, and the objection can relate only to his or her speller.
4. To object properly, only the designated person should stand and remain standing until recognized by the Spelling Bee Committee. The Committee will immediately inform the judges who will hear the objection at that time.
5. The judges and the State Spelling Bee Committee are in complete control of the Bee. Their decision shall be final on all matters.