***Thank you for enrolling in the 2019 HEARTS Spelling Bee!***

The HEARTS Spelling Bee strives to be a fun activity that inspires students to improve spelling and increase vocabulary through their preparation and participation.

There are several changes to the bee this year, so please read the following carefully:

***Study Resources to Help You Prepare:***

1.) The 2019 Scripps School Bee Word List- Many (but not all) of the words used in the bee will be from this list. Please note that there will be a vocabulary component (Approximately 25%) in the written portion, so be sure to study the definitions as well as the spelling words. All words on Scripps National Spelling Bee (SNSB) word lists are entries in Merriam-Webster Unabridged (MWU), the Bee’s official dictionary, available at http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com/.

Note: We are often asked how much of this list a student should study. The answer is “as much as they can- the more words a student learns, the greater their chance of success will be.” The bee will start with words at an easy level and proceed through progressively more difficult ones.

2.) The 2019 Spell-It list - This is an additional list of words likely to be used in the latter spelling portion of our bee and is also very good preparation for the regional spelling bee. There won’t be any vocabulary words from this list in our event.

3.) “How to Study for a Spelling Bee” by Dr Jacques Bailly (the official pronouncer for the SNSB)

4.) A series of classroom reading guides. These are provided by Scripps to assist in the study of their recommended books.

5.) Please go to http://www.spellingbee.com/ and utilize the information provided by Scripps.

***About Pronunciation:***

In the past there have been questions raised regarding the pronunciation of the words given to spellers. Hardworking students occasionally misspell words because the word is pronounced differently in a bee than the student is familiar with. A student may have learned a word from a local dialect (or studied from another dictionary) and learned a different pronunciation or spelling. However, the Scripps rules are specific on this: *Only the pronunciations, etymologies, definitions, and spellings listed in Merriam-Webster’s Unabridged may be provided to the speller.*

We **strongly encourage** all students to learn the pronunciations listed in MWU. (I attached a copy of our official pronunciation guide to help with the pronunciation symbols.)

***VERY IMPORTANT!! - PLEASE NOTE!:***

*These documents are copyright protected by the Scripps Corporation. Please* ***do not*** *share them with non-participants or post them to the internet. In order to be fair to everyone, these are the only study lists available; as always, remember that the only comprehensive list is Merriam-Webster Unabridged.*