



RE: MARK TWAIN'S SPELLING BEE & PLEDGE DRIVE

Dear Shark Families,

Our school will participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee again this year. This is a program that fosters academics AND raises funds for Mark Twain Middle School.

All students should study and will be tested on 20 spelling words chosen at random from the attached list. The tests will be administered the week of February 16, 2021 in advisory. A link to the words online can be found at www.fomtms.org. If all contestants can secure \$10 to \$15 in pledges or more from friends, families and neighbors to help support our school, we can raise \$8,000 to \$12,000 to support critical programs at MTMS, all while our students become more proficient spellers!

The top spellers from each advisory class at MTMS will be notified and will compete by grade level in the semi-final rounds the week of February 22nd at lunch time (via zoom). The top three spellers for each grade will then compete in the school wide spelling bee on the afternoon of February 25th. Students improve their spelling skills and help raise money for an art teacher, restorative practices/justice, teacher support/appreciation, the STP garden, 8th grade culmination and activities, honor roll, attendance and other incentives, tutoring, Communities in Schools, after school sports, field trips, more.

- Students receive word lists before winter break to review and study.
- Students collect pledges from family and friends the next few weeks. See attached pledge forms or go to pledgestar.com/marktwain/ to set up an online fundraising page to send to families and friends via email and cell phone. It's so easy and takes less than five minutes to do.
- Week of February 16th, written spelling tests given online during advisory periods. Top spellers will be notified and advance.
- February 22 and 23 online semi-final rounds by grade level at lunch or after school (virtually).
- Thursday, February 25th, schoolwide (virtual) spelling bee. Deadline to collect pledges.
- We will honor spelling bee participants, grade level champions, runner-up and champion with trophies and gift cards .

We ask that you:

- Help your child learn to correctly spell the Spelling Bee study words.
- Support your child on the Spelling Bee Form or online at pledgestar.com/marktwain/
- Support our Spelling Bee contestants by cheering them on. The winner of our school-wide spelling bee will compete in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee on March 6th for a chance to win an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC for the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Together we can encourage strong spelling skills and help our school meet MTMS' fundraising needs. Questions, please email ruthie@mikeandruthie.com.