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# CONTEST BULLETIN

## State Teachers College

### Jacksonville, Alabama

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#### The State Contests

The State Teachers College will promote contests again this year in Spelling, Arithmetic, and Silent Reading. A contest will also be promoted in English for elementary and junior high school students. Any school system in Alabama either county or city may promote the contests locally and send representatives to the state contests which will be held in Jacksonville on Saturday, May 12, 1934.

#### The Spelling Bee

Two representatives, one from the elementary grades and one from the junior high-school grades, may be entered by each county or city school system in the state spelling contest. The representatives should be the winners in the elementary and junior high-school divisions respectively, in the city or county contests, as the children in the elementary grades are not expected to compete against those in the junior high-school grades.

#### Text-Books in Spelling

The regular state adopted text-books should be used and the State Course of Study for Elementary Schools should serve as a guide in selecting the best methods of teaching spelling. It is suggested that words for any grade contest should be selected from the adopted text for that grade. Additional words may be selected from other sources if they are needed. It is suggested that supplementary words may be found in the Buckingham Extension of the Ayers Spelling Scale, the Iowa Spelling Scale, and the Thorndyke Word List. The words for the contest in Jacksonville will be selected from the above sources, but the right is reserved to use any list of words after the above sources have been exhausted.

#### Rules for Spelling Bee

1. Any pupil who has not passed beyond the ninth grade at the time of the holding of the contest in his school shall be eligible.
2. Each school or school system may select its champions either by written or oral work or by both of these methods and daily grades.
3. In the final contest, the contestants shall be arranged in a single line, their position being determined by lot.

4. Contestants shall pronounce words before spelling them.
5. Contestants may request that words be repronounced or defined. The pronouncer shall grant the request until the officials agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant.
6. Any contestant failing to spell a word shall drop out of the contest. Having started to spell a word, he shall be given no opportunity to change letters once pronounced. He may retrace provided letters and their sequence are not changed in the retracing.
7. Every speller shall be given a new word and no word shall be given the second speller until the contest has been reduced to two contestants. But when the line has been reduced to two spellers, and the first misses a word, the same word shall be given the second speller, who must spell it properly and the next word on the list also, before being declared the winner. If both of the last two spellers miss a word, a new word shall be given.
8. Any protest must be made to the judges promptly. No protest can be entertained after the contest has terminated. The judges shall be in complete control of the contest and their decision shall be final.

#### **Suggested Method for Conducting School Spelling Bees**

Every student in the school should participate in the spelling bee. Contests may be held in each of the grades to select the champion speller and contests may be held between classes.

All children in the elementary grades should compete in one division to select the champion speller for the elementary division. The children in the junior high-school grades should compete in another contest to select the champion speller of the junior high-school division.

It is not necessary to take time out of regular classes to conduct school competitions. The school finals may be made a popular entertainment feature of a parent-teacher association or school rally, meeting either in the afternoon or evening.

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#### **The Arithmetic Contest**

The third annual arithmetic contest will be held in connection with the spelling bee. Each school system will be permitted to enter one contestant from each of the grades from the fourth through the eighth. Any county or city may enter the spelling bee, arithmetic contest, or reading contest without entering the other two, or may enter the three.

#### **Preparation for the Contest**

In preparation for the arithmetic contest the state course of study should be used as a guide. Individual drill books may also be obtained for the children at the cost of five cents a copy. These books were prepared by A. C. Shelton and are furnished by the extension division of the college at actual cost of printing and postage. Drills should be frequent on the fundamental operations with special

emphasis upon speed and accuracy. The Children of each grade should be made conscious of the approaching contest and should try to meet all requirements listed in the course of study for that grade. Informal tests should be given from time to time and all children should be encouraged to surpass their previous records as well as to surpass the records of others. The best student or students should be selected from each grade to compete in the city or county contest.

### **The Final Contest**

Each school should send representatives from each of the grades from the fourth through the eighth to the city or county contest. In this contest a test should be prepared for each of the grades to determine the champions. The extension division of the State Teachers College will furnish a copy of tests for each grade if it is requested. The grade champions may represent the school system in the Jacksonville contest. By finding the total score or average score the winning school of the local system may be determined.

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### **The Silent Reading Contest**

Since reading is the foundation for all other subjects and much time is spent in the improvement of silent reading, a contest is being promoted to arouse more interest on the part of the children. The reading contest may be promoted in connection with the contests in arithmetic and spelling as the final contest will be held at the same time in Jacksonville. A school system may enter contestants in the reading contest without entering the other contests as all three will be independent of each other. The same child may participate in the three contests but it is advisable to have different contestants in the three subjects.

### **Preparation for the Contest**

In preparing for the silent reading contest the children should give special attention to speed and comprehension. They should be given selections to read in a specified time after which objective tests should be given on the material read. These selections may be chapters in the text-books which have not been read by the children or may be supplementary material. The contest feature may be used to advantage in all grades by arousing the interest of the children. The final contest in Jacksonville will be confined this year to the fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

### **The Final Contest**

The best reader from each of the grades should be selected to represent the school in the city or county contest. In this contest the school representatives are divided into groups by grades as in the arithmetic contest. A selection suitable for each group should be given to be read in a specified time which is not to be longer than will be required by the fastest reader as every child is not expected to finish the selection. When the time for reading is ended the books or papers should be collected and objective questions given for short answers which may be scored right or wrong. The person answering the most questions correctly is declared the winner. The

winner for each of the grades from the fourth through the sixth may enter the Jacksonville contest which will be conducted in the same way.

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### English Contest

A contest in English will be conducted this year for the sixth and junior high school grades. Students from the fourth and fifth grades are eligible to compete in the English contest but they will be expected to compete in the same section with sixth grade pupils. All junior high school grades will also be expected to compete in the same section. The test will be given on the choice of words, parts of speech, and rules of grammar. One student from the elementary grades and one student from the junior high school grades from each school system may be entered in the final contest which will be held in Jacksonville.

### Preparation for the English Contest

No special preparation is necessary for the contest in English other than that of good teaching and a desire on the part of the students to improve their oral and written language. Those students making the best records on tests and daily grades should be chosen to represent the school. Tests given in the county elimination contest will make it possible to select the strongest contestant from the school system. The same rule applies to the contest in English as to other subjects. A school system may enter contestants in one branch without entering in others. The same child may participate in contests in all subjects but it is advisable to have different children competing in the different subjects so as to reach the interest of a larger number.

### Expenses

No fee is charged for entering any of the contests. Each contestant will be expected to bear his own expenses to and from Jacksonville. If the contestant is unable to bear his own expenses it is hoped that interested friends will see that transportation is provided. Names of all contestants should be sent to A. C. Shelton, Director of Extension, Jacksonville, Alabama, immediately after the city or county contests have been held.

### Benefits of the Contests

The benefits of contests of this character are apparent to all thinking school officials. Such contests are recognized as effective means of arousing interest in the school on the part of parents thus enlisting their support and co-operation.

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### The Fifth Quarter

This quarter will begin April 23, and will run twelve full weeks. It is governed by the same rules and regulations as any other quarter of the school year. Only one fee of \$21.00 is required for the quarter.

### Summer Quarter

The summer quarter begins May 29 and continues three months. Practically all courses offered in the regular session are given in the summer quarter. For further information address C. W. Daugette, President.