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Sept. 11, 2009

Dear Principals and Teachers,

The Virginian-Pilot is proud to once again bring to your students the opportunity to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee program.

The Virginian-Pilot Spelling Bee 2010 will broadcast LIVE on WHRO on Saturday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. The champion of The Virginian-Pilot Spelling Bee will win an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee at the end of May 2010.

Students from grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from South Hampton Roads, Accomack and North East North Carolina are eligible to compete. Please visit [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com) for complete rules of eligibility.

In order for your students to participate in The Virginian-Pilot Spelling Bee, your school must **enroll with the Scripps National Spelling Bee at [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com) by the October 16 deadline**. This will also serve as the school's registration with The Virginian-Pilot Spelling Bee. The enrollment fee is \$99.

If there are concerns about payment of the \$99 materials and enrollment fee, you may consider recouping the fee by assessing a nominal entry fee of \$2–5. Alternatively, there is a sample fundraising letter attached to this letter, which may be helpful in approaching a PTA/PTO organization, business, community organization or concerned parent to request sponsorship of your school.

#### Important dates

Deadline to enroll with Scripps National Spelling Bee	Oct. 16, 2009
Deadline for registration of School Bee champions on <a href="http://www.spellingbee.com">www.spellingbee.com</a>	Jan. 22, 2010
LIVE Broadcast of The Virginian-Pilot Spelling Bee at WHRO studios	Feb. 20, 2010
Scripps National Spelling Bee live on ESPN and ABC	Late May, 2010

We look forward to providing this wonderful opportunity to your students.

Sincerely,

Debbie Bellucci  
The Virginian-Pilot Spelling Bee Program Manager

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Each year, as millions of viewers tune in to the finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee live on television, millions of students are inspired to participate in the nation's largest and longest-running educational competition.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee begins at the school level, and schools must enroll in order to participate. The materials and enrollment fee for the 2009-10 school year is \$99. The deadline for enrollment is October 16, 2009. For more details, please visit [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com).

You can give the students at [SCHOOL NAME] the opportunity to take part in the spelling bee tradition by donating \$\_\_\_ toward the [SCHOOL NAME] Spelling Bee Fund.

Our school's enrollment not only ensures that our school champion proceeds to the next level of competition, but also provides us with the materials we need to run our program. This includes study booklets, pronouncer guides, award certificates and a valuable, educational prize for one of our spellers.

Encourage the inspiration of students at [SCHOOL NAME] to improve spelling, increase vocabulary, develop proper English usage and learn poise under pressure by sending your donation to [SCHOOL ADDRESS] by \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]  
Spelling Bee Coordinator  
[SCHOOL NAME]  
[CONTACT INFORMATION]