



Finding Sponsors for Your Spelling Bee Team

Each team is asked to raise an entry fee of a **minimum** of \$400. But don't stop there! There will be a prize for the team that raises the most money in sponsorships!

Where do we start?

- Look to the businesses that you deal with, e.g., your hairdresser, auto repair shop, dentist, veterinarian, jeweler, restaurant, or doctor.
- Contact friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Tell them how their support helps enhance the education of all Ithaca City School District students.
- Use email, Facebook, and Twitter to spread the same message.
- Use the IPEI Spelling Bee website to register your team, and also to fundraise for your team fee online!
- Download a Spelling Bee poster from www.ipei.org/spelling-bee/, display it in your workplace, and share it with others.

Where does the money go?

Each spelling team's entry fee goes directly to support IPEI grants for teachers. This is possible because our event sponsors cover all the expenses of the Bee. **Please thank** our Blue Ribbon Sponsor, Morgan Stanley; our Red Ribbon Sponsor, Cayuga Radio Group (also our Media Sponsor); and our Gold Ribbon Sponsors, Sciarabba Walker & Co., Trane U.S., Inc., Tompkins Trust Company and Cornell Catering.

Be sure to tell sponsors that their gift to IPEI is tax deductible.

Did you know...

In **2015-16**, the 18th annual Adult Spelling Bee raised nearly \$30,000. IPEI awarded 88 grants, totaling over \$62,000, benefiting teachers and students at all grade levels in the Ithaca City School District.

According to data collected from teachers and others who received grants during the years 2012-2015, IPEI grants strongly impact students' verbal and physical participation and excitement in learning. Engagement matters!

Why are grants for teachers important?

Funds raised by the Spelling Bee will help more teachers enhance student learning by bringing their innovative ideas to the classroom, connecting school and community.

Last year in classrooms throughout the Ithaca City School District, students were inspired by remarkable learning opportunities made possible by IPEI grants:

Through an IPEI grant, harps were purchased for the Belle Sherman Mariachi Ensemble, contributing to the multicultural musical enrichment for Belle Sherman students. The grant also provided funding for instruction from community partner and professional harpist, Lisa Craig Fenwick. Now the opportunity to learn to play the harp is offered to fourth and fifth-graders at Belle Sherman allowing them to truly explore the harp-playing experience.

With IPEI grant funding, second-grade teachers at Northeast Elementary were able to purchase and study the book, "Amplify! Digital Teaching and Learning in the K-6 Classroom". With the introduction of iPads and Chromebooks to the classrooms, the lessons found in Amplify! have been critical in demonstrating how to reap the most benefits from digital technology and foster a more creative and collaborative classroom environment.

An IPEI grant-funded initiative that was introduced last spring at DeWitt and Boynton Middle Schools, and Ithaca High School will change the way students approach energy-decision making. This curriculum will reach over 1,000 students as it continues into the 2016-17 school year.

Geographical information system mapping is used to help students make educated decisions about energy-related challenges. Through the interactive digital mapping program, students are presented with multiple viewpoints on environmental topics. Students analyze energy-related issues and apply critical thinking skills to reach solutions.