

Words Their Way: Our Spelling & Word Work Program

Dear Families,

This year we will be implementing Words Their Way. For some students, this will be a continuation of their spelling and word work program. For others, this will mark a new beginning for word study. WTW engages children in active critical thinking, comparing and contrasting, and forming generalizations as they sort words (or pictures) into categories. This is a contrast to traditional phonics and spelling programs that ask children to memorize relationships, rules, and words.

Your child will be bringing home a collection of new words to work with every 2nd week. If you are interested and have the time, your child can choose from several different activities listed below to ensure that these words and the spelling principles they represent are mastered. However, your child will be working on mastering these sorts at school, so you do not need to do anything at home! The list sent home can be purely for your information.

Week One

Monday - Ask your child to sort their words into categories like the ones we did in school. Your child should read each word aloud during this activity. Ask your child to explain why the words are sorted in a particular way. Ask them to sort them a second time as quickly as possible.

Tuesday - Do a blind sort with your child. Lay down a word from each category as a header and then read the rest of the words aloud. Your child must indicate where the word goes without seeing it. Lay it down and let your child move it if he or she is wrong. Repeat if your child makes more than one error.

Wednesday - Assist your child in doing a word hunt, looking in a book they have already read for words that have the same sound, pattern, or both. Try to find two or three words for each category.

Thursday - Do a writing sort. As you call out the words in a random order your child should write them in categories. Call out any words your child misspells a second or even a third time.

Week Two

During week two, you can choose to repeat any of the above activities, or you can choose from those that I have attached. Choosing a variety of activities is best.

Please remember that all of these activities are optional! Also, please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Bordian ☺

