

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 spelling words every 2nd week. It is suggested your child do a different activity to ensure that these words and the spelling principles they represent are mastered. As your child masters these sorts at school, they will be able to do the same with their set at home, time permitting.

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.

Thank you for your support. Together we can help your child make valuable progress. While all of the activities discussed above are beneficial, they are still optional, as we are trying to avoid adding extra hours to your evening with mandatory homework.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Bordian ☺

