

Dear Families,

September 14, 2021

This year the fourth grade will be improving on spelling through the *Words Their Way* program. *Words Their Way* is phonics, spelling, and vocabulary instruction through daily word study. This program will provide skill instruction that will cover spelling patterns and focus on examining and manipulating words, not simply memorizing them. Students will be thinking more critically about words and work on transferring their skills to reading and writing. *Words Their Way* will focus on teaching students how to spell, decode new words, and to improve word recognition speed in general. To accomplish this goal, we will teach the students how to examine words to learn the regularities that exist in the spelling system. We will also teach them some irregularities of spelling, which we call “oddballs.”

Your children have been given an initial spelling inventory to help guide us in determining the best group of words for them based on their developmental readiness. Spelling tests will typically be on Fridays in which we will ask students to spell 18 randomly selected words from their assigned word group, 2 review words from the previous week, and 2 additional words that follow the spelling rule or pattern.

On the back of this paper you will find an outline of a list of activities that may be utilized at home. Each night your child is expected to choose an activity for homework. These activities will be modeled and practiced in school.

Sincerely,

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Spelling Menu of Choices

<u>Speed Sort</u> Sort your words into categories using a stopwatch. Read each word card and the bold keyword aloud as you sort. Then, race against someone else to see who can sort the words the fastest!	<u>Blind Sort</u> Place the bold keywords from each category for sorting on a flat surface. Partner A calls out a word without showing it to Partner B. Then, Partner B repeats the word and the appropriate keyword and points to the category it belongs to. Both check to see that words are sorted correctly. Switch places.	<u>Mixed-Up Sort</u> Place the bold keywords for sorting on a flat surface and sort the word cards. Partner A turns his or her back to the cards while Partner B mixes a few up so that some word cards are under the wrong keyword. After Partner A turns back around, Partner A must sort the words correctly while reading aloud the word and the keyword. Check to see that words are sorted correctly, and then switch places.	<u>No-Peeking Writing Sort</u> Both partners write the bold keywords on a piece of paper. The paper should be set up with the keywords written on the top in columns. Both partners read one word aloud and each writes the other's word on his or her paper. Both partners check for any misspellings and the process continues until all words have been read.
<u>Fancy Letters</u> Write each of your words with fancy letters or type them on the computer in a different font.	<u>Rainbow Colors</u> Write each of your words using rainbow colors (each letter is a different color).	<u>Pencil First</u> Write each of your words with a pencil and then go over them with a crayon or marker.	<u>Print to Cursive</u> First, print each word. Then, write the word in cursive next to it. Remember to write neatly.
<u>ABC Order</u> Write all of your words in alphabetical (ABC) order.	<u>Sentences</u> Choose seven words. Write seven complete sentences (that begin with a capital letter and end with proper punctuation) using one of the words in each sentence.	<u>Story</u> Use at least seven of the words to write a story that is organized and makes sense. Your story should have a beginning, middle, and end.	<u>Challenge Sort</u> Create a challenge and design your own sort.

