

Third Grade Spelling / Vocabulary Instruction

Each reading unit includes a set of spelling and vocabulary words the students will interact with throughout the unit. The lesson includes explicit instruction, as well as independent engagement in a variety of activities.

Spelling tests will not be given “every Friday” as they have in the past. I have extended the reading units to allow students more time to work with and engage in the skills required for each unit.

In addition, the test format has changed. The format for spelling tests is called “word study,” which focuses on patterns instead of rote memorization. Word study is based on phonics, spelling and vocabulary and teaches students to examine, recognize and comprehend the patterns in words. An understanding of these patterns helps students master spelling more effectively.

During word study instruction, students engage in challenging and motivational activities instead of simply memorizing a set of words. To become literate, students need hands-on practice with dissecting and rearranging word elements in a manner that permits them to generalize learning from remote, individual examples to entire clusters of words that are spelled the same way. In itself, word study is not a panacea, as there are exceptions to every rule. Students can, however, learn invaluable strategies that teach them how to read, write and spell words.

Word study also teaches students how to examine words so they can construct a deep understanding of how written words function.

Ways to help your child at home: Remember YOU are the model of good speaking and listening. Regularly introduce new words to your child(ren).

Read to and with your child. This models good reading skills and promotes reading enjoyment. Have a special book box. Take turns reading together – you read a page – they read a page.

More ideas can be found on my class webpage! If you have questions about the curriculum or classroom methods, please reach out!