

Homework Procedures and Reference Guide



Correctly completed homework assignments (with quality standards) creates a good foundation for school success. This is an opportunity for you to guide and support your child as he/she creates a quality product. (Hint: Your child may try to "stress you out" by creating a tug-of-war. You may like to remind your child that the assignment is his or her responsibility and that you are willing to assist so he/she may learn and get a good grade.)

Unlike daily class work, where temporary or invented spelling is often used, writing homework should be a finished or "published" piece of work and *requires the supervision of an adult*. The final product should be written neatly and spelled correctly.

Writing Assignment Expectations:

- Read the assignment. Have a discussion about possibilities for the assignment.
- Create a **ROUGH** draft. Your child should be able to write several sentences at this time of year.
- Reread and revise. Get ready for your final copy.

Handwriting:

- Remember that lower case letters begin at or near the middle line.
- Letters should "bump" or touch the lines. Use the lines as guides.
- Write neatly

Punctuation:

- Be sure to use capital letters and punctuation.
- Remember to use capital and lower-case letters appropriately.

Tips for Good Writing:

- Start with a **BOLD beginning!** Use a sentence that makes the reader want to read more.
- Next is the **MARVELOUS middle**. Use interesting sentences. Don't start every sentence with "I" or "the".
- Add **JUICY details** that tell about your topic. 4-5 sentences is about right for this time of year.
- Finally, add an **EXCELLENT ending**. This sentence should "wrap up" your writing. This is the closing.

Spelling Expectations:

Did you know that spelling has been the most researched subject in the school curriculum? This year in second grade we will be using an approach to teach spelling that is based on solid research and "best practice" for teaching this subject. While spelling will not be "graded" on report cards, it is still important for second graders to learn, and master, words they will use all of the time.

We will be using a **PERSONALIZED SPELLING PROGRAM** this year. It will work like this:

- Children will be given a **PRE-TEST on Thursday of each week (this week the pre-test will be given on Monday or Tuesday and the assessment will be given on Thursday, October 30th)**. The list will have 20 words on it. The **first ten words on the pre-test are HIGH PRIORITY WORDS, OR FOCUS WORDS, FOR SECOND GRADE**. These high priority words comprise nearly 60% of written material (these words are on the "must know" list) for grade 2. The **next several will be "word study" words** such as short "a" words, etc. **The last four-five words will be "content" or theme words**.

- All children **WILL ATTEMPT TO SPELL ALL 20 words** on the PRE-TEST.
- The PRE-TEST will be corrected for errors. **THE FIRST TEN WORDS YOUR CHILD MISSES ON THE TEST WILL BECOME YOUR CHILD'S SPELLING WORDS FOR THE WEEK.** (This is the "personal" part - each child's list will vary based on his/her spelling needs.)
- When children correctly spell most words on the pre-test, they will be assigned "challenge" or "bonus" words that are content related.
- We will do several activities during the week to help your child practice the words. EACH CHILD IS EXPECTED TO "MASTER" HIS/HER WORD LIST; HE OR SHE IS EXPECTED TO SPELL THESE WORDS CORRECTLY IN ALL WORK ASSIGNMENTS **AFTER THE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT.** The high priority words will be posted at the front of the room before the test and on the "word wall" in the classroom after the assessment.
- **THE ASSESSMENT WILL BE GIVEN ON THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK, starting on Thursday, October 30th.**



Word Study Steps

1. LOOK at the word.
2. SAY the word out loud. SAY the letters.
3. STUDY the letters in the word.
4. WRITE the word on paper.
5. CHECK the word.

Did you spell it right?

If not, go back to Step 1.

At-Home Practice

Spelling Test

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____