

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.

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

- Children will be given a PRE-TEST on <u>Friday (often Thursday)</u> of each week. The list will have 20 words on it. The first ten words on the pre-test are HIGH PRIORITY 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 for the PRE-TEST.
- The PRE-TEST will be corrected for errors. <u>THE FIRST TEN WORDS</u>
  <u>YOUR CHILD MISSES ON THE TEST WILL BECOME YOUR CHILD'S</u>
  <u>SPELLING WORDS FOR THE WEEK.</u> (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. Students' scores will be increased by 5-10% for attempting to spell these more challenging words.
- We will do several activities during the week to help your child practice the words. EACH CHILD IS EXPECTED TO "MASTER" HIS WORD LIST; HE OR SHE IS EXPECTED TO SPELL THESE WORDS CORRECTLY IN ALL WORK ASSIGNMENTS <u>AFTER</u> THE FINAL TEST. 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 final test.
- THE FINAL TEST WILL BE GIVEN ON THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK.

We're excited about using this spelling curriculum and personalizing it to better meet your child's spelling needs.

Mrs. Phillips (D. Phillips 9-14)

## second Grade Homework



Attached is your child's homework for the week. It is not given as "busy work" or time fillers (we know you are busy). Homework is an important part of your child's educational journey. It allows children to practice, with some support, skills learned in class. Homework gives parents an opportunity to stay apprised of what is expected in second grade, how much academic support your child requires and builds perseverance and stamina.

- The first homework assignment is a writing assignment. Please review the attached "Homework Procedures and Reference Guide".
- Next is a sheet containing a "Making Words" activity based on the spelling skills for the week lesson. Please have your child cut the letter squares off the top of the sheet of paper. Next, have your child (family members can participate too!) move the letters around to create lots of words using ONLY the letters provided. Then WRITE THE WORDS IN THE RECTANGULAR BOXES. The "cut apart" letters can be discarded or kept at home. (Hint: Start by making two letter words, then three letter words....move on from there.)
- Ixl.com: Students are required to practice assigned math skills each week at least 60 minutes per week. These assignments will begin mid-September.
- Read daily for 20 minutes (a total of 100 minutes per week.) Be sure to initial the calendar for each day your child reads.
- Occasionally, a special project or theme-related assignment may be given.

**Return the homework on or before THURSDAY** of each week (we know your lives are busy so the children will have a weekend and a few school days to complete the homework). Students receive credit on their report cards for timely homework completion.

Sincerely,

Mr. Lillie Mrs. Phillips Mrs. Wicker