



## ST. MATTHEW'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Parents,

Your child will be bringing home a collection of spelling words that have been introduced in class. Each student has been assessed and has been grouped based on spelling attributes they need to work on. We will be going through two lists of words a month this term (one list every two weeks). Your child is expected to do a rotation of 4 different activities for each list to ensure that these words and the spelling principles they represent is mastered. These activities will be introduced and practiced in school, so your child can teach you how to do them.

- 1) **Group Word Sort**- Remind your child to sort the words into categories like the ones we did at school. Your child needs to read each word aloud during this activity. Ask your child to explain to you why the words are sorted in a particular way – what does the word sort reveal about the spelling in general? Ask your child to sort a second time as fast as possible.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Assist your child in doing a **word hunt**, looking for words in a book they have already read that have the same sound, pattern, or both. Try to find two or three for each category.
- 4) Do a writing sort to prepare for the **Spelling Test**. As you call out the words in random order your child should write them in categories. Call out any words your child misspells a second or third time.

Please try to do **each activity once in the two week period** as home practice. After you have gone through the four activities, go back to the ones your child had difficulty with or do the cycle twice. For an extra challenge, your child can write a journal entry or story using as many of their words as possible. A reminder to do these activities will be written in your child's planner for the first two week cycle and then it will be assumed that the activities will be continued throughout the year. Your child will receive two copies of their spelling words for each cycle; one list will remain at school and one is to stay at home so there is no need to bring the words back and forth.

Thank you for your support. Together we can help your child make valuable progress in their spelling!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sisk