



Parents,

Spelling for third through fifth grade at Ruth Clark will look a bit different this year than in years past. The changes will begin around October 3, 2011.

Students were given a test and their spelling was evaluated. Based on the results of this test, students are working with words at their level. Each student may have a different list from the student sitting next to them. These words will be difficult for children and for this reason; they are going to need to work with their words at home. Below you will find a list of things students should be doing in the evenings to prepare them for our weekly tests.

Monday- Your child will bring home a word sort paper. They should cut out their words and plan to use them throughout the week at home. Have your child show you how to sort the words into the categories like they sorted them today at school during teacher station. Your child should 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 sort reveal about spelling in general? Ask your child to sort them a second time as fast as possible. You may want to time him/her.

Tuesday- 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 is wrong. Repeat if your child makes more than one error.

Wednesday- 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. For instance, if word sorts contained long a words spelled "ai," they may write down all long a words, just words with "ai" or a list of both.

Thursday- Do a *writing sort* to prepare for the test on Friday. 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 even a third time.

Friday- You may discard the words used this week, or keep them to review from time to time.

Thank you for your support! Together we can help your child make valuable progress!

