

December 1, 2010

Dear Parents,

In order to best meet the needs of students across the fifth grade communities at DAIS, the language arts teachers have collaborated and decided on a more uniform approach to our word study program.

Your child will continue to participate in the Word Study spelling program. This program is a developmental approach to strengthen key spelling skills. Your child was given an assessment to determine his/her spelling development stage. The students were then placed into groups in which they will study a variety of spelling rules according to their developmental spelling stages.

Much of the Word Study practice in fifth grade will be completed on an independent basis. Therefore, it is essential that we work together to ensure that time for studying and skill practice with the assigned words is provided at both school and home.

Please read over the attached schedule for study and practice at home. **Keep this Refrigerator Copy at home for reference.** We ask that you sign and detach the portion at the bottom of this page verifying that you have read and reviewed this letter and the homework expectations with your child. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at anytime. We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child has a successful fifth grade school year!

"Word sorting activities that ask students to compare words by their roots or base words or manipulate words with prefixes and affixes teach these complex elements in meaningful ways. Research suggests that word sorting for older students is an excellent way to increase vocabulary and reading comprehension skills" (Henning, 2000; Invernizzi, 1997).

Sincerely,

DAIS Fifth Grade Teachers



Please cut, sign and return the bottom portion of this letter.

I have reviewed the Word Study letter and homework expectations with my child.

Student Name _____

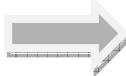
Parent Signature _____



Word Study Assignments

Week One

Required:

1. **First day with words**--Teach your sort to someone else.
 2. **Definitions:** Look up the definitions of 5 of your words and write them in your notebook.
 3. **Choose one from below:** Complete 1 of the following assignments using as many different words as you can. Your work should be done in your word study notebook or may be printed out to be handed in on review day. (Day 5)
- **Spelling Steps:** Write at least 10 of your words into a step shape. 

Example:

s

sp

spe

spel

spell
 - **Spelling City:** Complete at least one printable activity on spellingcity.com.
 - **30 Second Words:** Write a TV commercial using as many words from your list.
 - **Story Words:** Write a story using as many words as possible.

Week Two

Required:

1. **Sentences:** Write complete sentences for 5 of your words (in word study notebook or spellingcity.com) **Be sure to use capital letters, correct punctuation, and be sure that your sentences show that you understand the meaning of the word.
 2. **Night before test:** Do a writing sort. Have someone read each word to you as you write each one under the proper category.
 3. **Choose one from the list below:** Complete 1 of the following assignments using as many different words as you can. Your work should be done in your word study notebook or may be printed out to be handed in on test day. (Check the team website or your assignment book for your test day date.)
- **Word Hunt:** Do a word hunt in a book, magazine, or newspaper. Find 3-5 words that would fit with each of your headings.
 - **Definitions:** Look up the definitions of 5 of your words and write them in your notebook. (Do not use the same words as week 1.)
 - **Spelling City:** Complete a different printable activity on spellingcity.com. (Do not do the same activity as you did in week 1.)