

Words Their Way Parent Information Letter

Dear Parents,

This year Stocker is excited to pilot a phonics, spelling, and vocabulary program called Words Their Way in place of previous spelling programs. The main benefit of Words Their Way is that it differentiates instruction, allowing students to work at their appropriate developmental level.

Students have been given an initial spelling inventory to help guide us in placing each student into a group of words, called a word 'sort'. From this point, students will begin working with a different group of words each week. Word sorts will be introduced during the week. Students will be expected to work in the classroom and at home on their word sort in a variety of ways.

Word work in our classroom will include sorting our words into categories, and noticing similarities and differences between words that sound alike. Spelling homework will consist of practicing their sorts and words. A word list could last 1-2 weeks. These activities will allow your child to further practice and learn common spelling patterns instead of simply memorizing a list of words each week. Words Their Way focuses less on memorization and more on allowing students to really study the spelling pattern, definition, practical use of the word, and become curious about words in their world.

Students will have regular spelling checks. Please check your child's assignment notebook, so you know when they have their spelling check. The main purpose of these spelling checks will be to help guide each student's instruction, versus memorization of the words.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Ms. Mardon, Mrs. Melander, Mrs. Siedjak, Mrs. Aseltine,
and Mrs. Schulz