

Parents,

We survived the first week and are now getting into more of a schedule here in fourth grade. We have gone over many policies and procedures here in the classroom and hopefully your child has filled you in on them. I wanted to send a quick note about spelling since we started that Friday and it can be a bit confusing in the beginning.

In our classroom, spelling is differentiated for each student. Listed below is an overview of what we do. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me and I'll do my best to clarify it.

- Every Friday, each student takes a spelling pretest.
- If a student gets a word correct on the pretest, that word is not on his/her spelling list and s/he can find a new word (using a textbook, AR book, vocab list, list of words around the room, etc.).
- Each spelling list is 10 words.
- Tests are administered by a peer on Friday mornings (I determine the partners). We have a class discussion about confidentiality and respect to ensure that students are not talking about another student's spelling.
- Tests and pretests are taken in the spelling notebook that is sent home each Friday for a parent signature noting you saw both the test grade and the pretest.
- Each week, a student must do spelling activities in order to practice spelling. The student can choose from a "spelling menu" that has been provided. In the first weeks, students are told which activities to complete; once all activities have been introduced, it is up to the student to decide which activities to complete in order to reach 10 points.

I have used this spelling model for many years and think it works well with the students. It will take some getting used to, but after a few weeks it should be smooth sailing. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Molly Lane