

First Grade Parents –

We wanted to alert you to some changes we will be making in the spelling program this school year. Now that we've done a few weeks of spelling and have taken at least one spelling test, we are seeing the need to switch a few things around.

First, until the students are taught all of the short and long vowel sounds, spelling tests will be every other week. This will allow us to focus on the vowel sounds for a longer period of time, hopefully helping the students better remember each of the different sounds instead of just rushing through them in a week. Short and long vowel sounds are a standard/benchmark on the report cards that we assess so we feel additional time spent learning the sounds can only benefit the students more!

Second, we will be changing the number of words students are allowed to miss to get onto the challenge list to 0 or 1. There was a large amount of students who got onto the challenge list last time (which is good!) but several of the students really struggled to learn the more difficult challenge list words. We feel that changing the number missed to only 0 or 1 will really help differentiate between the students who will truly benefit with more difficult words from those who really just need to focus on the words on the regular list.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask! We appreciate your ongoing patience with us as we "adjust" our lessons to best fit our students and their needs!

Thanks!

First Grade Teachers