



Jennifer Wood

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As Education continues to evolve and change, we have seen a shift from the traditional practices of the past to the research informed practices of today. This year in Grade Five, we will utilize a spelling program called *Making Words*, to reflect current research on effective vocabulary building and word decoding. While this is a departure from traditional spelling tests, we are not abandoning spelling all together; rather, we are changing the way we teach spelling and how students work with words to ensure that students are building effective spelling strategies for long-term success – not just short term memorization.

Your child will not be receiving weekly spelling tests; studies show that “spelling lists don’t provide students with an understanding of why words are spelled a certain way, which would help students figure out how to spell new words they encounter.” Instead, students will be using a more hands on approach, building words, using word sorts, and practicing using these words in their own writing. From time to time, students may be asked to “Show What They Know,” using their understanding of how words are spelled to attempt spelling unfamiliar words.

If you would like additional information, some helpful websites include:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/word-study-new-approach-teaching-spelling>

<http://thisreadingmama.com/no-friday-spelling-test/>

If you have any questions regarding this method, or how to support your child at home, please feel free to contact me using the information listed above.

Best regards,

Mrs. Jen Wood