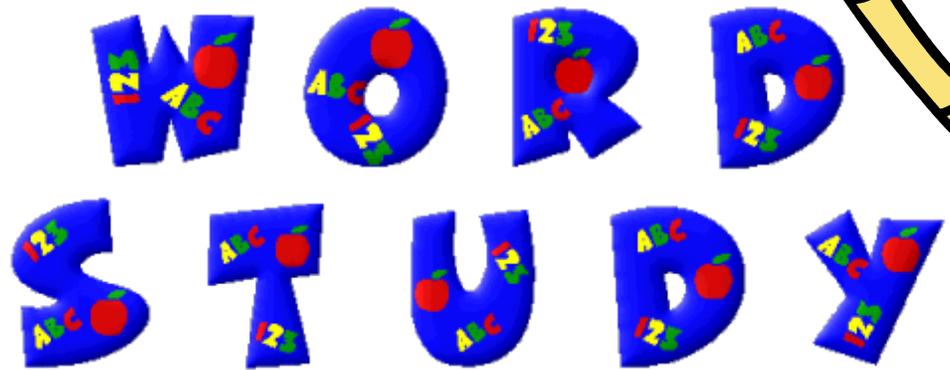


# Parents' Guide to Weekly



I would like to help you understand what our spelling/word study program will look like in second grade. The spelling program we use is called "Words Their Way".

- It is a wonderful program that is **individualized** to each student based on an assessment(s) given during the first weeks of school.
- The philosophy of the program is to teach the **spelling patterns and sounds** by having students learn to sort, or classify, words based on those sounds and patterns.
- As they move through the program, the patterns (and in turn, the words) will become more difficult.
- This is a non-traditional approach to spelling. The goal for spelling is not for your child to be a good memorizer, but rather to correctly use those same words in their writing. All too often, we have seen the student ace the spelling test, but continue to spell the test words incorrectly in their daily writing.

A few important things to note:

- **"V"** stands for VOWEL- a, e, i, o, u (sometimes y)
- **"C"** stands for CONSONANT- all of the other letters of the alphabet that are not vowels
- The symbol  stands for a "short" vowel. Example "ă" stands for a "short a" and makes the sound of "a" as in apple or cat.
- The symbol  stands for a "long" vowel. Example: "ā" stands for a "long a" and makes the sound of "a" as in cake or ape.

Each week, the spelling words and patterns will be introduced to your child in class. Students will learn the "rules" associated with each new pattern(s). The students will cut out the words and headings in class and keep them in an envelope. These words will be used by the students in different literacy activities throughout the week to gain more exposure to the pattern and practice making and sorting words that follow the pattern.

Here is an example of a spelling list that the students will get in class AND that you will find in my webpage to be used for homework. The list does not need to be cut unless it is necessary to complete a chosen homework assignment.

Short a (CVC) and long a (CVCe) Sort

ā	ā	oddball
glass	whale	bat
gate	make	fast
hand	what	mad
snap	last	page
came	grass	face
base	rake	ask
same	made	sack

Word Beginning Consonants: kn, wr, gn

kn-	wr-	gn-	oddball
knife	wrong	gnat	
rap	knack	wreck	known
wrist	knot	gnaw	ring
wrap	knob	knit	wren
wring	knight	knoll	write
wreath	night	not	

The students will practice sorting the words in columns that have a "heading", or rule for the sort. Here are some example headings:

- **"CVC"** stands for a word with a consonant-vowel-consonant pattern. Example: snap. "n" is the consonant, "a" is the vowel, "p" is the consonant.
- **"CVCe"** stands for a word with a consonant-vowel-consonant pattern with an "e" on the end. Example: make. "m" is the consonant, "a" is the vowel, "k" is the consonant, and then the "e" is at the end.
- **"CVVC"** stands for a word with a consonant-vowel-vowel-consonant pattern. Example: jeep. "j" is the consonant, "ee" is the vowel-vowel, and the "p" is the consonant.
- A "short" or "long" vowel. Example: short a or long a
- Other possible headings could be the *beginning* or *ending* sound of the words. Example: "ch" for words that start with "ch" such as "chair."
- **"Oddball"** is the column for words that do not follow the rule of the other headings.

Here are some example word sorts.

Words

ā CVC	ā CVCe	Oddball
glass	whale	what
bat	gate	
fast	make	
hand	page	
mad	came	
snap	face	
last	base	
grass	rake	
ask	same	
sack	made	

ch	sh
chick	shirt
chair	shell
chimney	shoe
check	ship
chin	shadow
cheese	shelf

Words

kn-	wr-	gn-	Oddball
knack	wrap	gnaw	night
knight	wreath		not
knit	wreck		rap
knob	wren		ring
knoll	wring		
knot	wrist		
known	write		

## WEEKLY SPELLING HOMEWORK

For **homework** each week:

- Each student will have loose paper in their Daily Folders that will be used for spelling homework.
- Your child will be asked to **choose 3 spelling activities** from the **spelling menu**. It does not matter which activities are completed or when they are completed, as long as there are *3 different activities turned in each FRIDAY*. For the paperless activities, just write the date, title of the activity and a parent signature for proof of completion.
- A **spelling test** will be given each **FRIDAY**. The spelling test will consist of 15-20 words, and may also include words NOT on the list, but that follows the same pattern or rule that was practiced during the week. The students will be expected to spell them correctly **AND** place the words in the correct column with the correct heading (the sort that they have practiced during the week.)
- Giving a pre-test at home on Thursday is strongly encouraged! (It will count as one of the spelling assignments)

Spelling homework **MUST be returned on FRIDAY.**