

WORD STUDY

- ✚ Word Study (spelling) is starting! ☺ The program is 100% individualized once it's in full swing. The first test is whole group. Everyone has the same words. This is for "training" purposes. The next set of spelling words will be differentiated.
- ✚ There will be 4-5 Word Study groups. Each group's words are specifically selected to meet the needs of the students.
- ✚ Each word will be worth **2 points**: 1 for correct spelling and 1 for correct placement.
- ✚ Students should practice sorting **and** spelling.
 - To sort the words, students need to cut out the words.
- ✚ Some lists are already sorted; and other lists are NOT sorted. Either way, each list will be coded (with symbols) so that you understand the placement and pattern while practicing at home (once the words are CUT OUT). I suggest to students that they cover the code with their finger or thumb while practicing.
- ✚ Each Word Study list has 2-5 Keywords. Keywords are the categories, and are bolded and/or underlined. Each Keyword counts as a spelling word and must be spelled correctly.
- ✚ Some lists have "Odd Ball" categories. Odd Ball categories are for words that don't fit into the other Keyword categories. "Odd Ball" can be spelled out, or labeled as "?" or as "*."
- ✚ The remaining words must be sorted under the correct Keyword, **and** spelled correctly, to get the full amount of 2 points.
- ✚ If a word is spelled correctly, but placed under the wrong Keyword, then 1 point is earned.
- ✚ If a word is spelled incorrectly but is in the correct Keyword, then 1 point is earned.
- ✚ If a word is spelled incorrectly and is in the incorrect Keyword, then 0 points are earned.
- ✚ **Students should cut out the words at home while studying.** It's helpful to spell the words aloud and to sort the words at the same time. Practicing this on paper is also a good strategy.
- ✚ Students practice sorting and spelling words in the classroom. Practicing the sorting and spelling at home will reinforce the patterns of reading and spelling, and will increase reading and writing fluency. This program is designed to improve Language Arts overall, not just spelling.
- ✚ Some of lists have 20+ words. Students should practice spelling and sorting all words. However, when the list has over 20 words, not all of the words will be tested.
- ✚ Let me repeat that...☺...**not** every word will be tested when a list is 20+ words long!
 - All of the Keywords will be tested.
 - Only 10-12 of the words (under the Keywords) on the list will be tested. I will choose the 10-12 test words, and the students will not know those words until test day.
 - In addition to the Keywords and 10-12 test words, there will be between 2-4 surprise words. These are words that fall under the Keyword categories. The idea is to transfer the pattern/skill to an unknown word.
- ✚ Bonus words are individualized. I keep track of words that each student spells incorrectly during classroom and homework writing. The words are recorded into individual Word Walls for each student. Each student will choose 2-5 bonus words from his/her individualized list. Bonus words will be handwritten on the spelling list. Individualized bonus words will begin towards the end of October.
- ✚ Students' Word Study lists will be placed in mailboxes the first day of every other week. (Remember, Word Study lists are two weeks in length.) Since every student has a different list, the Word Study lists will **not** be stapled to homework packets. Please look for your child's Word Study list in his/her Take Home folder.
- ✚ You can also access Word Study lists from our class website, www.superbecerra.com. You can access your child's Word Study list by clicking on the group's name. Once the Word Study groups begin, you'll be notified of the group's name.
- ✚ One or two times a week I may send home a Word Study homework sheet to make sure the word are being sorted correctly at home.
- ✚ Be sure to visit www.spellingcity.com for some fun spelling. Since every student has a different list, I do not make accounts on Spelling City. Students can enter their own words, play games, and take tests.

Happy Spelling!
Mrs. Melissa Becerra ☺