

## Third Grade Word Study Program

### What is the Word Study test?

- 10 pattern words to study at home
- 5 pattern words (unknown before the test)
- 5 individualized high frequency words

Each week your child will be given ten words to study at home based on the spelling pattern we are studying in class. The final test will also include some words that your child will not be able to study that follow the same spelling pattern. The remaining 5 words will be high frequency words that are individually chosen for your child.

### Why can't my child study all of the words?

Researchers have found that students often memorize words for a test and then promptly forget them the following week. This is because assigned lists require students to study isolated words rather than studying the phonics (the sounds that letters make within the words.) The five words on the test that your child is not able to study will help us determine how effectively your child is able to apply the spelling pattern to new words.

### Will my child get a regular grade level list or a challenge list to study?

Before the new spelling pattern is introduced each week, students will take a pre-test to assess their prior knowledge of the pattern. Students who score a 90% or better on the practice test will be given more challenging words (that follow the same pattern) for their study list. All students will then be given the 10 pattern words to study at home. List A is the challenge list and List B is the regular third grade list. Most students will study list B. It is common for students to fluctuate between the lists throughout the year.

### What are High Frequency Words?

There are also specific words in the English language that are commonly found in texts and used regularly in students' writings. We call these HIGH FREQUENCY WORDS (HFW). While students will have 10 assigned words that follow the spelling pattern we are studying each week, they will also have 5 HFW that they will be expected to practice at home. After being given a spelling assessment at the beginning of the year, all students will have different HFW to study based on which of the first 100 HFW they knew (or didn't know) how to spell. Students will also use their words correctly in a sentence to show they know the meaning of the word.

Sources: Beth Newingham, Fountas and Pinnell