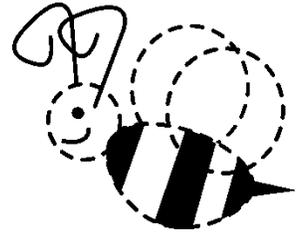


The Buzz in 5th Grade



Greetings!

I hope the back-to-school transition has gone smoothly for all of you. Your students are doing a great job in the classroom, and I'd like to share some updates about our very busy schedule with you!

We are beginning our vocabulary study this week. Given the importance of developing a strong vocabulary, I have decided to spend two full weeks studying and working with each unit of words. I have included a general overview of what our schedule will look like.

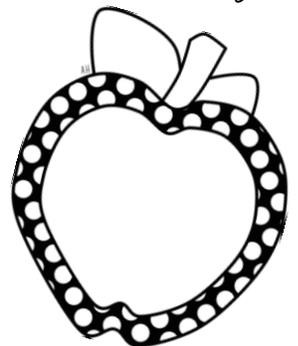
Each two-week unit will include 12 words from our vocabulary books, 2 "personal words" (words that students have misspelled in their writing), and 2 "classroom words" (words we are studying in a class, ex: character, novel, exposition, etc.). Students will be tested on the spelling, meaning, and usage of these words *every other Friday* afternoon.

Please work with your students at home on their vocabulary. I have included a list of ways for students to review and practice at home. This list will be updated/changed periodically. On Thursdays, students do not have an assignment in the book, and I ask that you monitor their independent practice on one of the options on the list, and sign their completed assignment, to be sent in Friday morning.

In other news, we are continuing our independent book study. Students are reading a novel of their own selection, and studying and applying the literary elements we are studying to it. Additionally, we are focusing on parts of speech, specifically adverbs. See if your student can tell you the questions that adverbs answer! Students paused in remembrance of September 11 and composed moving journal entries, and worked as a class to list traits of a hero. Grades (thus far) are up to date on the GradeBook. Lastly, our first Spirit Day is Friday, September 20!

Thank you for your help. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions!

Kathryn Grimmick



Vocabulary Schedule Overview

Monday	Homework assignment: Match the Meaning
Tuesday	Homework Assignment: Synonyms and Antonyms
Wednesday	Homework Assignment: Completing the Sentence
Thursday	Homework Assignment: Your choice of review from list
Friday	Study over the weekend!
Monday	Homework Assignment: Word Associations
Tuesday	Homework Assignment: Word Study
Wednesday	Homework Assignment: Shades of Meaning
Thursday	Homework Assignment: Your choice of review from list, and study!
Friday	In class: Test on spelling, meaning, and usage!

List of Study Choices, September

- Write each word three times in your BEST cursive, and tell a parent/guardian what each one means.
- Create silly sentences (or serious, if you choose) using each word at least once.
 - Write a poem using your words.
- Connect your words. Explain different ways your words are connected or related to one another. Be creative!
- Categories: create three or four categories for your words, and place them appropriately. Be creative!
 - Write an advertisement using your words.
 - Draw a definition for each word.
 - List a synonym and antonym for each word.