

High Frequency Words

Dear Families,

As we begin the start of the second semester, I wanted to make you aware of some modifications we've made to our spelling program. You'll start to notice the words selected follow a specific sound each week. For example, this week you will notice that all the words we will study have a "long a sound". I will be explicitly teaching the children the variations for each sound. This will not only make them strong spellers, but it will make a big impact on their decoding skills they apply as they read.

I will use specific language with the students as I introduce the concept of these complex sounds. As mentioned before, this week we will work on the /ae/ sound. A few of the vowel combinations that make that sound are "ey" as in they, "ay" as in away, "eigh" as in eight and "a-e" as in make. I call each of those variations in spelling "sound pictures" or "pictures for the sound /ae/".

The words I select are still considered High Frequency Words, and are vital to the success of students as they read and write. My expectation is still that the students be able to rapidly read and write the five words we study each week. I will be introducing each sound, demonstrating a variety of words, and pulling out five or six words required for mastery. Occasionally you may even see words from our past studies pop back up again as I teach their place in the long vowel spectrum.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!

Miss Appel