

Words Their Way Parent Information Letter

September 3, 2015

Dear Families,

We are excited to inform you that the Derry School District has adopted the *Words Their Way* (WTW) program after piloting it during the 2014-2015 school year. *Words Their Way* is a developmental phonics, spelling and vocabulary program whose instruction is done through daily word study. The optimal feature of word study is that your child can sort words anywhere, and we encourage students to begin sorting words at home. The primary benefit of *Words Their Way* is that of differentiating instruction, allowing each student to work at his/her instructional level. This program will provide skill instruction that will cover patterns and focus on examining and manipulating words, instead of memorizing them. Students will think more critically about words and will work on transferring their skills to reading and writing.

At the beginning of each week a new skill will be introduced in class. We will practice many different word sorts throughout the week. Word work in our classroom will include sorting our words into categories, noticing similarities and differences between words that sound alike and identifying patterns. Students will be given weekly word sorts and activities to practice these new skills at home. *Words Their Way* focuses less on memorization and more on allowing students to work with words to learn new rules and patterns. Word work done at home and school will reflect this philosophy.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with your child using *Words Their Way* and I look forward to a successful year.