

August 25, 2014

Dear First Grade Parents,

This year in first grade we are taking a different approach to the traditional spelling list. We will be implementing a program called "Chunk Spelling." We will be focusing on word chunks, word patterns, and word families. Every week, we will focus on a new word chunk (-at, -ake, -ed, etc.) These will be chunks that your child will also encounter in daily reading and writing practice. The class will generate a list of words based on the chunk for each week. They will be practicing their words using poems, games, and activities. We will have a spelling "test" on Fridays, which will not be graded. It will simply be used to monitor student progress.

The spelling test each Friday will include 5 chunk words for the week as well as 5 word wall words. The word wall words are essentially sight words that your first grader will be using on a daily basis in reading and writing. The test will also include a dictation sentence. This means that your child's teacher will verbally give the class a sentence. They will copy the sentence onto their paper using correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. The dictation sentence will include chunk words and word wall words for the week.

Every week your child's teacher will post the chunk and word wall words on her classroom blog:

Mrs. Beck's Blog: [www.mrsdanabeck.com](http://www.mrsdanabeck.com)

Miss Dunn's Blog: [www.kdunn1.wordpress.com](http://www.kdunn1.wordpress.com)

Mrs. Harden's Blog: [www.mrshardensfirstgrade.com](http://www.mrshardensfirstgrade.com)

Miss Rand's Blog: [www.missrandfirst.weebly.com](http://www.missrandfirst.weebly.com)

Please help you first grader practice their words at home! If you have any questions, please feel free to ask!

Sincerely,

Willard South First Grade Teachers