

Literacy Block

Literacy Block occurs each day for about two and a half hours. Instruction in reading, writing, and spelling occur during this time. The first 9 grades on the report card come mainly from work done in Literacy Block.

A typical Literacy Block would consist of:

- A Warm Up which incorporates skills already taught in class (parts of speech, spelling focus, usage, grammar, punctuation, etc.), or it may be an introduction to the focus of the day's lesson.
- A Mini-Lesson that introduces the objective for the lesson and usually incorporates teacher modeling.
- Reading – this is usually a teacher Read Aloud, but can sometimes be “Buddy Reading” or Shared Reading.
- Independent Work time where students are able to try the skills taught and modeled on their own. This includes skills from the lesson and from spelling. Occasionally, this time is Cooperative Work time where students will work on focus skills with a partner or in small group.
- Guided Reading which is small group, level appropriate, reading and written response instruction with the teacher. Spelling, phonetic, grammar, usage, and vocabulary skills are also addressed during Guided Reading.

Spelling units are bi-weekly. Students will receive small group spelling instruction at least once a week. Students are placed in groups based on their abilities, knowledge, and mastery of phonetic concepts and spelling rules. On Spelling Exploration days the students meet with their spelling group to be introduced to and to explore the focus of the spelling unit. Students form their spelling list based on a pre-assessment of word wall words as well as words from the bi-weekly focus (5 word wall words + 5 focus words = 10 words). For each two week unit, students should have a 10 word spelling list to use for their spelling homework assignments. Students are expected to complete three spelling assignments for homework in a typical week. Spelling homework consists of a choice of verbal, kinesthetic, and written assignments to be done at home or in the spelling homework notebook. If a non-written assignment is chosen, we ask that an adult writes the assignment in the spelling notebook, along with a date and signature. A spelling calendar is sent home monthly and students copy their spelling homework in their agenda books weekly. Please refer to these resources for specific assignments and dates.

Link to Second Grade Literacy Curriculum:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/english>

