

## Literacy Block

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

A typical Literacy Block day 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 are regrouped for spelling instruction about once a week. Students have been 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 teacher to be introduced to and to explore the focus of the spelling unit. Students begin their spelling list based on their pre-assessment and their Word Bank words (usually a list of 5 words). This first unit lesson takes up the bulk of the two and a half hour time period that is usually Literacy Block. During the second week of spelling, spelling groups meet again for a shorter lesson on the focus and to develop a complete spelling list by adding words that contain the focus to their short 5 word list (5 words + 5 more focus words = 10 words). By the end of this lesson, students should have a 10 word spelling list to use for their spelling homework assignments and they should have a complete understanding of the spelling focus. Spelling homework consists of assignments to be done the first week with only the first 5 words and assignments to be done the second week with the completed 10 word list. 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>

