Spelling in Fourth Grade

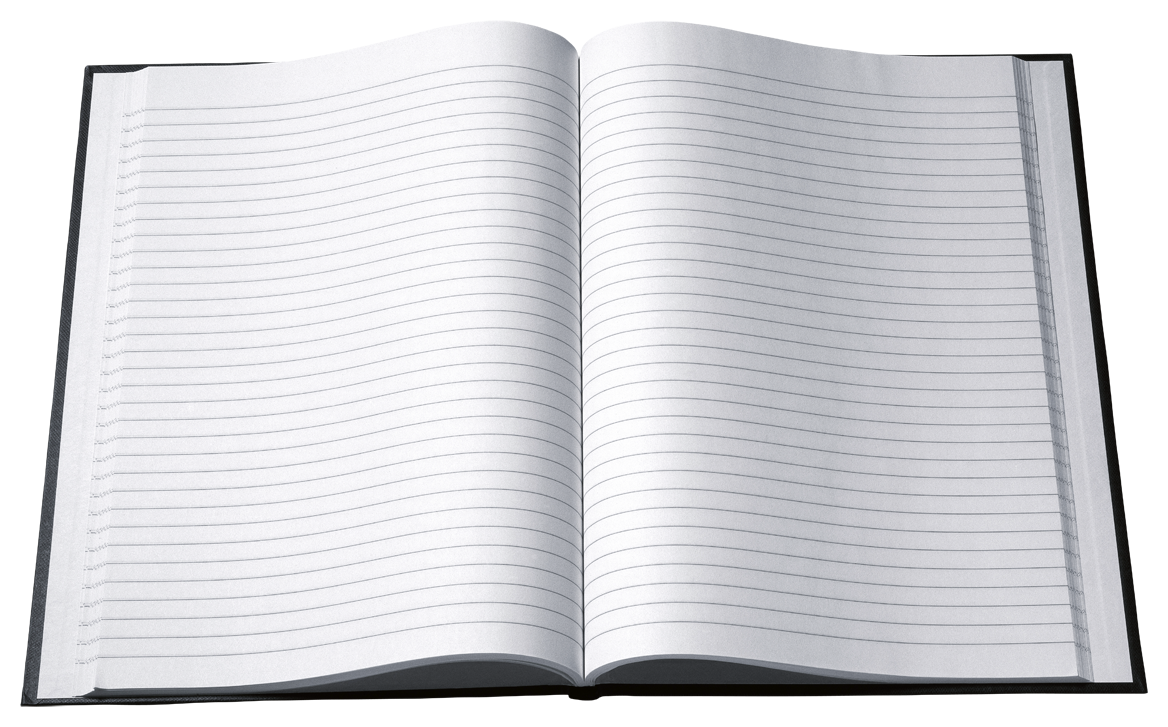
**Definition**

“Good spellers are those who have learned to attend to several levels of work structure – sounds, syllables, and meaningful parts, as well as orthographic conventions for representing them.”  (Moats, L. 1995, p. 48)

**Purpose**

“The arguments for including spelling instruction as a major component of reading programs are strong.  Learning about spelling reinforces children’s knowledge about common letter sequences.  It also reinforces their knowledge about spelling sound relationships and may help children become aware of word parts.  Because of this, spelling practice enhances reading proficiency.”  (Adams, M. 1990, pp. 102-103)

Spelling in fourth grade will look much like it has throughout the other grade-levels.  We use a spiral approach so words are not entered and tested during the same week.

We will typically enter 15 words on Monday and 15 words on Tuesday.  We will be using our Spalding notebook to record the words in.  The following Monday, students will be given a marking sheet to take home to use as practice for the test.  We will practice reading for spelling and reading for reading every day.  We will practice test ten words every day in class.  For the most part, our tests will consist of 30 words tested on Fridays.  If there is no school on a Friday, then the test will be on Thursday.

★  We will begin entering words the first week of school This is the only exception to entering and testing within the same week.  The homework sheet will always indicate when the test will be.

In addition to working on spelling, we will continue to work on the 70 phonograms plus the uncommon phonograms.  We will take our first test during the first few days of school so we can see where our students are with mastery.  We may then be able to test only once a month.

Word analysis, the study of word structure, plays a big part in understanding how to spell words correctly, pronounce words, read fluently, and decode unfamiliar words.  We will practice throughout the week and test on Friday.  The words on the test will come from the words we have practiced.  We may fade out word analysis later in the year.

Spelling, word analysis, and language are all recorded under Language in the grade book.

✓  Please be aware, we will take points off for spelling errors throughout the content areas.  Students are expected to be able to spell correctly in every product they produce especially when the words are given in the question or passage.  We carefully calculate how many points to take off for spelling because these points cannot lower the grade by a letter grade.