



Our First Weeks!

Our first weeks have been busy! We have just finished up all of our beginning of the school year teasting. With the exception our normal spelling pre- and post-tests and unit math tests, we should be done with any major assessments until we approach our first progress report in November.

Spelling

This week we will begin the eighth unit of our spelling program. Each week students will complete a pre-test on Monday, will work on the spelling skills on Monday through Thursday, and then complete a post-test on Friday. For now, those students who have attained 85% or higher on the pre-test will not have to take the post-test on Friday. Those students will work in challenge-level structural analysis activities in-class and can work on the spelling challenge list at home. If your child has received 85% or higher, then he or she will receive a note attached to the front of their pre-test for the week.

SPELLING CYCLE	
<u>Monday</u>	Pre-Test
<u>Monday-Thursday</u>	Work in Class on Spelling Skill & Work at Home on Unit Spelling Words
<u>Friday</u>	Spelling Test

For students receiving less than 85%, they will receive their corrected pre-test on Monday. Your child should study all of the words. In past years, I have found that students can spell words correctly on the one-word pre-test, but may not spell them correctly while completing the test at the end of the week.

Weekly spelling lists are available at <http://www.teamhendricks.com/spelling>. There are online lists if your child has misplaced them and there are activities that your child can use to practice the words.

Please note: It is not a good idea for your child to study spelling lists ahead of schedule. For example, please do not have your child study unit 9 until after the unit 9 pre-test is given. While this might seem like a good idea, it prevents your child from getting spelling instruction in the classroom for skills that he or she might need to work on. The skill is the most important part of our spelling units. The words only help your child to master the spelling skill.

Reading

We have just completed our second anthology story *The Ballad of Mulan*. We have focused on making inferences and cause and effect. Both skills can be difficult for third graders. We will be completing two activities that help to increase understanding of how cause and effect work in a story and how

we use inferences to figure out what the author is trying to say without actually saying it. Over the next two weeks we will read "chapter books" where we will apply these two skills. In addition, we will focus on creating responses to questions by restating the question, using story clues and creating complete sentences. If you would like details on our reading selections, please visit <http://www.teamhendricks.com/reading>. There are fun activities for your child to complete too!



Computational Fluency

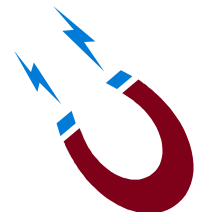
The third grade team is in the process of revising our computational fluency assessments. Please look for math fact tests to come home once or twice a week. For now, please have your child follow the instructions that are attached to the front of his or her math fact test. These instructions will inform your child about what he or she should be studying during the 5 minutes of math fact practice during homework. More information will be coming home in the next several weeks. There are activities for your child to practice listed at <http://teamhendricks.com/math-facts>.

Science & Social Studies



In social studies, we have been developing our learning community and discussing ways that we can take responsibility for helping ourselves and our team to be great members of the classroom. I have introduced a reward program where students earn chips for doing great things. If, by Friday, students earn 25 chips, they earn a period of free time where they may participate in several different activities. Each week, we set a goal to help improve our behavior in the classroom. We determine our goals and share them with the group so that our team members can help us attain our goals. Every member of our team is valued. It is my hope that by recognizing small things across the day, we can continue to improve behavior in the classroom.

In science, we will begin exploring magnets this week. It is an exciting unit as students take something they use every day and learn about why they works! Students complete some experiments and view an interactive video in the computer lab.



Contact Me If You Have Concerns!

If you have any concerns, please contact me by email at james.hendricks@mansfieldct.org or by telephone at (860) 423-1611 extension 117. I am usually at school by 7:15 AM.