



Words Their Way at Chelsea School

Grand Prairie and Chelsea students participate in daily word study using Words Their Way (WTW) as a means to develop their phonics, spelling, and vocabulary skills. This developmental model recognizes the synchronous nature of reading, writing, and spelling, and has identified common characteristics of readers, writers, and spellers along the literacy continuum. Words Their Way works as foundational program helping students develop those skills targeted in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Specifically, Words Their Way supports the CCSS's Reading Foundational Skills and Language Standards in Grades K–5. The depth and breadth of word knowledge developed through the Words Their Way approach to word study also supports the Common Core's emphasis on students' reading more complex literary and informational texts.

Within the classroom, the WTW program will provide skill instruction that will cover spelling patterns and focus on examining and manipulating words, based on patterns within the word, not memorizing them. Students will be thinking more critically about words and work on transferring their skills to reading and writing. Words Their Way will focus on teaching students how to spell, decode new words, and to improve word recognition speed in general. The simple process of sorting words into categories is the heart of this program. When students sort words, they are engaged in the active process of searching, comparing, contrasting, and analyzing. Word sorts help students organize what they know about words and to form generalizations that they can then apply to new words they encounter in their reading or when they are drafting a writing piece.

If you have any specific questions about the program, please contact your child's teacher. They will share with you your individual child's progress and information about their current level of word study.