

September 4, 2018

Dear 1st Grade Parents,

Sight words, often called *high frequency words*, are commonly used words that young children are encouraged to memorize as a whole by sight. Students should not need to sound out or chop out these words to gain meaning when reading. There is a direct relationship between the mastery of these sight words and reading success. Your 1st grader has been doing a WONDERFUL job practicing their sight words. We would like your child to participate in a sight word challenge at Haines called WORD WORMS. The purpose of this program is to encourage students to practice their sight words at home and in class daily so they can test out of each level and earn praise and a prize when they complete the program. We have outlined how the program will work for your student below. We know that our students will continue to experience reading success as 1st graders at Haines!

WORD WORMS

- Your child will receive a word list with several levels. They will use this list at home. When they fully pass this list and test out with a staff member they will be given another leveled list where the words will get consistently more challenging.
- Children will typically be tested by me, their classroom teacher or another helper. If they pass their level in the allotted time they will be given a sticker for the hallway display. Our goal is to fill the word worm in the hallway! We are excited to see how long he will get this year! Last year he was 8 sections long! Let's beat that this year!
- We will keep you posted on their progress but please don't ever hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.
- This program has been created to challenge your child and keep them growing as readers!

*The first word list your child receives is the Kindergarten word list. Your child may already know all of these words! That is great! They will test out of this list quickly and will receive their next list. We simply want to start everyone on the same list so we make sure none of these frequently used words are missed. They are the foundation for reading success. If your child struggles with a few words then you can focus your attention with practice at home on those words.

Reminders

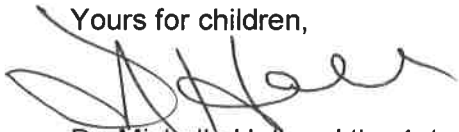
- Our goal is for the students to recognize the words quickly. We want this to be a quick, fluent assessment. Students should not be sounding the words out. They should recognize them automatically.
- Consider a low stress method of practicing these words at home. Hang the words around the house so they see them repeatedly. Use car time to review the words. Do word hunts when you are at the store. Make learning these words fun and not a chore.

Call your child's teacher if you need more ideas to make this a fun time with your 1st grader!

- As you work on the next level of words be sure to revisit the previous levels. It is important that your child see these words all the time.
- The words do become more difficult as the levels increase.

Thank you for being a partner in helping your child become a successful reader! We look forward to this program and we know the students will be excited to see the progress each day in the hallway as they pass their levels. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. Also let me know if your child is experiencing any stress related to this program. We can work together to make sure your child feels success!

Yours for children,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Hall', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Michelle Hall and the 1st grade staff

ReadyGen Kindergarten Sight Word List

I	are	said
am	that	you
the	do	they
little	one	look
a	two	where
to	three	what
have	four	see
is	five	come
we	here	of
like	go	she
my	from	have
he	yellow	with
for	blue	was
me	green	