

September 1, 2020

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. We would like your child to participate in a sight word challenge at Nelson Prairie called **ALL STAR READERS**. 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 as they go. We have outlined how the program will work for your student below. We hope that you are as excited as we are about becoming an ALL STAR! We know that our students will continue to experience reading success as 1st graders at Prairie!

Reading All Stars

Your child will receive a word list that will be posted on Seesaw. They will use this list at home. When they are ready to test, **you will send an email to Mr. Broders**. He will then coordinate a time before school, 8:30-9:00, or after school, 2:30-4:00, to test with either Mr. Broders or another school helper. If your child passes they will be able to move on to the next set of words.

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!. 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!

Sincerely,

Tyler Broders and the 1st grade staff