Dear Families,

Eastern Elementary/Middle School has implemented a word study program in Kindergarten through second grade this year in order to ensure your child’s success in literacy. *Words Their Way* is a developmentally driven instructional approach which provides an integrated way to teach phonics, vocabulary, and spelling. This program is designed to improve literacy scores. Your child has been assessed on various features of the program and has been placed in a group that supports early understanding of word knowledge and challenges new learning.

Your child needs your support at home to stay on the path to success with is program. Words will be given on Monday with an assessment on Friday. Each night, homework should be completed in your child’s word study notebook and will follow this schedule:

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| Monday | Observe and support your child as he sorts the words by directive of the header. Listen as he reads his words aloud. Allow your child to explain the feature and why he sorted the words in the fashion he did. Avoid stating rules.  |
| Tuesday | Ask your child to participate in a buddy sort with you. You may use the same header as the night before or brainstorm and come up with a new one. Read the rest of the words aloud and have your child place the word in the correct column. Do not correct your child if he places the word in the wrong spot. Instead, encourage him to repeat the word and look again. |
| Wednesday | Have your child choose a favorite book and go on a word hunt with him. Be sure to look for words that have the feature of the week. Try to locate several examples. |
| Thursday | In preparation for the word study assessment, have your child complete a writing sort. Encourage your child to sort the words appropriately as you randomly call out the words. If your child makes mistakes, allow him a second or third opportunity to correct himself. |

Each activity listed has been modeled and practiced in the classroom. In fact, allow your child to be the “teacher” and have him model word study for you!

Thank you so much for your support with this endeavor. I look forward to a successful year with your child. Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,