



Dear Family,

Your child will be using *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action* in school this year. *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action* will enhance the core reading program, *Good Habits Great Readers* to provide the most effective instruction in phonics, spelling, and vocabulary.

Words Their Way is authored by noted researchers Donald Bear, Marcia Invernizzi, Francine Johnston, and Shane Templeton. *Words Their Way* is designed to teach students phonics, spelling, and vocabulary through engaging, hands-on activities. This powerful approach to word study teaches students to look closely at words to discover letters, vowel patterns, syllable structure and spelling-meaning connections in the English language.

How does *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action* work?

The heart of word study is **sorting** or the process of grouping sounds and words into specific categories. Word/picture sorting includes teacher-directed sorts as well as independent or partner sorts. Students will sort their word cards or picture cards and make discoveries and generalizations about the conventions of the English language. They will compare and contrast word features and discover similarities and differences within the categories.

Parents are encouraged to support their students' learning of word study by following the home practice activities which can be found on the inside front cover of the student's Word Study Notebook. (A copy of this letter will be provided by your child's teacher.) You can help your child practice his or her weekly word study by sorting at home with them every night.

Our Cobb County School District found this program to best complement our *Good Habits, Great Readers* reading/writing program based on the research, activities, and findings of the National Reading Panel. We look forward to the positive impact it will have on our students' reading and writing.

Sincerely,