GERMANTOWN ACADEMY

THIRD GRADE LITERACY SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Spellwell

What is *Spellwell*?

The *Spellwell* series serves as the word study program for third, fourth, and fifth grades at Germantown Academy. This word study program is designed around spelling rules or generalizations. Each week students learn the one or two principles that relate to their group of spelling words. "Outlaw Words" that don't follow a spelling rule and "Classroom Words" provided by teachers are also studied. Books are typically designated *B* and *BB* for third-grade level, *C* and *CC* for fourth, and *D* and *DD* for fifth, however this can vary depending on a student's readiness assessment.

How does *Spellwell* work?

At the beginning of each week, students take a pretest to allow teachers to target a certain area of spelling for each student. Words are specific to each student, and not all students will have the same words. Students learn the one or two principles that relate to their group of spelling words. Throughout the week students practice spelling in a variety of formats including vocabulary expansion, thinking skills, and puzzles. The weekly goal is for all students to master the spelling principles of that week's lesson. A weekly spelling test will assess mastery of spelling words.

How is *Spellwell used at home*?

The *Spellwell* program provides for daily practice at home. The activities to be done at home include finding rhyming words, sorting words, adding affixes, and writing words in puzzles, stories and bingo games. They also include identifying and writing words for the students' reading books that fit the lesson's pattern.

Reading and Writing Workshop

A Framework for Responsive Teaching

The Reading and Writing Project's approach to instruction recognizes that "one size fits all" does not match the realities of the classrooms and schools in which they work. When you walk into a workshop classroom at any given moment, you'll see instruction that is designed to:

- help teachers address each child's individual learning;
- explicitly teach strategies students will use not only the day they are taught but whenever they need them;
- help students work with engagement so that teachers are able to coach individuals and lead small groups;
- support small-groupwork and conferring with multiple opportunities for personalizing instruction;
- tap into the power of a learning community as a way to bring all learners along;
- build choice and assessment-based learning into the very design of the curriculum.

The routines and structures of reading and writing workshop are kept simple and predictable so that the teacher can focus on the complex work of teaching in a responsive manner to accelerate achievement for all learners.

GRADE 3 READING UNITS	GRADE 3 WRITING UNITS
UNIT 1 ***Building a Reading Life:*** This unit launches kids' lives as upper elementary school readers. Students learn to check comprehension and use fix-up strategies when they've lost the thread of the story. They'll also learn strategies for tackling multisyllabic words, figurative language, and more complex sentences. **UNIT 2** ***Reading to Learn: Grasping Main Ideas and Text Structures:*** Students learn to take in long stretches of text and read with fluency. Readers will construct mental summaries of the text, identifying the main ideas and supporting information and apply what they've learned in narrative nonfiction texts. **UNIT 3** ***Character Studies:*** Students learn to make predictions about characters, considering the big lessons that characters learn and how those lessons relate to the larger message the story conveys. **UNIT 4** ***Research Clubs: Elephants, Penguins, and Frogs, Oh My!:*** In this research unit, students will learn to learn—an important academic skill for all students.	**UNIT 1** ***Crafting True Stories:*** This unit extends students' work with personal narrative while engaging them more fully in the complete writing process, with increasing emphasis on drafting and revising their work. **UNIT 2** ***The Art of Information Writing:*** In this unit, students write chapter books that synthesize a wide variety of information and learn to section their topics—such as dogs, soccer, gymnastics— into subtopics. **UNIT 3** ***Changing the World: Persuasive Speeches, Petitions, and Editorials:*** This unit rallies third-graders to use their newfound abilities to gather and organize information to persuade people about causes the children believe matter. **UNIT 4** ***Once Upon a Time: Adapting and Writing Fairy Tales:*** This unit uses familiar fairy tales to explore techniques of fiction writing such as writing in scenes, employing an omniscient narrator to orient readers, using story structure to create tension, and crafting figurative language to convey mood.