

making the GRADE

SPELLING

On the first day of the school week your child will take a spelling pre-test. On the last day of the school week students will take a spelling test over the 30 words they have been studying for the week.

BASIC

1. skate
2. blade
3. gain
4. safe
5. drag
6. aid
7. past
8. gray
9. drain
10. break
11. jail
12. shape
13. plant
14. hang
15. pray
16. pain
17. glass
18. shall
19. sale
20. steak

REVIEW

21. last
22. stage
23. clay
24. face
25. paint

CHALLENGE

26. champion
27. graceful
28. athletic
29. activity
30. relay

TWO BONUS WORDS
WILL BE GIVEN
FOR THE WEEK.



WE'RE OFF TO A GREAT START!

Sometimes the transition from summer vacation to school starting can be a difficult one. However, we had a great first week and I'm really looking forward to working with this group of students!

COMMUNICATION

In an attempt to save paper, this will be the last paper copy of *Making the Grade* that goes home to all families. You will have the opportunity to sign up at Back to School Night for how you would like to receive the weekly newsletter.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR CHILD

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey I sent home last week. If you have not turned the survey back into me, please do so as soon as possible.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Back to School Night is already here - this Wednesday! If you are unable to attend, I will send home any necessary information to you. But I'm hoping to see all of you there!

ASSESSMENTS

Last week we dove right into beginning of the year assessments. Students took spelling, math, and grammar assessments. I stressed to them that they were not being graded and the purpose was to show me how much they already knew.

Within the next few weeks I will be assessing all fourth-grade students in the area of reading. This is the second year that we are using DIBELS

(Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) in grades K-6 at St. Clare. DIBELS measures oral reading fluency. I will also be getting a writing sample from each student.

The same assessments are done three times a year: September, January, and May. The purpose is to see student progress throughout the year. Part of the fall conference is dedicated to sharing these assessment results with you.

WEEKLY TEST DATES

I will always list what tests are happening for the week under this section so students have time to adequately prepare.

Friday the 15th - Spelling test

DID YOU KNOW?

Roald Dahl (author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*) was born on September 13, 1916 in Great Britain.

"The Muppet Show" premiered on September 13, 1976.

The "Star-Spangled Banner" was inspired on September 13-14, 1814. During the War of 1812, on the night of September 13, Francis Scott Key was aboard a ship that was delayed in Baltimore harbor by the British attack there on Fort McHenry. Key had no choice but to anxiously watch the battle. That experience and seeing the American flag still flying over the fort the next morning inspired him to pen the verses that, coupled with the tune of a popular drinking song, became our official national anthem in 1931, 117 years after the words were written.