

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your student will be using the Souday System Essentials curriculum during this academic year. The Souday System is based on the Orton-Gillingham Approach to teaching reading and spelling. It provides explicit instruction about the structure and system of the language and incorporates technology in daily instruction.

The curriculum is structured, systematic, cumulative, and provides consistent multisensory reinforcement. Instruction follows the recommendations of the National Reading Panel and includes Phonemic Awareness, Direct and Explicit Phonics, Spelling, Fluency, and Vocabulary.

Each lesson contains the following components:

1. **Read Sounds** provides a review of all previously taught sounds, roots, and affixes, enabling students to provide correct responses quickly. This sets a positive tone at the start of the lesson and builds the automaticity that provides the foundation for fluency.
2. **Spell Sounds** requires students to **write** 10 sounds from dictation to reinforce rules, roots, affixes, multiple spellings, and place value while incorporating multisensory practice.
3. **Read Words** includes reading words, phrases, and sentences.
4. **Spell Words** carries the power of the lesson for the students, diagnostic information for the teacher, and proof of effective learning. The dictated spelling list is structured so that sounds are reviewed daily with emphasis on the sounds and rules most recently taught.
5. **Introduce New Material** requires that students see the letters, hear the sounds, repeat the sounds aloud, trace or write the letters, then **read** and **spell** words incorporating the new sounds and rules.
6. **Independent Practice** is an optional activity that can be used for seatwork, a station activity, or homework. Worksheets enable students to reinforce previous learning, including spelling, handwriting, sentence completion, sentence generation, grammar, categorization, vocabulary, morphology, and sentence transformation.

A mastery check given after every fifth lesson will enable teachers to determine which concepts are solid and which need further reinforcement, as well as identify the students who need additional time to master the material.