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Dear Readington Family,

The Readington Township School District will implement Vocabulary and Language Enhancement (VALE) this September Grades 3-5 as a supplement to our current literacy instruction. The goal of this program is to support our students as readers and writers while they transfer vocabulary, word study, and knowledge of affixes to their independent reading and writing practice.

Literacy instruction benefits students when it follows a research-based sequence, and this curriculum relies on researched-based practices as its foundation. Instruction will focus on the most high-frequency affixes taught in a manner that increases student engagement. The skills and strategies learned through direct instruction and isolated practice will be constantly revisited as they are transferred to independent reading and writing. Small group instruction will be crucial and will allow the teacher to provide precursor instruction to those who need it, ensure that mastery of skills has occurred, and offer challenge opportunities. Children will then be prepared to use what they know to be confident, purposeful readers and writers.

Students will have clear goals, and their progress through the units will be systematically tracked through a series of formative and summative assessments. Weekly spelling tests will no longer be a part of our assessments; however, formal assessments will take place towards the end of specific units. When a child makes errors, the teacher will be able to utilize these assessments to determine the source of the error and adjust instruction accordingly. Students will also have word journals where they can practice specific affixes, root words, and vocabulary. These journals can be sent home upon parent request so that families can assist in reinforcing target skills.

Thank you in advance for your support as we implement this new program. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,