



Friday Focus

CARTER COUNTY SCHOOLS

Volume 2, Issue 5

September 13, 2013

Calendar of Events:

Sept. 19 3-2 Academy

Sept. 26 5-4 Academy

Oct. 2 District PD Day

Oct 7-10 East Middle and High Academy

Oct 9 Preschool/ Elementary SpEd Academy

Oct 10 K-1 Academy

Oct 14 Elementary Reading Festival

Inside this Issue: Word Wall Links

[10 Great Word Wall Strategies](#)

[High School Word Wall Ideas](#)

[Word Wall Activities for Special Ed. Teachers](#)

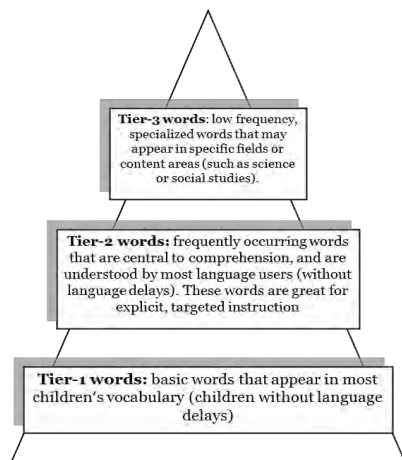
[Word Wall Activities](#)

[Word Wall App](#)

[Fun with Word Walls](#)

Oh the Things We Can Do with Word Walls!

Word walls are great tools for helping students recall vocabulary words. For elementary teachers, tier one words should be on your word walls. You may also have another section for tier two and tier three words in the short term for a particular unit. Middle and high school word walls will be focused on tier two and tier three words.



Word walls provide a permanent model for high frequency words, help students see patterns and relationship in words (thus building phonics and spelling skills) and provide reference support for children during reading and writing activities. The most helpful word walls grow and change throughout the year and are used as a learning reference.

Some suggestions for making word walls successful in your classroom are:

- Make words accessible by putting them where every student can see them. They should be written in large letters using a variety of background colors to distinguish easily confused words.
- Teachers and students should work together to determine which words should go on the word wall. Try to include words that children use most commonly in their writing. Words should be added gradually — a general guideline is five words per week.
- Use the word wall daily to practice words, incorporating a variety of

activities such as chanting, snapping, cheering, clapping, tracing, word guessing games as well as writing them.

- Provide enough practice so that words are read and spelled automatically and make sure that words from the wall are always spelled correctly in the children's daily writing.
- Add new information on a regular basis. Use content-area material from the curriculum instead of randomly selected words.
- Refer to your word wall often so students come to understand and see its relevance.

A word wall display in your classroom can be a great interactive tool for building your students' vocabulary skills. **Make sure you check out this week's links for great ways to use your classroom word wall!**



What is the Value of Word Walls?

"Children learn the meanings of most words indirectly, through everyday experiences with oral and written language."

A word wall is an organized collection of words prominently displayed in a classroom. This display is used as an interactive tool for teaching reading and spelling to children. Word walls have many benefits. They teach children to recognize and spell high frequency words, see patterns and relationship in words, facilitate word analysis, and help create a word-rich environment. Word walls also provide reference support for children during reading and writing activities. They provide a visual map to help children remember connections between words and the characteristics that will help them form categories. They develop a growing core of words that become part of a reading and writing vocabulary. Children learn to be independent as they use the word walls in daily activities.

Effective word walls are: interactive, relevant, evolving, purposeful, and student-centered. The key to success with word walls is that you need to refer to them often so students get in the habit of using the wall in their assignments. Word walls should be: student generated, not commercially prepared; new information should be added on a regular basis; and use content-area material from the curriculum rather than randomly selected words. It's no longer enough for classroom walls to be attractive. A working word wall may be only an inanimate object, but if properly developed, it can bring real life to a classroom. Children who learn in a classroom with a working word wall have a distinct advantage over students who don't have such a resource in their room.