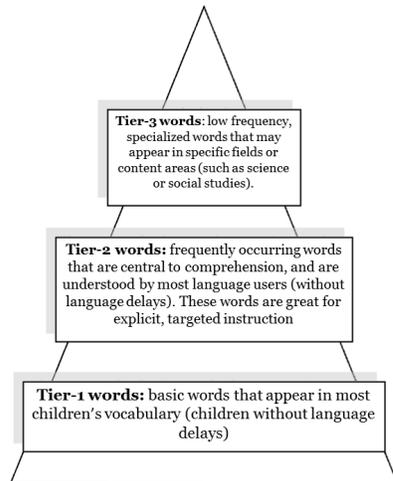


Friday Focus

Carter County Schools

Tiered Vocabulary



Studies have shown a strong correlation between reading comprehension and vocabulary knowledge, and researchers have found that word knowledge in primary school is a predictor of a student's reading level in high school! Teachers know that limited vocabularies prevent students from understanding what they read. Therefore, it becomes imperative that we provide explicit instruction in vocabulary development.

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.

High Expectations for Whom?

Todd Whitaker's fourth thing that matters most for highly effective teachers is having high expectations not only for their students, but also for themselves. He states that all teachers expect students to pay attention, be engaged, and be well-behaved. He says the variable that separates the best teachers from other teachers is that they also have high expectations for themselves as educators. They think it is their responsibility to engage the students, their job to gain and keep students' attention, and their role to ensure students learn. Furthermore, great teachers understand that if these things are not happening they need to change their approach to instruction. Great teachers are willing to look at what they are doing and the impact on learning to guide their next steps.

The same is true for school and district leaders. We must all set our expectations for ourselves high and be willing to continue to grow and learn in order to best serve our students. We all want our students to become productive and successful members of our community in the future. Let's work together as a team, who has high expectations for our role as educators, to ensure that this goal becomes a reality.

Fun Vocabulary Activity

One way to increase the sophistication of students' writing is to encourage your children to use words formed from Greek and Latin roots. Such words are often verbs that become nouns when suffixes are added.

Consider the suffixes "ance" and "tion." These are two of the most common.

1) Have your students check their sources to find examples of words ending in these suffixes.

2) Have students brainstorm a list of words ending in various suffixes.

3) Have students search the web for words ending in various suffixes.

4) Have students generate nouns, using these suffixes, from a list of verbs provided.

5) Have students generate a list of verbs (those related to thought sometimes work best - some action verbs become nouns only by the addition of -ing). Then have students turn the verbs into nouns. Here are some verbs to try: Signify, Motivate, Transport, Ally, Amaze, Import.

-Angela Hilterbrand, from [Strategies for Teaching Informative Writing](#)

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[Vocabulary Games](#)

[Awesome Handouts on Tiered Vocabulary](#)

[Great Article on Differentiation Between Tiers](#)

[RTI and Vocabulary](#)



Book of the Month:

[Bringing Words to Life](#) by: Isabel Beck