



# New River Elementary School

## Ms. Bixby's Syllabus and Expectations



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***We are committed to partner with parents through open communication focused on the needs of your child. Mutual trust and respect between parents and teachers is critical to maintain a positive learning experience at any school. We believe that your trust in New River is essential to ensure your child's success.***

### **All about Ms.Bixby**

Please allow me to introduce myself and tell you how very excited I am to have your child in my class. My name is Jennifer Bixby. I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona and am very excited that I get to teach in my home state! I attended the University of Arizona. I have a BA in Spanish, a Post Baccalaureate in Elementary Education as well as a Bilingual Endorsement. This will be my 18<sup>th</sup> year teaching elementary school and my first year here at New River. Teaching children and helping them develop academically and socially is such a joy for me!

### **COMMUNICATION**

- School-wide [New River Elementary School Website](#)
- Family communication will be primarily done through the Class Dojo app. Please download the app onto your phone. I will communicate weekly news as well as any other important information you may need. You can also send me a message with any questions, concerns or information you need me to know. This is the quickest way to get a hold of me.

### **ACADEMICS**

- Resources for parents:
- Math: <https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28323>
- ELA: <https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/5389>
- Social Studies: <https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/5393>
- Science: <https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/5392>

### **PBIS**

All students are taught to follow the CATS expectations: Constantly Caring, Always Respectful, Today's Citizen, Safety First. These expectations are outlined in this CATS Matrix. Students earn Wildcats Bucks for demonstrating these expectations that they can use to purchase items or experience coupons in the Wildcat Den.



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### **All Things EQ**

We have implemented a philosophy called "All Things EQ." IQ is your book smarts or school smarts. EQ is your emotional quotient or self-smarts. The EQ philosophy focuses on the following key questions: How can I be kind and helpful in this moment?

How are you showing up at school today?

Am I making an honest effort?

Am I focusing on solutions instead of problems?

To reinforce the EQ philosophy our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are trained to be our EQ Ambassadors so they can be role models for the rest of the students. In addition, each teacher is holding class meetings every Friday, showing videos that focus on the four key questions and we have daily announcements focused on the core questions and weekly motto.

### **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES (PLC's)**

Most Fridays, students will be released early so that we are able to participate in PLC work. This work is directly related to the planning, instruction and interventions we implement in our classrooms to ensure that students master the standards.

A professional learning community is a group of educators that meet regularly and work Collaboratively to improve teaching practices and the achievement of students. The questions that drive the work of PLC's are:

- What do we want all students to know and be able to do?
- How will we know if they learn it?
- How will we respond if some students do not learn?
- How will we extend the learning for students who are already proficient?

Please be sure to read the weekly newsletter for ongoing information regarding the content of each early release day.

### **GRADING PRACTICES**

*Learning is a process that takes place over time and at different speeds for different students. Grades are a reporting tool utilized to reflect what a student knows and is able to do in a content area. We measure achievement, not effort or behavior, in our grading system. For more information on the reasoning behind our grading practices watch this video:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4QVcghKsGY>



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Use the following chart to understand the levels of mastery of the standard:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 4 | Independently applies skills and content with greater depth and complexity |
| 3 | Demonstrates grade level proficiency independently                         |
| 2 | Demonstrates grade level proficiency with support                          |
| 1 | Demonstrates below grade level proficiency                                 |

The 4-1 standards grades will be averaged to produce a course grade which will be reported as an A-F using this conversion scale.

| Letter Grade | A+      | A       | A-      | B+      | B       | C+      | C       | D       | F       |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Final Scores | 4.0-3.8 | 3.7-3.4 | 3.3-3.0 | 2.9-2.7 | 2.6-2.4 | 2.3-2.0 | 1.9-1.7 | 1.6-1.4 | 1.3-1.0 |

### Homework

*Homework is practice that supports the learning at school yet it is not part of the students' grade. Students should complete it independently it and only spend up to*

- Grades 2-3: **up to 60** minutes per night across all content areas

### Re-assessments

We want students to do their best all the time. However, we acknowledge that sometimes the process of learning takes longer than teachers anticipate; therefore, students are allowed to reattempt their assessments after receiving feedback and guidance, following the guidelines outlined below.

- Students will be retaught using a different strategy or more time and practice.
- The reteaching may be from the teacher or by another teacher/ specialist within the school day.



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- Once students have demonstrated mastery of the content their grade will be replaced.

#### **Late Work**

*In order to accurately reflect a student's academic performance level, teachers will accept late work and missing work for full credit if the work is submitted within the timeframe and before the end of the grading period. A "1" will be entered in the gradebook until the work is submitted. A notation of "M" for missing or "L" for late work will also be denoted in the gradebook. Students will still be responsible for turning in late work in addition to their current coursework, which results in the natural consequence of a heavier workload. The primary consequence for students not completing the work is to complete the work.*

#### **Powerschools**

*PowerSchool is an essential resource for parents and students. It is not only a tool for communication regarding grades, it is a resource for our students and parents to check progress, missing work, and what is being taught/learned regularly. Please ensure that you and your child have access (separate accounts) and even sign up for the app and push notifications or weekly email updates as an option in [PowerSchool](#).*

#### **Birthday Celebrations and Treats**

Birthday celebrations will be done during lunch or recess. The easiest way to send treats for your child's birthday is to use the district form to order them directly from school. Parents are encouraged to use the district sponsored birthday buckets order form at this link: <https://www.dvusd.org/Page/65635>.