



New River Elementary School

Mrs. Rutan's Syllabus 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 Mrs. Rutan

This is my 19th year teaching in the Deer Valley Unified School District. I have an Elementary and Secondary Certification. I have taught Kindergarten through 6th grade. I have enjoyed teaching all of the grade levels. However, second grade is where I have found my niche.

I also have my B.S. Degree in Home Economics specializing in Food and Nutrition from Arizona State University. I enjoy eating healthy and doing Zumba. My husband of 38 years and I have 2 wonderful sons. We enjoy boating and spending time at home with our dogs.

I am looking forward to this year. I will be working hard to make sure that your child is successful in second grade and become an independent learner. Second grade ROCKS!

COMMUNICATION

- School-wide [New River Elementary School Website](#)
- Weekly school newsletters on facebook, twitter and school messenger
- Teacher website
- My contact information is sheila.rutan@dvusd.org.
- Best time to reach me is before or after school.
- My phone number is 623 376-3529.
- The easiest way to reach me is by sending a note in your child's folder.
- You can find nightly homework assignments and school events in the folder.

ACADEMICS

Resources for parents:

- [DVUSD Math Resources for Parents](#)
- [DVUSD English Language Arts Resources for Parents](#)
- [DVUSD Social Studies Resources for Parents](#)
- [DVUSD Science Resources for Parents](#)
- [What is Depth of Knowledge](#) (DOK)?



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PBIS

All students are taught to follow the CATS expectations, 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.

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 5th and 6th 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.



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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>

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 and only spend up to 60 minutes per night across all grade levels.

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.



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- The reteaching may be from the teacher or by another teacher/ specialist within the school day.
- 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. Parents are encouraged to use the district sponsored birthday buckets order form which is at this link: <https://www.dvusd.org/Page/65635>. You may also bring in store bought treats.