



# Sunset Ridge School

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

### Handbook

### 2021 - 2022

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[Sunset Ridge Website](#)  
[First Grade Website](#)

# Philosophy of Education

Welcome to Sunset Ridge School! We believe that every child has the potential to learn. Because children are individuals with unique learning styles, it is our responsibility as the teachers, to do everything possible to help him or her learn. First, we will establish a working relationship with our students and parents. We will work to create an atmosphere in our class that is safe and orderly to promote an opportunity for learning. Time on task is valued and high expectations are held. Through frequent monitoring, we will assess each student's progress and adjust our teaching to best suit your child's needs. We want our students to enjoy learning and look forward to coming to school every day.

# Curriculum Overview

## Language Arts

1<sup>st</sup> grade will be using HMH Into Reading program which combines the best practices of balanced literacy with comprehensive coverage of English Language Arts curriculum standards. HMH encompasses Phonics, Grammar, Writing, Vocabulary, and Literature. Your child will also be learning the six syllable types (closed, open, vowel team, r-controlled, consonant -le, silent -e), and blending routines to help read words fluently.

[DVUSD English Language Arts Resources for Parents](#)

## Mathematics

1<sup>st</sup> grade uses the Eureka Math program. Eureka Math is meticulously coherent, with an intense focus on key concepts that layer over time, creating enduring knowledge. Students will gain a complete body of math knowledge, not just a discrete set of skills. They will use the same models and problem-solving methods from grade to grade, so math concepts stay with them, year after year.

[DVUSD Math Resources for Parents](#)

## Science

Our Science program that 1st grade uses is a combined approach using both Picture Perfect and FOSS programs. Picture Perfect was developed to integrate science and reading in an engaging and kid-friendly way. The program cycles through phases: engage, explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate. This teaches STEM concepts and reading comprehension strategies. FOSS is a research based science curriculum that provides tools and strategies to engage students in enduring experiences that lead to a deeper understanding of the natural and designed worlds.

[DVUSD Science Resources for Parents](#)

## **Social Studies**

Emphasis will be placed on the communities living and working together. We will be supporting our Social Studies curriculum with Harcourt Social Studies: People We Know, literature, teacher made materials, and trade books.

[DVUSD Social Studies Resources for Parents](#)

## **Classroom Rules and Procedures**

The responsibility of maintaining appropriate behavior belongs to each student. We believe that Sunset Ridge's core beliefs drive discipline decisions across our campus. These core beliefs guide our attempts to individualize disciplinary procedures and to help students see reasonable connections between their behavior and the resulting consequences. Sunset Ridge uses PBIS for our school wide discipline plan and has implemented a "Sunset Ridge School-Wide Behavior Expectations: Soar With the Hawks". This is a matrix of behaviors that are expected for **S**afety, **O**wnership, **A**chievement, and **R**espect. Students also participate in Social Emotional Learning using All Things EQ. These mini lessons and mottos are used to help students handle day to day tasks.

## **Absences and Tardies**

We believe that academic success is directly related to attendance and punctuality. Please make sure your student is at school on time each day. School begins at 8:45. We realize that there are going to be circumstances that will cause your child to be absent from school. Please refer to our missing work policy if this happens. If your child will be absent please call the attendance line (623) 445-7890.

## **Parent Teacher Communication**

This year will be filled with fun, excitement, and new learning. We will keep you informed about what your child is learning and studying, as well as upcoming events. A weekly newsletter will be sent home prior to Monday.

We believe parent-teacher communication is very important. If you ever have questions or concerns please feel free to contact your child's teacher. Since we are partners in educating your child, communication will be very important.

### **Homework**

Homework will consist of weekly spelling words or patterns, nightly reading, and Dreambox math practice. Our reading rotates on a 6 day cycle, so spelling words will be tested on the date provided on the list.

### **Grading**

Students will be provided an in class opportunity to retake select assessments after a reteaching period has occurred.

### **Birthdays**

Birthday treats are fun! Please let your teacher know your plans for treats in advance. Treats should be nut free and individually packaged from a store. Our cafeteria also does Birthday treats, so feel free to take advantage of that. We will celebrate during our second recess in the afternoon. Please remember that district guidelines state that all treats must be store bought.

### **Library**

Your child will be going to the library every week. When your child brings their library book home, please have them read the book and then return it after it has been read. This way they will not miss the opportunity to check out new books.

## **Book Orders**

We will be ordering books from Scholastic this year. There is no obligation to purchase any books; however, it is an opportunity to purchase good literature at low prices. If you choose to purchase books, you can easily complete the order online. Orders take about two to three weeks to arrive.

## **Star Student**

One child will be chosen every week to be the star student. They will be given a small poster to decorate and write about themselves. They will need to bring this back on the following Monday to share.

**Monday** -The students will present their poster.

**Tuesday** -Share and read part of their favorite book.

**Wednesday** -Bring in packaged (store bought) snacks to be shared with the class.

**Thursday** - Show & Share- bring in a special item to share with the class.

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

Most Fridays, students will be released early (at 2:00) 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.

### **Role of PLC**

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?

**PLC Teams are responsible for collaborating to establish general consistency among the following:**

- Assignments, presentations, products, observations and assessments used to determine a student's level of performance in relation to grade-level standards.
- The method and schedule for additional learning opportunities.
- Due dates, deadlines, and procedures for reassessment.
- Create opportunities for common scoring of assessments.