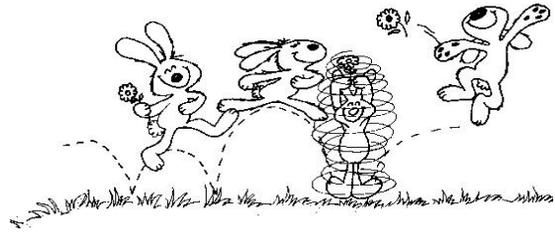




Copper Hills Elementary School

7635 West 3715 South
Magna, Utah 84044-2399

Office: (385)646-4792



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new year! I am delighted to be your teacher this year. We are going to have a GREAT year together. Remember, the first day of school is Wednesday, August 17. School begins at 8:10 a.m. Don't think about school yet, though. You still have plenty of vacation days left!

If you'd like to know more about your new teacher - that's me! - I invite you to go online to our class website at <http://deanadventures.com/schoolsite/school.htm>. Go there to find lots of information and resources. For those of you who don't have the Internet, this letter will provide you with the necessary information.

Students, I am very interested in getting to know you. Some of you are returning from last year so I already know you quite well. I want to help you realize your potential so you can have the resources that will make your life enjoyable and comfortable. Education can give you the lifestyle you want and deserve.

You should know that I've been in education since 1985. I enjoy working with young people and work hard to make sure I do what is best for each of my students. In my classroom there are thirty four computers, student cameras and Flip cameras, graphic writing tablets, a big screen projector, Interwrite boards, a document camera, microphones . . .well...lots of technology tools that we use to individualize student learning.

Please read through the attached *Class Plan* so that you are aware of how this year will run. After reading the information, **please sign and return the last page when you come on the 17th**. This way I will know that you know our plan.

We will provide all necessary materials this year, but we would appreciate it if you could donate one box of tissues to our classroom. You may wait until sniffle season to send this, if you'd like. Also, students, please bring a couple of extra pencils. Also, please do not purchase big binders or big pencil boxes at Back to School sales. There is just not enough room in the individual student bins for these.

You will need a USB drive or flash drive to back up your files. If you do not have one, you may borrow one from me.

The first S.E.P. Conferences for this year will be Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 21st and 22nd. We'll be sending home more information about that soon. Thanks in advance for your support. I look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Vickie Dean".

Mrs. Vickie Dean, M.Ed.



Mrs. Dean's Class 2016-17

Classroom Plan

Welcome Back to School!

Attendance: Students are expected to come to school on time. At the end of the year and periodically throughout the year, students with zero tardies and/or perfect attendance will receive special awards. If a student must

be gone for whatever reason, it is important that the parent send a signed note to school with the child upon his/her return to class.

Discipline: All students are expected to behave responsibly. No one is permitted to keep the class from learning. Hard work is a reward in itself, but coupons for the End-of-Term Sale, additional computer time, certificates, special privileges, treats, little prizes, notes and such will be given to encourage students to make good use of time. If a student chooses to act irresponsibly by disrupting class, not following school rules or by not working, the following will occur:

1st disruption or misbehavior: Student is given a warning.

2nd disruption or misbehavior: Student misses one recess and/or parent will be contacted.

Math: We at Copper Hills want students to value mathematics and capable of communicating and reasoning mathematically. We use an excellent math program called "Go Math" (thinkcentral.com). Students will have math homework every weeknight. Students may access their homework online in case they forget to take it home at night. The focus is on problem solving and practicing math reasoning. You may check out our class website for more information and resources. My UEN site is specifically designed for students to engage in interactive learning and study. Even if a child finishes homework in school, he/she should still engage in 20 minutes of math practice/problem solving each weeknight. See <http://my.uen.org/myuen/209847> . I will send home more instructions about Go Math soon.

Reading/Language: Students in my class are required to read thirty minutes every week night. Books are very important in my classroom. Each student must carry a reading book. Books may be checked out from my classroom library, the school library or town libraries.

Also, students are required to complete one-page book reports on each book that they complete. Book reports should tell the title, author and number of pages in the book. It should also tell about the plot, setting, characters and ending. These reports are to encourage students to read. Book reports must be signed by a parent. 400 pages of reading are required each term. I will be rewarding students who read. Books read should be on the appropriate reading level.

Comprehension Tests: Students will be assigned a language arts test at the end of each week. This tests what has been studied throughout the week. Students have one week to complete this four page test which includes vocabulary, language, comprehension and writing assessments. Students may take their books home.

Spelling: Our school has an online spelling program which goes along with our new reading program. Each student will take a front of year spelling assessment to determine which list he/she will study each week - the longer words or the shorter words. There are also five challenge words that, if students spell those words correctly, will earn extra points on each test. These challenge words are optional. The regular spelling/vocabulary tests are every Friday.

L-E-A-R-N Monthly Calendars: On the first day of each new month, I will send home the new calendar where students will record important **homework** that will lead to academic excellence. Please post this calendar in a place where there is easy access and where it can be viewed often. (August's LEARN calendar is included in this mailer.) First, on those days when you have completed at least 30 minutes of at-home reading, record an **R** on the date. Twenty **R**'s are required each month. Second, on those dates when 20 minutes of at-home math practice has been completed, record an **A**. The last three programs listed here **are not required**, but are **optional** and will help build excellence and self-esteem. Third, record an **E** on the monthly **LEARN Calendar** when there has been at least 20 minutes of aerobic exercise. This exercise must be after school and may be aerobic exercise of any type. Fourth, record an **N** on the date when nutrition has been optimal. This means eating fruits, vegetables, protein, whole grains, etc. and there has been very little junk food consumed. Finally, write an **L** on the date when something new has been learned. This can be something that was learned during or after school. This little "learning info" must also be recorded into a "Learning" notebook and turned into me at the end of the year for a special award and recognition. Remember, only the reading and math are required.

There is no homework on weekends. The exercise, nutrition and learning parts of the **LEARN Calendar** are optional. You can remember the five parts for excellence using the **L-E-A-R-N** acronym:

L = Learn something new every day. Mark an **L** on the date on your calendar and record the thing you learned in your Learning notebook.

E = Exercise: Mark an **E** on the date when you exercised at least 20 minutes.

A = Arithmetic: Mark an **A** on the date when you did 20 minutes of math work.

R = Read: Mark an **R** on the date when you read at least 30 minutes.

N = Nutrition: Mark an **N** on the date when you ate nutritional foods and very little junk food.

The above program - 20 minutes of reading, math, and exercise -- must be completed *after* or *before* regular school time. Students may not count the reading, math and exercise we do during school time.

The LEARN Monthly Calendars are to be returned by the second week of the next month. **Each monthly calendar must be signed by a parent.**

Golden Sneaker: In addition, we are participating in the governor's Golden Sneaker exercise program. Students earn one point for each 20 minutes of *aerobic* type exercise. A student can only earn a maximum of two points per day. The Golden Sneaker points should be recorded on the *L.E.A.R.N.* calendar. Please total, write and circle the month's Golden Sneaker points on the calendar. Also, the Golden Sneaker form must be completed for the month and attached to the LEARN calendar if one is working towards the end of year award. These forms are available in the back of the room by the drinking fountain.

Planners: We are providing each student with the **Copper Hills School Planner**. This agenda is designed to help students manage their time and plan their day so that they can take an active part in controlling their academic achievement. Copper Hills Elementary requires all students to bring the agenda to school every day. I expect my students to record their assignments in their agendas. Each Monday morning we will write the week's events, schedule, activities and assignments into these planners. Monday evening, parents need to read and sign the planner underneath the info we wrote that day. Students turn their planners into me each Tuesday morning. I read any parent notes and initial next to the parent's signature. This method should help you be informed about assignments, tests, projects, school events, etc.

Grading and Assessments: You may access assignment information, scores, averages and grades any time by going to the district's online grading program at portal.graniteschools.org. The first time you go to the site, you will need to set up an account. When setting up the account, you will choose a username and password. You will use the name and password in the future in order to access important information. If you haven't Internet access, never fear because each morning I hand out a Missing Work report to each of my students. Every student will always know just what work may be missing. I will send home more detailed instructions about setting up a parent grade book account.

In the gradebook you will see the usual categories such as Reading, Spelling, Language, etc., and you will also see a "Baselines" category. This section does not count on the student's report card or progress report. It is for us to see where students began and how they are progressing. You will find this part interesting, but remember, it does not count on the grade.

Re-doing Poor Work & Late Work: In my class **any student may re-do any assignment up until three days before the end of each term.** The student is in charge of earning whatever grade s/he wishes to work for. For example, a poor score can be boosted to 80% by re-doing the assignment. I take late work but subtract points for each day that the assignment is late. After an assignment is past due four days, the highest score a student can receive is an 80%.

Outstanding Citizens: Students who have all work up to date, follow school rules, and who have no "N"s will be among the Copper Hills Outstanding Citizens. These students receive daily recognition and incentives to keep up the good work.

Absent Work: Students are responsible for making up absent or missing work. Absent work is due one week after the student returns to school. It is never too late to make up missing work unless it is the last few days before the end of the term!

Report Cards: Report cards go out at the end of each of the four terms. Check the online grade program often to see assignments and grades. Remember that each morning students will receive a report listing any work that is missing. When I am not on duty, any student may stay inside to complete work.

Portfolios: An electronic portfolio of work will be kept for each student. Students will save their work onto their USB drives and onto the network drive. A CD or DVD portfolio will go home with the student at the end of the school year.

Parent Participation: Your participation in your child's education is crucial to our success. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me. You may call me before or after school or at home on my cell phone: **801-573-3046**. You may visit us any time, but I cannot meet with you during regular instruction time which is between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Free or Reduced Fee Lunch: Be aware that you should look for a packet of information to come home to you the first day of school. In this packet from Copper Hills Elementary, you will find an application for free or reduced fee lunch (and/or breakfast). We would encourage you to take advantage of this program if you qualify.

Advanced Learners Programs: Copper Hills has a gifted committee made up of teachers, parents and administrators. Our committee feels strongly about supporting and meeting the needs of students who will become future leaders in our communities.

Since my class is the Advanced Learners' class, you should know a little about my experience with Advanced Learners. Before coming to Copper Hills, I taught gifted/talented or advanced learners classes throughout the year. I taught district summer classes to gifted students. I also taught teachers how to use technology tools to address the needs of the gifted child. I have visited various schools in the Davis and Jordan districts to learn about their gifted programs. I have written and been award various grants. I nominated gifted students to receive the state's most gifted award. I have been honored to present this prestigious award to one of my students at the state's annual convention.

All students are gifted in their own way. I believe that my challenge is to individualize and differentiate instruction to help students identify and develop their skills and abilities so that they will have rewarding careers and happy, successful lives.

Here are some of the programs we will participate in this year:

Science Fair: Students use their creativity to invent or improve a product used at home or school. Finished products may be on display at our annual fair.

Math Olympiads: Each monthly contest consists of five difficult problems. Every problem requires careful mathematical thinking and has a time limit. Each student, working alone, scores 1 point for each correct answer. A student may score up to 25 points per year. In addition, each week, students may engage in the Olympiad Practice Problems. There are five problems each week. Parents may work with the students on these. It's a great way for everyone involved to strengthen problem solving and reasoning skills. Those students with the most practice points on the weekly Olympiad Practice Problems will receive a special award at the end of the year. Those scoring highest on the monthly National Olympiad tests will receive trophies at the end of year awards assembly.

MobyMax: This is another adaptive site where students work at their own levels to increase their skills.

Thunderbird Award: This is a rigorous but exciting new program that students in our school will participate in this year. You can get the details at my website: deanadventures.com/schoolsite/school.htm

IXL: This site allows students to work on specific math and language concepts. Tutorials and practice help students learn what they might have missed in past study.

Utah Compose: This district writing site teaches students how to write effectively. Students use various tools to improve their writing skills.

In addition to the above programs, our class participates in various technology driven projects which teach the state's curriculum. Digital learning plays a central role in ensuring all students are career ready. Technology, used effectively, can help all students meet and exceed the rigorous learning goals by providing access to tools and resources that personalize instruction and create rich, engaging and relevant learning environments.

Thanks for reading all of this information! Please cut along the line below and return the bottom portion to me. I am excited about this new year and look forward to working with you!! See you soon!



My child's name is _____ . I have read the above information.

Parent Signature

Your comments are welcome:

Please return this page only. Keep the rest for reference, if you wish. Thanks!