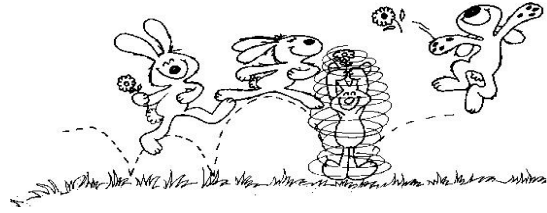




# Copper Hills Elementary School

7635 West 3715 South  
Magna, Utah 84044-2399

Office: (385)646-4792



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new year! My name is Vickie Dean, and I am delighted to be your sixth-grade teacher. Despite these uncertain times, we are going to have a great year together. I will be the teacher for both distance and in-person.

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.

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**. This way I will know that you know our plan. If you are distance learning, please email or text me so that I know you understand what will happen.

We will provide all necessary materials this year, but we would appreciate it if you could bring a few extra pencils, a small pencil sharpener that holds shavings, **a bottle of water**, and a box of tissues. You may also wish to provide your child with an individual bottle of hand sanitizer. We'll have plenty in class, however. 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.

Students will not be allowed to share any materials for any reason due to COVID 19, so please make sure your child understands that these materials are his/hers alone. I will provide three notebooks for Math, Language, and Science notes and three folders – Important Papers, Assignments, and Going Home – to help students stay organized. There will also be a Planner notebook where students will write important information on Monday mornings. They'll take that home each Monday night for you to read and sign.

I will be keeping your student safe in class by requiring masks (we will take mask breaks outside periodically throughout the day), washing or sanitizing our hands often, and maintaining appropriate social distancing. Also, three-sided transparent shields will be in place for every student.

Email is a great way to get a hold of me. [vdean@graniteschools.org](mailto:vdean@graniteschools.org) or by text: 801-573-3046.

School starts Aug 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:10. The first S.E.P. Conferences for this year will be Wednesday & Thursday, Sept. 23 & 24. We'll be sending home more information about that soon. Thanks in advance for your support. I look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Vickie Dean, M.Ed.

7635 W. 3715 S., Magna, UT 84044  
Telephone (385) 646-4792



## *Mrs. Dean's Class 2020-21*

### *Classroom Plan*

**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 a parent writes and sends a signed note to school with the child upon his/her return to class. Please check my Google Classroom each day that you miss school. Google Classroom will have each assignment listed and resourced for you to make up work. If you are a distance learner, I will not be taking attendance, but please know that I will be keeping close track of how often you are online using the programs for your learning. Your education is important, and I expect you to do schoolwork every day. I will provide two copies of all of your specific passwords – one for home; one for school. These will be in large sheet protectors – easy for you to find in your bin or at home. Also, your child's usernames and passwords to all of our programs will be in his/her granitesd.org school email.

**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, short activities, 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 be capable of communicating and reasoning mathematically. We use an excellent math program called "Go Math" ([thinkcentral.com](http://thinkcentral.com)). Students will have one sheet math practice every weeknight of approx. six to ten problems that they should try to solve. There are many resources for each daily lesson on the Google Classroom. I will video conference with each distance learner at the end of each school day between 4:00 – 6:00 to make sure everyone is on board.

**Reading/Language:** Students in my class are required to read thirty minutes every weeknight. Each student should have a book that s/he is reading. 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 help me know whether or not students are reading. Book reports must be signed by a parent. Four hundred pages of reading are required each term. Books read should be on the appropriate reading level.

**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 **activities** that will lead to academic excellence. 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 exercise. Fourth, record an **N** on the date when nutrition has been optimal. This means eating fruits, vegetables, whole grains, etc. and very little junk food. Finally, write an **L** on the date when something new has been learned. This can be something that was learned during, before or after school. Students going after this

prestigious award should find a notebook where learning statements can be recorded or learning statements could be recorded on a Google Doc. Remember, only the after or before school reading and math are required.

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 notebook or computer file.

*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.

**Each monthly calendar must be signed by a parent. Students keep these calendars in their Important Papers folder** until turning them in at the end of April. Special end of year awards will be given to those students who participate in this LEARN program. These calendars are also available on my website.

**Vocabulary:** Our class has purchased an online vocabulary program that goes along with our district's Wonders vocabulary program. Students may practice their weekly vocabulary words at [spellingcity.com](http://spellingcity.com). The vocabulary quiz happens every Friday.

**Planners:** This year our school will not be providing planners this year. Instead, I am providing students with a planner notebook. The planner 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. I expect my students to record their assignments, goals, and reading minutes in their planners. Each Monday morning, we will write the week's events, schedule, activities, assignments, and vocabulary words into these planners. Monday evening, parents need to read and sign the planner underneath the information we wrote that day. Students will turn in their planner notebooks so I can 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](http://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. Instructions for setting up a parent grade book account are on my website at <http://www.deanadventures.com/schoolsite/school.htm>.

Granite School District uses a Proficiency Based Grading program which means that all assessments and assignments in the grade book will be connected to specific sixth grade concepts that should be mastered by the end of the year. Students are awarded numbers and not grades. Proficiency Based Grading means that when a student does not master the concept, s/he gets to re-do the assignment using instructional based programs like IXL. When a student completes the re-teach, s/he gets class recognition, fills in our class Mastery Chart, and receives a little prize. This new PBG program means every student can learn and be successful.

**Re-doing Poor Work & Late Work:** In my class **any student, distance or in-class, 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, if a student scores a 1 or 2 on an assignment, the student may re-do the assignment until s/he has mastered the concept and receives a 3 or 4.

**Recess:** The school will supply some fun equipment for students to use at recess, and there will be someone available to sanitize the equipment after each use. Students may not bring equipment from home. Students will play in designated areas for our class only.

**Free 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 lunch. We would encourage you to take advantage of this program if you qualify. All students in our school receive a free breakfast each morning.

**Advanced Learners Programs:** Copper Hills has an Advanced Learner 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 for sixth grade, here is a little about my experience with Advanced Learners. I have an endorsement in GT. Before coming to Copper Hills, I taught gifted/talented or advanced learners classes throughout the year. I taught district summer classes to advanced students. I also taught teachers how to use technology tools to address the needs of the Advanced Learner. I have visited various schools in the Davis and Jordan districts to learn about their gifted programs. I have also written and been awarded various grants. I nominated gifted students to receive the state's most gifted student award, the Nicholas Greene 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, strengths, and abilities so that they will have rewarding careers and happy, successful lives.

Here are additional programs we will participate in this year:

**Code.org:** Students learn computer programming.

**Expeditionary Learning Project(s):** This is a new program that our new principal, Ms. Rose, and our district superintendent brought to us. We'll be doing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) work in our new STEM lab.

**Google Classroom:** This is where Distance Learners will access their week's learning and assignments.

**IXL:** This site allows students to work on specific math, science, social studies and language concepts.

Tutorials and practice help students learn what they might have missed in past study.

**Khan Academy:** Excellent educators provide instruction for those who are engaging in distance learning or for students who need extra instruction/practice.

**Lexia:** This district reading/language program is an individualized program that addresses each student's needs and teaches to the specific and necessary concepts.

**Mental Math Contests:** This can be for individual practice, but we, in class, like building teams and doing oral mental math contests. This program builds thinking skills.

**Mystery Science:** This is a fun, new program that our district recently purchased so to teach students how to think critically.

**National 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 (optional). There are five weekly problems. 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.

**Read Theory:** This is an adaptive reading program endorsed by our district that allows students to work on the correct individual reading levels.

**School City:** This is an important district assessment site we use to quiz for mastery of concepts.

**Science Fair:** Students use the scientific process to create a science fair project. This event occurs in January.

**Story Jumper:** Students enjoy writing if they can illustrate their text; this will be the location wherein students

will write their stories and informational text.

**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](http://deanadventures.com/schoolsite/school.htm) Those completing this program will be recognized at the end of year assembly and will receive a cool trophy.

**Typing Club:** Students learn important keyboarding skill here.

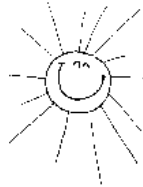
**Utah Compose:** This district and state writing site helps students learn how to write well.

**Vocabulary City:** Students practice their weekly vocabulary words at this interactive, fun site.

**Xtra Math:** This is where students will practice their math facts each for 10-15 minutes.

Thanks for reading all of this information! I am excited about this new year and look forward to working with you! See you soon!

*Mrs. Dean*





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

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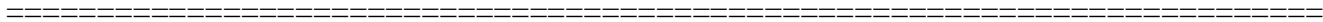
Parent Signature

Your comments are welcome:

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



Would you also include your email and/or telephone so I can stay in touch with email and/or texts?

Thanks!

PREFERRED EMAIL:

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PREFERRED TELEPHONE # FOR TEXTS:

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