

# 2015 Back to School 2016

## Welcome to Room 18!

Welcome to your second grade classroom! I look forward to an exciting year of learning ahead. This letter has a lot of important information for this school year. Please keep this as a reference throughout the year. Thank you! ☺

## The Classroom

Our classroom is a community of learners including: a teacher, students, parents, and community members who join us. Each one of us has something unique to contribute to our classroom. I emphasize an atmosphere in which respect and teamwork are valued. In doing this, we will establish trust, cooperation, and responsibility. Our classroom goals are to promote decision-making, success, cooperation, problem solving, responsibility, and comfort in taking risks as we dive into California Common Core State Standards and benchmarks through the year using The District's adopted curriculum.

## Consequences

While Whole Brain Teaching is designed to keep students fully engaged and learning, it also has components that address students that may have difficulty following classroom rules. These students may have difficulty staying on task, being respectful to others, and working or playing safely. These *continued* behaviors may lead to the possible consequences of loss of recess, a note/phone call home, a time-out in another class or visit with our Principal. It is my practice to always address disruptive or disrespectful behavior privately and directly with a student and offer a warning before setting a consequence. In addition, I will notify a parent and ask the Principal to counsel with a student if needed.

However, a student who demonstrates destructive, hurtful, and aggressive behaviors will be sent immediately to the office with a referral per the California Education code.

## Classroom Rules

1. Follow directions QUICKLY.
2. Raise your hand for permission to speak.
3. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.
4. Make SMART Choices.
5. Keep your dear teacher HAPPY.

We will be learning through Whole Brain Teaching, a research based system that utilizes all areas of the brain, keeps children engaged throughout their lessons, and helps them retain much more information than the standard lecture-discussion model. We will also be using a clip chart and a Super Improver Wall – two classroom management systems designed to motivate students, individualize personal improvement goals, and build a classroom community.

Whole Brain Teaching is a highly interactive form of instruction that delivers information to students in short "chunks." Kids then teach what they have just learned to their partners, using hand-gestures to help remember specific vocabulary. While students teach each other, the teacher walks around the room to discover who understands the lesson and who needs more instruction.

Research shows that children retain more information when they have an opportunity to put it into their own words and use gestures to emphasize key instructional units ...plus, it's amazingly fun! For more information about Whole Brain Teaching please contact me, come by for a classroom visit and/or go to [www.WholeBrainTeaching.com](http://www.WholeBrainTeaching.com).

I am excited to practice this with our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders!

## Playground Rules

1. Walk to and from the playground.
2. Cooperate with the yard duty supervisor and playmates.
3. Follow the rules and safety guidelines for games and equipment.
4. Ask for help from the yard duty supervisor when needed.
5. Report unsafe behavior to the yard duty

## Fuentecilla Fan Club Folder

School and district notices, as well as classroom notes and completed work, will be sent home in a plastic folder at the start of each school week. In an effort to build student responsibility, please help your child to remember to check the folder with you, and return the folder to class by Thursday of that same week.

## Home Practice

**What's the 'homework' plan??** In lieu of weekly packets or nightly worksheets, we will gear towards home practice through critical thinking, problem solving, reasoning, and discussions. To start the year, we will provide your student with a weekly checklist as a guide to help continue Common Core practice at home.

**What's the 'assignment'??** You will need to carve out learning time (20-30 min) and space (a quiet room or desk area) each night for reading and math fact practice. Your child will need a "just right" reading book available every night, and access to flash cards or online math fact practice. Please hold your student accountable for his/her own practice at home. Students will not need to submit anything in to the teacher. If you choose to have your child keep a reading response journal, please keep all written practice at home. Remember – nothing due does not mean nothing to do ☺

## Teacher Information

This is my eighth year at Matthew Turner and I am more excited than ever! I look forward to working with you to make this year successful and fun for your child.

Please contact me with questions or concerns:

Teacher Name: Mrs. Rowena Fuentecilla

Classroom Number: Room 18

Class Website: <http://mrsfuentecilla.weebly.com>

Work E-mail: [rfuentecilla@beniciaunified.org](mailto:rfuentecilla@beniciaunified.org)

(I will be available via E-mail on school days only, from 8am-6pm)

Work Phone: 707-747-8390



Download the QR Reader app and scan me for easy upload of teacher contact



## Tardiness/Absences

School starts promptly at 8:35 am (Please note the change in start time). Students must arrive by 8:25 and be in line and ready to learn at 8:30. Students, who are not tardy, consistently do better throughout the year than those who are frequently late and absent often. Excessive tardiness and absences must be reported to the District.

If your child will be absent for 5 or more days you may request an independent study from the office. These requests must be made at least 2 weeks in advance. Requests made after this deadline will not be approved.

## Birthdays/Volunteers

**Birthdays:** Due to severe food allergies, we will not be celebrating birthdays with foods/drinks in the classroom this year. Birthdays are very special and I do want your child to feel celebrated. Here is how we can do it:

1. Your child is invited to bring a short picture book to read aloud to the class as students create birthday cards for our celebrant
2. If you want to bring something to share, you may gift treats or goodie bags that can be passed out at the end of the day for students to take home.

**Volunteers:** Help is always needed and appreciated. If you are interested in becoming Room Parent(s), Art Docent, or Auction Project Coordinator, please contact me immediately. Otherwise, I will have volunteer sign ups at Back to School night and you can contact me to set-up volunteering in class or from home.

**In the meantime, please be sure to visit the front office to complete volunteer clearance forms for the current school year ASAP.**

## Home-School Communications

'Fuentecilla Fan Club Highlights' will be emailed weekly. For additional home-school communications, please sign up for the following free accounts:

REMIND text reminders:

Text [@mtgrade2](https://textlocal.com/number/81010) to 81010 or send a blank email to [mtgrade2@mail.remind.com](mailto:mtgrade2@mail.remind.com)

TWITTER notifications:

Sign up for a Twitter account and follow [@mtgrade2](https://twitter.com/mtgrade2)