

Vernon Elementary School

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Principal: Joan Miller

Grade levels: PK-7

Middle schools: Tubman Middle School

School guide, facts and test scores on the web: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/>

Before and after school programs

SUN School, YMCA on-site daycare, Chess For Success Club, Self-Enhancement, Inc., Ethos Music classes, Higher Stages Arts Academy classes

Community partnerships

Friends of Children, Start Making A Reader Today (SMART), Experience Corp. Volunteers, Oregon Food Bank, SEI, Inc., Big Brother/Big Sister in-school program, Multnomah Library Books 2U, NW Natural partnership, Starbucks Coffee partnership

Student learning environment

Students learn in both large and small groups. Cooperative learning and cross-grade groupings are utilized during classroom instruction.

Schoolwide discipline policy emphasizes students as self managers. Children learn to work together, problem solve and determine appropriate consequences for their behavior.

Programs at Vernon are designed to produce a calm atmosphere for learning. The Breakfast to Books program, for example, helps the day begin with a quiet, peaceful atmosphere. Students quietly read in the gym before school.

Vernon is a schoolwide Title 1 school. State and federal funds are used to secure resources to serve all students and reduce class sizes.

Curriculum components

Teachers use teaching practices appropriate for each child's stage of development from early learning stages through middle school years.

Teachers work with students to promote enhanced self esteem, problem-solving and decision-making skills in a positive, safe school environment. Students receive special training in using their skills in school and on the playground.

Students grades 1-5 are taught to read in groups for 90 minutes every day using the Success For All Reading Program. Success for All encourages pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students to become active learners with emphasis on phonemic awareness.

Vernon uses the district adopted mathematics curricula and aligns skills and content from PreK through 7th grade. District science inquiry kits are enhanced with teaching materials from the NASA Explorer School program.

Students write every day and are supported with direct instruction in writing skills as well as with peer editing and review processes.

Staff

17 classroom teachers, full-time media specialist, full time art and social skills specialist, half-time PE specialist, half-time counselor, Student Management Specialist, half-time technology assistant, half-time computer teacher, 1.5 ESL teachers, 1 ESL educational assistant, educational assistant for early literacy, 1.5 Learning Center teachers, speech and language pathologist, school psychologist, 2 paraprofessionals for special needs students, Instructional Specialist and reading facilitator, teacher tutor, 1.5 secretaries, Foster grandparent tutors, SEI Coordinator, SMART coordinator, SUN School coordinator and staff

Vernon staff members continually update their skills and training by taking courses, participating in workshops -- often on their own time. Teachers plan together weekly to coordinate curriculum plans and analyze student assessments.

Parent and family support

Increasing family involvement and the number of community and family volunteers is a goal at Vernon.

Families participate in Site Council, PTA, monthly Parent- Principal Coffees, and in-school volunteering.

Back to School Night and curriculum nights draw families to Vernon.

Parents are important partners in the work of Vernon School. In addition to participation in PTA, Site Council, and monthly Parent Coffees, parents volunteer in many creative ways. Businesses and community members also enhance opportunities for Vernon students. These partners collaborate with the staff to bring to life our vision: "Every day, every child a success."

Special programs and features

Art, PE, Library classes for all grades, Technology classes for grades 3-7

NASA Explorer School provides curriculum and unique experiences in science and technology for all students

One-on-one tutoring in reading for students below grade level two-fives times per week. SMART reading program, WORKS/Portland Reading Foundation tutoring

Reading is Fundamental (RIF) book distribution to all students

Students are recognized for their efforts at monthly Self- Manager parties and assemblies at the end of grading periods.

The latest test scores, school progress report, demographics, and more are available at:
<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/>

To determine which school your child will attend, see:
<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/boundaries/>