



# Vernon IB World School

**IBelieve. IBelong. IBecome.**  
**Come grow with us.**



2044 NE Killingsworth St, Portland, OR 97211 / (503) 916-6415 / [Vernon K-8 IB School](#)

## Family Handbook 2019-2020





Dear Vernon Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year!

Vernon IB World School provides education for the whole child. Our approach is guided by global best practices as outlined by the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, inspiring inquiry and action, while building on and enriching local, state, and national Common Core standards. We aim to achieve success for all our students through empowering our amazing, unique, and diverse students and community. We are thrilled to have you as part of the Vernon family and invite you to come grow with us.

This handbook will provide you with information that will help you to feel more connected to our school. When parents, teachers, and students come together, amazing things can happen. In addition to the handbook and school calendar, you can also look forward to receiving our weekly school newsletter, *The Owl's Post*, on Thursdays. The newsletter will include our most up-to-date information about activities and upcoming events so you can join in the fun and learn what our school is all about.

*Note: In an effort to be kind to the environment, we post all communications on our school website. [Vernon K-8 IB School](#)*

To request school information through printed communications, as opposed to electronically, please contact Teresa Walworth in the Main Office, or by calling (503) 916-6415. Also, you can follow the “Vernon IB World School Community” page on Facebook for community opportunities and connections.

Please feel free to contact us if there is anything you need. Thank you for working with us to make a difference.

Vernon Proud,

Ben Keefer  
Principal

Jane Harold  
Assistant Principal



*I Believe. I Belong. I Become. Come grow with us.*

### **Mission Statement**

Vernon staff, students, and community will work together to create a learning environment that provides opportunities for all students to be challenged academically, enhance positive self-esteem, develop respect and appreciation for others, and become responsible, independent, global thinkers.



Vernon is a proud IB World School offering the Primary Years Program (PYP) in grades K-5 and the Middle Years Program (MYP) in grades 6-8. As an IB World School, we aim to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Through the PYP and MYP, our students, as well as their peers across the world, are learning to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

***Vernon students and staff strive to embody the IB Learner Profile.***

Principled, Risk-Takers, Open-Minded, Balanced,  
Thinkers, Reflective, Inquirers, Caring, Communicators, Knowledgeable



## IB learner profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

### INQUIRERS

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

### KNOWLEDGEABLE

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

### THINKERS

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

### COMMUNICATORS

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

### PRINCIPLED

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

### OPEN-MINDED

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

### CARING

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

### RISK-TAKERS

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

### BALANCED

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

### REFLECTIVE

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

# Vernon IB World School 2019-2020 Staff

## Administration and Support

Ben Keefer - *Principal*  
Jane Harold - *Assistant Principal*

Connie Schwendemann - *Principal's Secretary*  
Teresa Walworth - *School Secretary*

Tarehna Wicker - *IB Coordinator*

Jennifer Goslin - *School Counselor*  
Andrea Bloch - *School Counselor*

Jim Hryncewich - *Speech Pathologist*  
William Backner - *School Psychologist*  
Chris Williams - *Student Assistance Coordinator*

Holly Henning - *ESL*

Brian Woods - *Head Custodian*  
Andrew - *Evening Custodian*  
Beverly Gregg - *School Cook*  
Tatiana Bruce - *SUN School Coordinator*

*Educational Assistants*  
Deanna Ansary  
Keith O'Leary

*Special Education Paraeducator*  
Barbara Gamez

## Primary Years Programme

*Kindergarten*  
Elizabeth Docken, Michele Kellar,  
Cathy Rossman

*1st Grade*  
Brenda Gutierrez, Kristi Kucera,  
Kasey Nelson

*2nd Grade*  
Tina Bruce, Katy Hanlon, Jeanetta  
Mashia

*3rd Grade*  
Rachel Belcher, Jennifer Lee, Emy  
Markewitz

*4th Grade*  
Gina Azzaro-Budak, Ian Dorresteyn,  
Jessica Darling

*5th Grade*  
Aaron Dickerson  
Paula Dennis

## Middle Years Programme

Susan Costa - *Language and Literature, Individuals and Societies*

Morgan Evans - *Language and Literature, Individuals and Societies*

Aimee Havens - *Language and Literature, Individuals and Societies*

Brad Johnson - *Science*

George Massey - *Math*

Ben White - *Math/Science*

## Specialists

Jeremy Da Rosa - *Spanish (Grades 5-8)*

TBD - *Physical Education*

Martha Bryan - *Music*

Anna Mafchir - *Visual Art*

Jayme Wilkins - *Library*

Li Yan - *Mandarin*

Zoe Dawson - *Garden Educator*

## Learning Center

Ellen Reeser

Dan Wilson

Margaret Booth

<b>Bell Schedule</b>	<b>Free Breakfast Every Morning!</b>
8:38AM - First bell for MYP (Grades 6-8)	Breakfast is available to all students free of charge in the cafeteria. Students can enter the cafeteria through the door on NE 22nd Avenue.
8:45AM - Classes begin for MYP	
8:53AM - First bell for PYP (Grades K-5)	
9:00AM - Classes begin for PYP	
3:15PM - Dismissal for PYP and MYP	
	8:25AM - 8:40AM: MYP Breakfast. Students are escorted to their lockers at 8:40AM.
	8:35AM - 8:55AM: PYP Breakfast. Students are escorted to the main hallway at 8:55 AM.

**Office Hours:** Vernon IB World School's Office is open from 7:30AM - 4:30 PM, Monday - Friday. You can call us at 503-916-6415.

### **Student Information**

Please help us keep the information we have for your student updated. This information is very important in case of an emergency. Please notify the Office by phone or in writing of any changes, particularly:

- Address, mailing address
- Phone numbers, email addresses, and emergency contacts
- Guardianship information

### **Building Security and Safety**

#### **School Visitors and Volunteers**

Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom (24-hour notice with the classroom teacher is customary). All parents, visitors and volunteers in our building must check in at the Office and wear an identification badge while on the premises. You will be stopped by staff if you are not wearing a visitor's badge. Due to health and safety issues, pets from home are not allowed in the building.

If you wish to be a school volunteer, first fill out the Volunteer Information Form and background check at <https://apps.pps.net/volunteermanagement/>. If you are interested in being a [SMART](#) reading volunteer and reading with our students one-on-one on a weekly basis, please email [vernon@getsmartoregon.org](mailto:vernon@getsmartoregon.org). Other volunteer opportunities can be set up directly with classroom teachers.

**Supervision:** Students should arrive at school no earlier than 8:25AM. Prior to this time, there is no supervision for students who are at school. Unaccompanied students should not be in the school hallways until their first bell has rung. Additionally, students should leave school promptly at 3:15PM. There is no supervision for students at school after 3:22PM.



### **Student Building Access Before and After School**

Students eating breakfast should use the Cafeteria entrance on NE 22nd Avenue between 8:25AM and 8:55AM.

For students who are not eating breakfast:

- MYP students must enter through the back SW playground doors from 8:38AM - 8:45AM.
- PYP students must enter the NE Killingsworth main doors or the SE blacktop doors from 8:53AM - 9:00AM.

Expect to see the Principal and Assistant Principal holding the MYP & PYP doors open each morning.

SUN School and YMCA students may re-enter the building at 3:15pm through the Cafeteria entrance on NE 22nd Avenue.

### **Pedestrian Crosswalks**

Students and families are expected to cross at the crosswalks. Safety Patrol monitors the crosswalk at NE Killingsworth and 22nd Avenue from 8:35AM - 9:00AM and again from 3:15PM - 3:25PM.

**Kindergarten Pick Up:** Parent/guardian and/or approved individuals pick up students from their classrooms at 3:15PM.

**Grades 1-8 Pick Up:** Teachers escort students to the playground for dismissal at 3:15AM. Brothers, sisters and friends who are going to walk home together should arrange a meeting spot outside the building where they can wait for one another. Parents can meet students on the playground. Students in grades 6-8 stop by their lockers before proceeding to the playground.

K-5 students who are not walking home on their own and are not picked up by 3:22 will walk with their teachers to the Office so they can call their families.

### **Car Pick Up**

- Please turn off your car engine while waiting for student dismissal.
- Observe the no parking and bus only signs.
- All car pick-ups of students should take place on NE Emerson Street (directly behind the playground) rather than on NE Killingsworth Street due to safety reasons.
- Cars ignoring posted signs may be ticketed by the Portland Police.

### **Child Care Before and After School**

The YMCA will be offering before and after school child care at Vernon for grades K-6. To register, call 503-223-9622 or email [ychildcare@ymcacw.org](mailto:ychildcare@ymcacw.org) Fees are based on a sliding scale.

**SUN After School Programs-** Vernon offers a variety of fun, meaningful activities after school. For more info call Tatiana Bruce, Vernon's SUN Site Manager, at 503-916-6559 or email [tatianab@selfenhancement.org](mailto:tatianab@selfenhancement.org)

## **Telephone Messages**

Except under emergency circumstances, students will not be called from class to come to the phone. Only messages that are absolutely necessary will be delivered to the classrooms. Please do not call the school to inform your child of after-school directions unless it is an emergency. Messages from phone calls in the last 15 minutes of the school day may not be delivered to students prior to the dismissal bell.

Students are only permitted to use the Main Office phone for emergencies. If students have a personal cell phone, we ask that families do not call students and/or send text messages during the school day, as it can cause a disruption to classroom learning. Please see student cell phone policy information under School Climate later in the Handbook.

## **Attendance**

Regular daily attendance and arriving to school on time are important factors in ensuring successful achievement in school as well as good habits.

## **Absences**

Please call the Office at **503-916-6415** if your child is ill or will not be attending school that day. If possible, please contact the teacher about missed work or plan to make arrangements to check in after your child returns to school.

## **Tardiness**

Instruction will begin promptly at beginning of school day. Tardiness is considered a classroom disruption. Chronic tardiness or absences will be addressed by school administration so we can partner to make your child's year a successful one.

## **Leaving School Early**

If you need to pick up your student before 3:15PM, use the front entrance and sign your student out in the Main Office. Your student will be called out of class to meet you there. Please do not go directly to your child's classroom.

Students will be released early only with the written permission of the person(s) who signed the registration card or if that person(s) comes to the Main Office and requests early dismissal. It is not our policy to accept permission for early release from a parent phone call.

Early dismissals should be kept to a minimum as classroom learning continues until the school day ends. Please schedule appointments so that their child's learning is not interrupted. These procedures have been developed to help ensure the safety of all students.

## **Books and Supplies**

All books are furnished by the school, but students will be expected to pay for lost textbooks or lost library books.

School Supply Lists can be found at: <http://www.teacherlists.com/schools/53779-vern-on-el-em-school/>

## **Lost and Found**

Should any items be lost, we maintain a lost and found area in the hallway by the SE blacktop/playground doors. At the end of each quarter, the unclaimed clothing is laundered and sent to the PTA Clothing Center to be used for donations. **Please be sure to label your child's clothing, lunch bags, and reusable water bottles by writing his/her name in permanent marker.**

## **School Meals**

Breakfast at Vernon is free for all students. 2019-2020 lunch prices will be:

Elementary K-5:	\$2.90
6th-8th grade:	\$3.15
Adult:	\$4.40

Students may qualify for free or reduced priced meals depending on parent's income or status (Food Stamps or Aid to Dependent Children recipients, Foster Child Care provider, etc.). We urge you to complete a meal application form if you think you may qualify for reduced price meals.

Families can apply for free or reduced-priced meals at [www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/nutrition](http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/nutrition). For meal benefits related questions, call (503) 916-3402 or send an email to [mealbenefits@pps.net](mailto:mealbenefits@pps.net)

**\*Students who qualified for reduced-price meals in 2018-2019 must reapply and be approved within 30 days of the start of the school year to continue to receive benefits.**

Vernon participates in a computerized lunch ticket system. For any specific questions about Vernon's cafeteria, please contact Beverly Gregg, 503-916-6415 X77712, or email her at [bgregg1@pps.net](mailto:bgregg1@pps.net)

## **Field Trips**

Teachers will send home permission slips for each school field trip. We have a very generous PTA that helps make field trips more affordable and accessible. A student cannot leave school grounds for a field trip without parent or guardian permission. Volunteers are welcome and needed on most field trips. In order to chaperone a school field trip, you must complete the PPS Volunteer Information Form and background check. You can access the Volunteer Information form at <https://apps.pps.net/volunteermanagement/>

## **Health Services**

Health services are provided by a licensed Registered Nurse (RN) from Multnomah Education Service District one-half day each week and we have a student Health Aide Monday-Friday each week. If your child has an immediate, short-term, or chronic health concern, the RN will work with you, your child, your child's physician, and school personnel to ensure that their health needs are met while at school. Office staff has received trainings to administer medication and provide basic first aid. A nurse is always available by phone.

If your child becomes ill or injured during the school day, s/he will receive nursing intervention from the RN or student Health Aide. An assessment of the student's health problem will be made and the nurse will determine what follow-up care and home communication is needed and necessary.

Children who have a well-balanced diet and get sufficient sleep and exercise generally have a better school experience. It is advisable to keep students at home when they are ill. This will speed recovery and prevent the spread of potential disease to others.

### **Some general guidelines to use in deciding if you should send your children to school are as follows:**

- No one with a fever should be sent to school.
- No one who has been vomiting or experiencing diarrhea should be sent to school.
- Students should remain at home until free of symptoms and of fever without use of medication for 24 hours

## **Health Screenings**

Oregon Law ensures that children receive vision and hearing screenings regularly to help identify children's health problems. The nurse oversees these screenings. The usual screening schedule is:

**Dental** : Grades 2, 3, 7, 8

**Vision**: Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 3

**Hearing**: Kindergarten, and Grade 1

If you do not want your child included in these screenings you must submit a written request to the school each school year. Screening results for dental, hearing and vision are all sent home to parents/guardians.

## **Food for Classroom Celebrations**

District Policy requires that any food to be served in classrooms must be pre-packaged commercially. Please check with your child's teacher in advance for the best time of the day or week to bring in your treat.

## **School/Home Communication and Problem-Solving**

Vernon IB World School considers the relationship between students' families and the school to be of paramount importance. In classrooms and in our school, our staff, parents and students work together frequently to problem solve issues and improve our processes with the goal of creating the best possible educational experience for students. This type of collaboration is the best way to resolve concerns. While not part of the complaint process, the following procedure applies to this type of problem-solving work.

### **1. If you have a concern related to the classroom and/or school:**

- a. The complainant is encouraged to first speak to the teacher or staff person involved.
- b. If the concern is not resolved through direct communication, the complainant is encouraged to speak with the Principal and/or Assistant Principal. Principals have 10 calendar days to respond to concerns, which may include an in-person conference if requested by any involved party. If the concern is not resolved to the complainant's satisfaction, the Principal shall inform the complainant of the complaint process. For more information on the complaint process, please visit <https://www.pps.net/cms/lib/OR01913224/Centricity/Domain/4814/4.50.031-AD.pdf>

## **Report Cards and Family/Teacher Conferences**

Vernon will send home report cards three times each year (after the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarter), approximately one week after the grading period ends. Expect to get a report card in January, April, and June 2020. In place of 1st quarter report cards, there will be fall Family-Teacher Conferences on Monday, November 25th and Tuesday, November 26th . We will share more details on conference sign-ups as the dates approach.

Between reporting periods, families should keep in contact with their child's teacher via email, phone or notes. We ask that families allow teachers up to 24 hours to respond to inquiries.

Spring Student-led Conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st from 5:30pm -7:00pm at school. Student-Led Conferences are attended by the student, parent/guardian, teacher, and other adults the student would like present. The teacher facilitates the multiple conferences that are occurring in the classroom, and the student is in charge of presenting to their family. This year, we are continuing to use student work portfolios and emphasis on the IB Learner Profile to drive our conferences (Learner Profile: Principled, Reflective, Open-Minded, Balanced, Thinker, Risk-Taker, Inquirer, Caring, Communicator, Knowledgeable).

During the conference, students explain their progress on both academic (content/skill) and holistic (IB Learner Profile) targets. Students justify their progress by leading their families through a collection of assignments and personal reflection. The tone of the conference is positive with a focus on what can be done to ensure success

## **School Climate**

Vernon staff, students, and community will work together to create a learning environment that provides opportunities for each student to be challenged academically, enhance positive self esteem, develop respect and concern for others, and become responsible, independent, global thinkers. School Climate encompasses CR-PBIS (Culturally-Responsive Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports), Restorative Practices with the lens of racial Equity.

### **CR-PBIS**

CR-PBIS (Culturally-Responsive Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) uses implementation science to help students to develop positive behaviors. **The unique racial, cultural and linguistic makeup of the school is explicitly addressed at every decision point.**

At the most basic level, CR-PBIS can be described as a three-pronged approach:

1. Explicitly teach classroom and common area expectations.
2. Actively acknowledge students when they are following the expectations and exhibiting positive, productive behaviors.
3. Instructionally correct and reteach kids when they are not following or meeting the expectations.

Research shows that when school staff acknowledge positive behaviors at least three times more often than correcting behavioral mistakes, misbehaviors decrease significantly.

### **Celebration of Positive Behaviors**

As a part of our school climate plan, we recognize students who have shown positive behaviors by embodying the IB Learner Profile.

- Students earn IB Learner Profile “Compliments” for positive behaviors. These can be redeemed for both schoolwide, classroom, and individual incentives.
- Quarterly School Spirit Celebrations/Assemblies acknowledge positive academic and behavioral achievements.

### **Restorative Practices**

Restorative Practices, also referred to as Restorative Justice, is a range of community building and peacemaking practices adapted to the school setting. The intention is to build trusting relationships and offer restorative alternatives to punitive discipline. Our goal is to continue building, maintaining, and repairing relationships to form a healthy, supportive, an inclusive community. When we do things that impact others and create harm in the community, it is our individual and collective responsibility to make things right.

Restorative Inquiry is an essential restorative practice. A series of guiding questions are asked:

- What happened?
- Who was affected/impacted?
- What can be done to make and keep things right?
- How can others support you?

Circles are also an essential restorative practice in the school community. Circles help build positive relationships and social-emotional skills such as empathy and good communication skills, which affect both short-term (school success) and long-term (relationships and employment) factors. Circles give everyone a voice.

### **Equity**

Ensuring equally high outcomes for all participants in our educational system and specifically at Vernon School involves removing the predictability of success or failure that currently correlates with social and cultural factors. In our Equity work and mission, we will continue to work around interrupting inequitable practices, eliminating biases, and creating an inclusive multicultural school environment for adults and children; discovering and cultivating the unique gifts, talents and interests that every child and human possesses.

### **School Wide Values**

Our Core Values and Expectations are driven by the International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile (to be Principled, Reflective, Open-Minded, Balanced, Thinker, Risk-Taker, Inquirer, Caring, Communicator, Knowledgeable).

### **Essential Agreements**

*Be Safe. Be Respectful. Be Responsible. Be IB.*

### **Student Cell Phone Use**

The policy for cell phone use for PYP (K-5) students is: cell phones and devices are off and away the entire school day.

The policy for cell phone use for MYP (6-8) students is: cell phones and devices are off and away the entire day, with the exception of recess and lunch. Students are allowed to use their phones in the cafeteria and outside at recess.

This means that no cell phones should be out in the hallways, classrooms or bathrooms at Vernon. If a student violates the policy, the following steps will be taken:

- 1st violation- Phone will be confiscated and turned into the office to be picked up at the end of the day by the student.
- 2nd violation- Phone will be confiscated and parents will have to pick up the phone in the office.

If your student needs to reach you, they need to come to the Office to make the call, so the Office is aware of any emergency or concern. Please do not engage in phone or text conversations with your child during the school day. Instead, please contact the Main Office at 503-916-6415



## **Portland Public Schools Dress Code Policy**

The District Dress Code policy applies to all schools in Portland Public Schools grades PK-12, with the exception of schools with a Uniform Dress Code policy. The responsibility for the dress and grooming of a student rests primarily with the students and their families.

### **Allowable Dress & Grooming**

- Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent and shoes.
- Shirts and dresses must have fabric in the front and on the sides.
- Clothing must cover undergarments, waistbands and bra straps excluded.
- Fabric covering all private parts must not be see through.
- Hats and other headwear must allow the face to be visible and not interfere with the line of sight to any student or staff. Hoodies must allow the student face and ears to be visible to staff.
- Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, woodshop, and other activities where unique hazards exist.
- Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.

### **Non-Allowable Dress & Grooming**

- Clothing may not depict, advertise or advocate the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other controlled substances.
- Clothing may not depict pornography, nudity or sexual acts.
- Clothing may not use or depict hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation or any other protected groups.
- Clothing, including gang identifiers, must not threaten the health or safety of any other student or staff.
- If the student's attire or grooming threatens the health or safety of any other person, then discipline for dress or grooming violations should be consistent with discipline policies for similar violations.

## **IB PYP Exhibition and MYP Community Project**

Students at Vernon participate in two culminating research and action projects that allow them to use the attitudes, skills and knowledge they have gained in the PYP and MYP to follow an area of interest and make the world a better place.

In 5th grade, Exhibition allows small groups of students to engage in a collaborative, transdisciplinary inquiry into a global or local problem. These groups then take action within the school or larger community. The project ends with a presentation and celebration of what they have learned.

In 8th Grade, the Community Project is a yearlong investigation into a local or global issue. Over the course of their 8th grade year, students examine multiple perspectives, review existing solutions and design a plan of action. Students can take direct action, spread awareness, design a technical solution, create an artistic response or conduct deeper research as their action. The project ends with a presentation of student learning and a celebration of their achievements.

Both the 5th Grade Exhibition and the 8th Grade Community Projects will take place on **Monday, June 1, 2020 from 5:30-7:30.**



## **School, Family and Community Groups**

At Vernon we take pride in the number of community members, families, and staff members who are actively committed to ongoing school improvement efforts and continued school community growth and inclusivity. If you are interested in more information about any of the below groups please contact the Main Office and we will happily help you connect.

**PTA-** Vernon's PTA (Parent Teacher Association) welcomes all people of every color, language, ethnicity, origin, ability, sexual orientation, gender expression, marital status, and life situation. PTA supports students and staff with fundraising, volunteer coordination and hosting school wide events. Being in the PTA is fun! Members are not required to attend monthly meetings, but you'll meet some of the kindest, most creative, talented, dedicated, fun families you can possibly imagine. See meeting dates on the calendar. Childcare and dinner provided. Hope to see you there! For more info, please visit: [www.vernonpta.org](http://www.vernonpta.org)

**PTA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee-** A group of community and staff members who strive to create an association where students, adults and families are welcomed and supported, and where their faces, voices, and experiences are reflected and valued.

**Familias of Hispanic Students-** Vernon's Familias of Hispanic Students is a family support group committed to creating a community for each other, making sure voices are heard, and supporting students, as well as Vernon. Familias attends and holds events at Vernon showcasing rich traditions and culture.

**Families of Black Students-** Vernon's Families of Black Students is family group committed to creating an all inclusive school environment to increase overall academic achievement and provide activities and support for our black students and our families of black students.

**Site Council-** The Site Council is a group of administrators, teachers, and parents that meet monthly and identify ways to support and strengthen the school community. By providing leadership, direction and support, we define school priorities and implement ways to improve them.

**LGBTQ Families** - LGBTQ Families of Vernon is a group of parents/guardians who themselves identify or whose children identify as LGBTQ or questioning. We exist to offer each other support and to work towards making Vernon a more inclusive school for all kids and families.



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