

# Ontario-Montclair

## School District

---

950 West D Street, Ontario, California 91762 • (909) 418-6445 FAX: (909) 459-2542

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Samuel Crowe  
Michael C. Flores  
Maureen "Moe" Mendoza  
Elvia M. Rivas  
Alfonso Sanchez

James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent*

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2015-16-07 / September 16, 2015

**Contact: Veronica Bucheli-Souza**  
**909.418.6518**

### **Vernon Middle School** **"Performance is Our Passion"**

Vernon Middle School is located in Montclair, California and is one of 6 middle schools and 32 schools in the Ontario-Montclair School District (OMSD). The District serves almost 23,000 students. OMSD is committed to providing a world-class education to all its students. In providing that world-class education, the Board of Trustees believes in providing options to students and families and has taken great strides to expand its unique program offerings. The Arts Conservatory at Vernon Middle School is an opportunity for middle grade students to be exposed to a multitude of potential careers in the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA).

To meet the needs of our students, staff at Vernon Middle School developed a plan to open a school within a school. The Vernon Arts Conservatory opened in the fall of 2011 to offer an arts program for the students of Vernon Middle School. Students who are accepted to the program take two art electives of their choice and perform in various artistic endeavors. Vernon offers introductory and advanced classes in dance, choir, piano, band, orchestra, drama, art, and multi-media. Students in this program have numerous opportunities to perform both on and off campus. They also have the privilege of attending a variety of arts-related field trips.

Since the program's inception, Vernon students have won awards at dance competitions, played piano at art openings, and collaborated with the local high school to write and perform personal monologues. Students have attended performances at The School of Arts and Enterprise in Pomona, as well as The Los Angeles County High School for the Arts.

Most recently, Vernon's choir, dance, and drama students were invited to participate at the Sawdust Festival. The performance, coordinated by Vernon drama teacher MaryKay Scheid, occurred on August 28, 2015. The bucolic setting and the welcoming artists provided a one-of-a-kind experience for the students. The opportunity has inspired our students to develop their talents so that they too can share their passion for performance with the community and the world.

###

**"Our Community, Our Children, Our Commitment"**