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WELCOME TO VERMONT PARENT UNIVERSITY!

Vermont Parent University is the only parent workshop series modeled like a university for parents, guardians or anyone who helps students with their homework, to learn more about what students learn in school every day.

Join us!

The staff at Vermont School invites you to attend **FREE** classes which will be offered the **1st Thursday** of every month.

Mark your calendars!

Thursday August 7, 2008

Thursday September 4, 2008

Thursday October 2, 2008

Thursday November 6, 2008

Thursday December 4, 2008

Thursday January 8, 2009

Thursday February 5, 2009

Thursday March 5, 2009

Thursday April 2, 2009

Thursday May 7, 2009

FREE childcare will be provided.
FREE refreshments will be served.

Here's how you can get started:

1. Look at the Vermont Parent University (VPU) catalog.
2. Decide which classes you would like to attend.
3. Look for the monthly registration form.
4. Sign up for the class you would like to attend and return the registration form to the office before the registration date ends.
5. **Come to Vermont School on the 1st Thursday of the month for your class!**

Frequently Asked Questions about Vermont Parent University (VPU)

1. Why is it called Vermont Parent University?

We believe that planning for college begins in elementary school. Instead of offering just parent workshops, we designed parent classes to be like a university model. Parents will be modeling for their students how to read a catalog, to choose classes, how to register for classes and participate in those classes every month.

2. Why do I have to register for the classes?

Each instructor will have enough materials for the number of participants in their class each month. FREE childcare will be provided and we need to know how many children (ages 5-11) will need childcare. FREE food will also be served and we need to plan on having enough meals.

3. Can I show up to a class without completing the registration form?

No. You will not be allowed to attend the class without completing the registration form. *Childcare and refreshments will only be provided to participants who registered for their class.* Each registration form has a due date. Please fill out the form completely and return it to the office by the due date.

4. What happens after the last class in May?

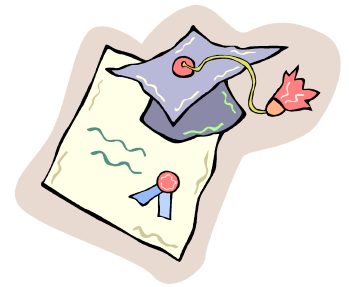
There will be a special recognition ceremony for all parents who attended 8, 9 or 10 VPU classes this year. We want to show our students that education is important for adults as well. We encourage you to attend classes every month!

5. Are there VPU shirts for sale?

Yes. We will have VPU shirts for sale for parents starting in August. We believe that parents can model school spirit as well as our students can. We wear college apparel every Monday and Vermont School shirts every Friday. Starting in the 2008-2009 school year, we will be wearing VPU shirts every Thursday. Join us!

**If you have any questions, please contact the office at
Vermont Elementary School (880-6658).**





2008-2009 PARENT COURSES

Parent Orientation

VPU 101 Welcome to No Excuses University: Required for all families at Vermont School (Parent Orientation)

Every year, parents are required to attend orientation in July prior to the first day of school. Because we offer a “No Excuses” university environment for our children and Vermont Parent University for our parents, all parents must receive important information and annual updates about our unique school. No other school in San Bernardino is like Vermont! Attend parent orientation to find out why.

Reading and Writing

VPU 201 Tips to Support Early Reading (grades K-2)

Parents will learn how to help their students read at home.



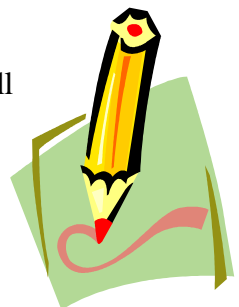
VPU 202 Tips to Support Reading in Older Students (grades 3-5)

Parents will learn how to help their older student be fluent readers using the following strategies: *(This course will be offered in three sessions).*

- How to track reading fluency
- Increase vocabulary skills
- Questions to ask during and after reading
- Becoming a proficient reader
- Using decodable texts (paper books from school)

VPU 203 Tips to Support Early Writing (grades K-3)

Parents will learn simple tips to help students with their writing. Parents will learn about legible writing, using the lines on the paper, and why sloppy work will not be accepted.



VPU 204 Tips to Support Writing in Older Students (grades 4-5)

Parents will learn simple tips to help older students with their writing using the following strategies: *(This course will be offered in three sessions).*

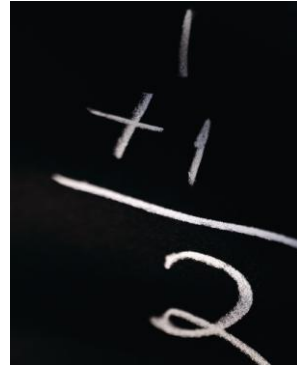
- Using a graphic organizer
- Writing checklists
- How sentences become paragraphs
- How to write a summary
- Parts of speech
- Using descriptive vocabulary

Mathematics

VPU 301 Basic Math Skills (grades K-2)

Parents will learn basic math skills using the following strategies: *(This course will be offered in two sessions).*

- 100s chart
- Number lines
- Manipulatives
- Using flash cards



VPU 302 Multiplication, Division and Timed Tests (grades 3-5)

Parents will learn how students memorize multiplication tables using the following strategies: *(This course will be offered in three sessions).*

- Using flash cards
- Repeated addition
- Arrays
- Skip counting
- Timed tests
- Chants and songs

VPU 303 Fact Families: How to identify relationships with numbers (grades 1-3)

Parents will learn how addition and subtraction are related.

VPU 304 Place Value: Understand value and learn re-grouping (grades 1-3)

Parents will understand place value using 1s, 10s, 100s and 1,000s and how students learn re-grouping. *Bring your student to this session.*

VPU 305 Solving word problems: Develop basic strategies for test taking (grades 2-5)

Parents will understand how to solve word problems in math.

VPU 306 Telling time and elapsed time (grades 1-4)

Parents will learn how students learn to tell time.

VPU 307 Show me the money! Coins, making change, and real life math (grades 1-2)

Parents will learn how students practice counting and using money.



VPU 308 Standard form, expanded form and word form (grades 2-3)

Parents will learn the three forms of numbers in mathematics and how to use each form. *Bring your student to this session.*

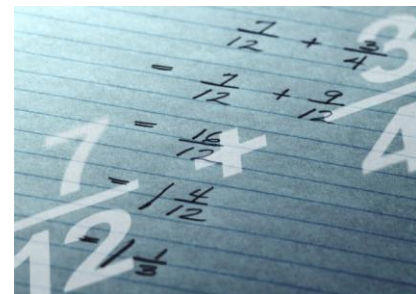
VPU 309 Math vocabulary and terminology (grades K-5)

Parents will learn math vocabulary and how it relates to test taking. There are three different sessions:

- Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade
- 3rd and 4th grade
- 5th grade and beyond

VPU 310 Fractions: Comparing, whole vs. part, and operations

Parents will learn how to help students understand fractions.



Parent Clubs

VPU 401 Kindergarten Parent Club

Parents will understand the basic skills and requirements for Kindergarten and how to help their Kindergarten child at home. *This workshop meets 3-4 times a year.*



VPU 402 1st Grade Parent Club

Parents will understand the basic skills and requirements for 1st grade and how to help their 1st grade child at home. *This workshop meets 3-4 times a year.*

Money Management

*Money Management courses are provided by
Washington Mutual Bank*



VPU 501 Checking and Savings

Parents will receive an introduction to basic banking, the importance of using a bank, choosing the right bank, how to use electronic banking and how to maintain bank accounts.

VPU 502 Budgeting and Your Credit

Parents will receive a basic review of how budgeting can help you reach financial goals by managing and cutting costs. Parents will learn how credit works, why credit reports matter and tips on repairing credit.



VPU 503 Credit Card Basics

Parents will review the difference between credit cards and debit cards. Parents will learn how to choose the right credit card and receive an overview of credit card features.

VPU 504 Lending Basics

Parents will receive an overview of typical loans. Parents will learn why banks lend money, how to apply for a loan and smart ways to work with creditors.

Other Courses

VPU 801 Homework strategies: Get homework organized and completed each day

Parents will learn how to organize the environment for daily homework completion.

VPU 802 Understanding the standards: What will my child learn each year?

Parents will understand what their student needs to learn to pass on to the next grade.

VPU 803 Study skills: Getting ready for success in middle school (5th grade only)

Parents will learn important organizational skills for 5th grade students as they prepare for middle school through daily classroom organization and homework organization. Parents will learn how to use daily agendas and the importance of regular feedback with the classroom teacher.

VPU 804 Preparing for parent/teacher conferences

Parents will learn how parent/teacher conferences lead to success in school.



VPU 805 Standardized testing: How will my child be assessed? (grades 2-5)

Parents will learn about all the standardized tests given in the state of California for grades 2-5.

VPU 806 Promoting positive behaviors in children

Parents will learn how to use positive behaviors at home, school and in the community.

VPU 807 Ideas for intercession: What should my child be doing while they're off track?

Parents will review off track packets of materials for vacation breaks during the school year. Parents will learn how to maximize vacation breaks to reinforce basic skills, improve reading fluency and keep students focused and organized with their school work. *This course is also recommended for students on independent study.*

VPU 808 Develop Fine Motor Skills

Parents will learn about painting, cutting and coloring at home and how it can help your student.

VPU 809 Health and Nutrition
Parents will learn the ABCs of good health and good vs. bad snacks.

VPU 810 Household Routines
Parents will learn how to establish routines that will help students do well in school.



Project I.N.S.P.I.R.E.

VPU 900 Project I.N.S.P.I.R.E.
A parent information meeting is offered to introduce the project and parent awareness.

VPU 901 Module 1 – Parent Involvement: Helping Your Child Achieve Academic Success

Parents will learn the importance of family involvement, levels of parent/guardian involvement and home learning opportunities.

VPU 902 Module 2 – Building Bridges: Family and School Connections

Parents will learn the importance of home/school collaboration, effective school/family communication and information on access rights.

VPU 903 Module 3 – Using Technology and Online Resources

Parents will learn how to use technology to enhance education, use key online educational resources and Internet safety.

VPU 904 Module 4 – Understanding the U.S. System of Education

Parents will learn the structure of U.S. school systems, school governance and school legislation and sources of school funding.

VPU 905 Module 5 – Basic Components of “No Child Left Behind”

Parents will understand the basic components of NCLB, NCLB parent/guardian rights and responsibilities and educational advocacy.

VPU 906 Module 6 – California Academic Content and Performance Standards and Standardized Assessments

Parents will learn about academic content and performance standards, grade level concepts and skills, and standardized assessments.

VPU 907 Module 7 – System of Accountability

Parents will learn state and federal accountability systems, student academic achievement measures, and educational choices and services.

VPU 908 Module 8 – Academic Programs

Parents will learn about equitable education concepts, academic program opportunities and access to academic programs.

VPU 909 Module 9 – Role of Parent Committees

Parents will learn about the single plan development, state mandated parent committees, and effective parent committees.

VPU 910 Module 10 – Beyond High School

Parents will learn about the importance of a college education, educational options beyond high school and preparing for college.

VPU 911 Module 11 – Early Childhood Education

Parents will learn about the benefits of early childhood education, early childhood education programs and school readiness activities.

VPU 912 Module 12 – Setting Personal and Academic Goals

Parents will learn about the importance of goal setting, SMART goals and student academic planning.

The mission of Project INSPIRE is to provide training and resources to assist parents, educators, and service providers as they build partnerships to help children prepare and succeed in school.

