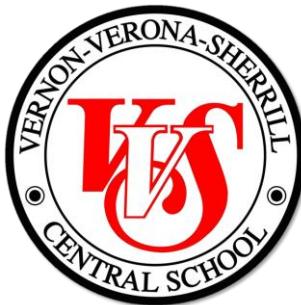


E. A. MCALLISTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**2021 - 2022
FAMILY HANDBOOK**



WELCOME

Dear McAllister Families,

I believe that education is a powerful tool. Everything students learn in school can be translated into many pathways as they discover what is right for them. We hold students to high standards both academically and personally. Children are learning throughout the day in the classrooms, hallways, and the playground. Above all, we want students to do their best each day and to treat each other with respect, no matter their differences.

Communication is an integral part of creating and maintaining a successful school community. E.A. McAllister has a strong, cohesive team that creates and supports a safe environment in which students can thrive. Families are an integral part of this team. We are most successful when we work together, and the students are the ones who benefit.

My goal as a building leader is to balance the constant state of change that occurs in education with the feelings of safety and security, knowing that we will get through anything together. We, as educators, set the example for our students. We do this by demonstrating what it means to be resilient in the face of adversity and/or change, and be critical thinkers in today's society.

I look forward to being on this educational adventure with you and your family!

Sincerely,

Elisabeth H. Relyea

Mrs. Elisabeth H. Relyea
Principal

E. A. McAllister Daily Schedule

Students may enter building	8:25 AM
Dismissal time for students being picked up.....	3:10 PM
Dismissal time for students taking the bus	3:15 PM

Please see the updated dismissal procedures on our website.

V.V.S. Belief Statements

1. We believe all students should be challenged with academic rigor, provided individualized support through home-school collaboration, and empowered to explore opportunities that prepare them for success in college, career, and life.
2. We believe student-school-community connections provide opportunities for students to experience diversity, develop tolerance, foster a sense of belonging, and create the foundation for civic responsibility.
3. We believe students are best prepared for success in college, career, and life when their educational experiences cultivate teamwork, perseverance, adaptability, resourcefulness, and a positive attitude.
4. We believe optimal learning occurs in a safe and supportive environment that values and nurtures character, integrity, responsibility, and respect for self and others.

PTSO Officers 2021 – 2022

Suzannah Osio-Krupski , President	(315) 723-7720
Kristi Williams , Treasurer.....	(315) 527-0751
Shannon Leonardo , Secretary.....	(315) 271-4576
Regina Geroux , Teacher Liaison.....	(315) 382-1912

The membership of our E. A. McAllister Parent-Teacher-School Organization (P.T.S.O.) consists of all parents with children currently enrolled at E.A. McAllister as well as the faculty, staff, and administration of the school. Meetings are held the first Monday of the month, in the evening at 6:30 p.m.

The P.T.S.O. provides a forum for parents and staff to discuss mutual concerns and ways to support each other. Every meeting includes a Principal's Report. This is an update on activities at the school and is very helpful to parents, as it is informational and an opportunity to ask questions.

Ongoing P.T.S.O. activities include:

Fall Social, Parent Volunteer Program, & Arts in Education

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

DISTRICT OFFICE

Superintendent of Schools.....Mrs. Martha K. Group
Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations.....Mr. Mark Wixson
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment.....Mr. Andy Brown
Director of Pupil Services and Personnel DevelopmentMrs. Erin Scheemaker

Vernon Verona Sherrill Board of Education

Mr. Steve Adamkowski
Vice President
4826 State Route 5
Vernon, NY 13476

Mrs. Melissa Palmer
4511 Marble Hill Rd.
Oneida, NY 13421

Mr. Christopher Brewer
5389 Cooper St.
Vernon, NY 13476

Mrs. Ann Pangburn
5144 Old Oneida Rd.
Verona, NY 13478

Dr. Frank Frey
190 Skinner Rd.
Oneida, NY 13421

Mrs. Catherine Suttmeier
PO Box 1046, 3922 Kenwood Rd.
Oneida, NY 13421

Mr. Thomas Moats
President
5190 Townline Rd.
Vernon, NY 13476

Mr. Paul Thompson
5751 Merry St.
Verona, NY 13478

Miss Samantha Netzbard
338 Ransom Ave
Sherrill, NY 13461

PARENT INFORMATION

You are your child's first teacher. Much of what your child learns will be based on your expectations, support, and interest in school. Here are a few ways you can support your child's learning:

- ◆ Set aside a place and time for homework.
- ◆ Ask your child questions that are specific about school. Rather than "What did you do in school today?" Ask questions such as "What did you do in science class?" or "What did you read?"
- ◆ Be positive about learning new things.
- ◆ Have your child attend school unless he/she is ill.
- ◆ Provide a variety of reading material for your child
- ◆ Get to know your child's teacher
- ◆ Help your child learn to work independently.

EARLY DISMISSAL, LATE SIGN-IN & PARENT VISITORS

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. All parents and visitors will need to use the main entrance ("A" door). Please call upon your arrival and we will assist you. There is a doorbell and camera located on the right side of the doorway to confirm identity and purpose. You will be asked to sign-in/out students.

If you need to pick up your child/ren during the day for an appointment, please send a written note with your child to school.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

- The State Education Department requires a physical examination of children when they
- are in grades PreK, K, 2, 4, 7, & 10
 - participate in interscholastic sports
 - need working papers
 - are referred by/to the Committee on Special Education

The district will provide physicals if necessary.

ILLNESS AND ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Please keep your child home if the child has a temperature of 100 degrees or greater.

Children with severe symptoms from stomach virus, chest congestion, colds, and/or having a high fever should have one good day at home before returning to school. If your child is taking an antibiotic for any contagious illness, they may return to school after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.

Please remember to contact the school nurse when your child is absent. This is important for the health and safety of all students. **A written excuse is required for all student absences.**

Please see the updated COVID-19 Guidelines on the VVS CSD website. Any questions pertaining to the health and safety of your student(s), please call Mrs. Martin or Mrs. Relyea at (315) 829-2520 x3015.

MEDICATIONS

The Bureau of School Health Services of the State Health Department specifies guidelines for the administration of the medication in the school.

- **The school nurse may only dispense prescribed medication and over-the-counter medication with written permission from parent and physician.**
- **Medicine must be in original containers.**
- **All medicine must be kept in the Health Office and given out by the Nurse.**
- **Parents should bring medications to the nurse or principal in the drug store-labeled and dated container.**
- **Controlled substances and glass containers are not permitted on the bus.**
- **Medications prescribed for three times a day may be given before school, after school and at bedtime. This dosage schedule eliminates the need to send medicines to school.**

Reference Policy #7044

Special Note from School Nurse: If your child has dietary restrictions for health reasons, please make the school nurse aware as she can assist during lunchtime if necessary, and also notify cafeteria personnel.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

Mrs. Christine Bolton is the School Social Worker. School Social Workers are trained mental health professionals with a Master's degree in social work who provide services related to students' and family's social, emotional, and life adjustment to school and/or society. School Social Workers are the link between the home, school, and community in providing direct as well as indirect services to students, families, and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and social success. School Social Workers assist schools to increase attendance, academic achievement, and the numbers of students who graduate.

The Social Worker pushes into the 5th and 6th grade classrooms to teach various topics related to Character Education and provide an annual Dignity for All Students Act presentation. There are also opportunities throughout the year when the Social Worker pushes into all classrooms to help work through specific issues that students may be experiencing.

The Social Worker works in conjunction with the Principal and Teachers to resolve conflicts between students or mediate when issues arise.

CHARACTER EDUCATION & NYS MANDATES

Character Education is explicitly delivered to students in 5th and 6th grade by a school social worker. These topics include: Mental Health, Personal Safety/Internet Safety, DASA, Conflict vs. Bullying, Conflict Resolution, Bullying Prevention, and Emotional Regulation.

New York State mandates that additional topics are covered including the Dignity Act (DASA/Dignity for All Students Act), and Erin's Law. The Dignity Act seeks to provide public school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. Cyber Bullying is also covered under the Dignity Act.

Erin's Law addresses the need to prevent sexual abuse of students in grades K-8, which requires defining and addressing the wide range of behaviors and experiences related to sexual violence, such as child sexual abuse, sexual assault, and child sexual exploitation.

DISMISSAL & STUDENT PICK-UP

Student pick-up is at 3:10 p.m. at the “J” Door, located by the Kindergarten playground in our main parking lot area. For students who are picked up at dismissal, either on a daily basis, or periodically, a written note is required to let the classroom teacher know, which is then sent to the main office. Parents are asked to line up outside the door, and as the teacher on duty identifies you, your child will then be released to you. **We will not release students if parents are waiting in cars, as this can cause safety issues.**

Please keep in mind that each year we start fresh. Your child’s dismissal procedures do not carry over year to year, and we ask that you please send a note in with your child/ren the first day of school, or as the need arises.

CHANGE IN BUS PICK-UP/DROP OFF

If there is a need to change a student’s pick-up/drop-off bus or location, parents must send a note to the office indicating:

- ◆ Student’s Name
- ◆ Location of Pick-Up/Drop-off
- ◆ Name of person at Pick-Up/Drop-off location
- ◆ Telephone number of Pick-Up/Drop-off person
- ◆ Telephone number where parent may be reached
- ◆ Day(s) the change in bus transportation is needed

WALKERS

All students who walk to school are encouraged to use the sidewalks where available and practice good safety habits. **Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:25 a.m.** **Written permission from a parent is required stating a child can walk to and from school. Students will enter the building on the bus circle side of the building.**

BICYCLES/SCOOTERS

Students in grades 4-6 may ride bicycles/scooters to school providing they fill out a Bicycle/Scooter Permit Form available in the Office. This form needs to be signed by a parent. Since this is a privilege, permission of the classroom teacher and principal is also necessary. Bikes and scooters should be parked at the designated place. **Bike helmets must be worn by all students riding bikes to and from school.** No students will be permitted to ride their bike/scooter to school in grades PK-3.

LEAVING THE SCHOOL BUILDING

Students must report to the Nurse or Principal for permission to leave the building. The Nurse or Principal will contact the Parent for permission. **Due to health and safety issues, students are not to call to be released or picked up from school, the Nurse or Principal must be the one to contact the Parent.** Failure to follow this procedure will result in disciplinary consequences.

A student who must leave the school because of illness **must report to the Nurse or to the Principal. Students must not leave school without stated permission.** If a student must be excused for part of the school day, the child must present a written request to the Nurse/office upon arrival at school. The request should specify name, date, time to be excused, destination, reason for leaving, means of transportation from school and telephone number by which the above information may be confirmed (parent, doctor, dentist, etc.). Please make appointments, if at all possible, on school holidays or after school hours.

Due to the school's legal responsibility for the welfare of students, we cannot honor requests for students to leave school to run errands during school hours. **Leaving school without prior permission from the Nurse or Principal is considered TRUANCY and warrants disciplinary consequences.** A parent/guardian/legal representative of the student must sign the student out at the main entrance. When the student returns to school during school hours, the parent/guardian/legal representative must sign the student in at the main entrance. In every building of the District, parents or guardians should write a note or call the school if the parent/guardian/legal representative needs a student released during the school day.

LATE BUSES

Late buses for a variety of after school activities are available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 4:20 P.M. Prior permission to ride a late bus must be given by the parent before a child will be allowed to stay after school. After-school activities include intramurals, extra classroom help, and special classroom activities such as play practice, etc. On occasion, a teacher may request that a student stay after school for disciplinary reasons. Parents will be notified if after-school detention is requested. Students staying after school for any reason will be under a teacher's supervision at all times until they get on a bus.

MANDATED REPORTING

A mandated reporter is required by law to report to the New York State Child Abuse Hotline whenever they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child, under the age of 18, is being abused, neglected, or maltreated. Mandated reporters include physicians, nurses, lawyers, law enforcement officials, child care providers, and school professionals. It is not the responsibility of the reporter to investigate the legitimacy of a reported incident or situation.

Reports accepted, are then investigated by the County Department of Social Services. As part of the investigation process, Child Protective Caseworkers interview the parties involved. The law allows for children to be interviewed in school, by a Child Protective Caseworker, without parental notification. In addition, parents and/or guardians should expect to be contacted by Child Protective Services in a timely manner.

An individual can make a report of suspected abuse, neglect, or maltreatment to the New York State Child Abuse Hotline. Child Protective Services is obligated to keep the source of the report confidential. **NYS Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-342-3720**

WEATHER EMERGENCY -- SCHOOL CLOSING

It may be necessary to close schools due to severe weather conditions. This decision is carefully made as early as possible in the morning. Information regarding closing is broadcast over the following television/radio stations. Please keep your tv/radio tuned in and refrain from calling the school for this information during severe weather.

RADIO		TV
WIBX (AM 950)	WAQX (FM 95.7)	
WLZW (FM 98.7)	WAER (FM 88)	Your News Now – Channel 10
WODZ (FM 96.1)	WRNY (AM 1350)	WSYR - Channel 9
WSKS (FM 97.9)	WUTQ (AM 1550)	WTvh - Channel 5
WOUR (FM 96.9)	WUMX (FM 102.5)	WKTV - Channel 2
WADR (AM 1480)	WBGK (FM 99.7)	
WKLL (FM 94.9)	WBUG (AM 1570) (FM 101.1)	WSTM - Channel 3
WIXT (AM 1230)	WHEN (AM 620)	
WSKU (FM 105.5)	WWHT (FM 107.9)	
WSYR (AM 570)	WBBS (FM 104.7)	
WFRC (FM 104.3)	WTLB (AM 1310)	
WYYY (FM 94)		
WLTI (AM 105.9)		

We utilize School Messenger, which allows us to send you an alert for early dismissals or other weather related emergencies within the confines of the school day. Please contact the

Sondra Whalen (SWhalen@vvsschools.org) for information to sign up.

Text “yes” to 67587 to sign up for text alerts.

In cases of early closing once school is in session, **please make sure you have a plan arranged with your child/children as to what they should do or where they should go.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parent/Guardian/Parish permission slips, are required for student attendance. Supervision for participating students is provided by the personnel conducting these programs.

FIELD TRIPS

Student field trips are off-campus experiences that extend and enhance classroom and after-school activities. Teachers and principals are charged with the responsibility of determining curricular and extra-curricular experiences that are advantageous and meaningful. All school field trips, athletic team trips and off-campus activities require the approval from the Superintendent of Schools and parent permission slips.

In-district field travel does not require parent permission slips. However, parents will be notified in advance.

SCHOOL – HOME COMMUNICATION

Positive school-home communication is an important and essential ingredient for an effective school. Telling you about the “good things” your children are involved in on a daily basis is an important key in positive communication. Our communication program consists of the following:

- ◆ Classroom Newsnotes
- ◆ Student Progress Reports
- ◆ Newspaper articles – Oneida Dispatch, Rome Sentinel, etc.
- ◆ Phone Calls
- ◆ Parent/Guardian-Teacher-Student Conferences
- ◆ School district annual calendar for parents
- ◆ Sheveron District Newsletter
- ◆ Open House
- ◆ E-mail
- ◆ District website – www.vvsschools.org
- ◆ Facebook @mcallisterelem

When the school and home work closely together, the students benefit. It is much better for us to over-communicate than to under-communicate. We welcome your feedback!

PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP

To help create the best learning environment to prepare our students to be college, career, and life ready, while maintaining dignity and respect for all, we would like to review the following steps. If you or your child has a concern, please contact the teacher or have your child approach the teacher with any concerns. The teacher will work through the concern in a timely fashion. If the situation continues, please contact your child's teacher to see if a meeting is necessary. We appreciate your support and the trust that is given to us to help develop children into responsible, contributing members of our society.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

For information on parents' rights regarding referral and evaluation of their child for the purposes of special education services or programs, please visit the New York State Education Department website at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/parentpubs.htm>. In addition, should you have specific questions regarding special education, please contact the V. V. S. Special Education Coordinator, Mr. Patrick Goodman at (315) 829-2520 x7401.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS UNDER NCLB

The Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central School District is pleased to employ a team of talented and highly qualified teachers. All permanently employed teachers meet New York State certification and licensing requirements. This enables each school within the district to provide an education that helps each child meet the rigorous educational standards and graduation requirements as defined by the New York State Education Department and the district. Under No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, parents or guardians of students attending a school that receives Title I funds may inquire about the qualifications for the teacher(s) who work with their child.

This information is available under the Freedom of Information Act. Information must be requested using the district application for public access to records. The application may be obtained from the district Records Access Officer, the Assistant Superintendent for Finance, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on district business days.

CAFETERIA COURTESY & SAFETY RULES

Students are expected to behave in the cafeteria as they would in any dining situation. Lunchtime is an opportunity for students to socialize in a courteous and mannerly fashion.

Breakfast and Lunch are free to all students through June 30, 2022. When snacks and extra lunch is reintroduced to lunch time, you may add funds to your student's lunch account through My School Bucks: <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/>.

Students may bring part or all of their lunch from home. Please remember to include utensils in your child's lunch, if needed. Glass Bottles are not allowed.

When in the cafeteria, please observe the following COURTESY AND SAFETY RULES:

- Follow directions of the lunch monitors and kitchen staff
- Wait patiently in line
- Take the lunch choice you choose at lunch count time
- Visit quietly with people closest to you
- Keep your area clean
- Return your tray to the tray area
- Walk at all times - quietly to and from the cafeteria
- Keep hands and feet, food to yourself
- Pick up anything dropped on the floor
- Report any spills to the lunch monitors
- Keep all food in the cafeteria

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Because of the expensive and delicate nature of portable iPods, cell phones, video games and other electronic equipment, students may not use these items in school. **VVS School District is not responsible for damage or loss of such devices.**

**Click here for the VVS Technology Training Website for Families:
[Family Technology Training](#)**

**Click Here for the VVS PK-12 Chromebook Information:
[PK-12 Chromebook Website](#)**

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, & MIDDLE LEVEL PROGRAM

DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT

Policy 1026 Excerpt Age Appropriate Restatement

You should never feel that it is not safe to come to school and participate in all school activities. You should never be prevented from concentrating on your schoolwork because another student or a school staff member is teasing you, making fun of you, pushing you around, or threatening you in some way, because of your race, color, weight, national origin (where your family comes from), ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

A student may not act toward another student in a way that reasonably might make that other student feel threatened or unsafe, or that might reasonably make that student unable to concentrate on their school work because of the other student's race, color, weight, national origin (where your family comes from), ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex. It is against school rules for any student or school staff member to do this by physical actions or by verbal statements, including electronic messages.

DISTRICT CODES OF CONDUCT

Policy 1025 Summary

Project S.A.V.E. Legislation requires that school districts establish Codes of Conduct, which govern the conduct, dress, and language of students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors. These Codes of Conduct contain the following:

- Statement of Purpose
- Description of Roles of School Personnel, Parents and Others
- Examples of Prohibited Behaviors
- Procedures to Address Prohibited Behaviors
- Provisions for Removal of Disruptive Students
- Student Code of Conduct
 - ~ Bill of Rights and Responsibilities
 - ~ Statement of Conduct, Dress, and Language Expectations
 - ~ Examples of Prohibited Behaviors
 - ~ Discipline Plan
- Disciplinary Measures for Drugs, Weapons, and Violent Behavior

- Standards and Procedures to Assure Security
- Provisions for Policy Maintenance and Enforcement

Incorporated into the District Codes of Conduct* is our familiar Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Student Code of Conduct.

VERNON-VERONA-SHERRILL SCHOOL DISTRICT **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Vernon-Verona-Sherrill School District staff and faculty have high expectations for student behavior. Each student will be expected to be respectful and responsible. Students will:

- Treat all school personnel, visitors, and their peers with courtesy and respect.
- Respect all school and personal property.
- Be on time and prepared for school and class.
- Wear appropriate school clothing.
- Keep their hands, feet, and objects to themselves.
- Use appropriate school language.

THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE DISTRICT CODES OF CONDUCT EXTEND TO ALL SCHOOL PROPERTY, INCLUDING SCHOOL BUSES, AND AT ALL SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS.

The District Codes of Conduct reinforces our Vernon-Verona-Sherrill School District Board of Education goal to continue to focus on a safe environment for our students, staff and community.

ASSESSMENT AND TESTING

Assessments have been used in VVS for a number of years to help the learning community measure student achievement. Over the recent past, measuring academic growth and using the information as a tool to further learning has been accelerated. It is important for you to be aware of the assessments your children are taking. There are other assessments such as teacher made exams, chapter tests, projects with rubrics all of which help to provide a picture of your child's academic achievement.

Generally speaking, there are six reasons why students are assessed:

1. To determine a child's readiness to learn information
2. To determine what a child has learned about a body of information that has been taught
3. To determine what students know about a body of information as compared to other students
4. To determine how well a students have been prepared in learning a body of information

5. To predict students' learning curve in a body of information
6. To assess the development of students reading and writing processes including item knowledge processes and strategic operations for the purpose of instructional program

The following are assessments you can expect your child to experience while attending our school:

Title of Assessment	Grade level	Testing Month
NYS ELA Assessment	3 - 6	March
NYS Math Assessment	3 - 6	April
NYS Elementary Science Test	4	Performance – May Written - June

Teachers use a variety of methods to determine how well your child is learning. These assessments all help the teacher report back to you as to your child's academic growth. These may assessments include:

- Classroom Tests - Multiple choice, essay, fill-in-the-blanks
- Running Records - A written summary of how your child reads a piece of writing
- Portfolio - A collection of your child's work
- Rubric - An outline of what should be done to get a certain grade
- Homework - Assignment to be completed at home
- Projects - Culminating activities for units of study
- Conferences -Individual review of a student's work to date

To ensure a successful testing experience for your child, we encourage you to help in the following ways:

1. Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep each night before a testing situation.
2. Discuss the importance of doing one's best work on each test.
3. Try to reduce any anxiety your child may be feeling about tests.

V.V.S. REPORT CARD **(Pre-K – 6)**

Students attending school in New York State are required to demonstrate proficiency in meeting the New York State standards in the areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The New York State Learning Standards describe what your child should know and be able to do at this grade level. Our report cards outline your child's progress in meeting the New York State and district curriculum standards and contain a tentative list of topics to be covered during each marking period. For grades three through six, students additionally obtain grades in our Special Areas (music, art, library, physical education).

We have worked to develop report cards that are unique for the curriculum at each grade level while also having consistent grading scales and a similar format from year to year. Please keep in mind that report cards are only one form of school/home communication about student progress. Please make sure to review your child's class work, tests/quizzes, teacher correspondence, and student planner on a daily basis.

**We are currently working on updating the format of our report cards.
More information to come!**

Student Performance Levels

Level 1 Not Meeting Learning Standards	Level 2 Partially Meeting Learning Standards	Level 3 Meeting Learning Standards	Level 4 Meeting Learning Standards with Distinction
Student performance does not demonstrate an understanding of the curriculum content expected at this grade level.	Student performance demonstrates a partial understanding of the curriculum content expected at this grade level.	Student performance demonstrates an understanding of the curriculum content expected at this grade level	Student performance demonstrates a thorough understanding of the curriculum content expected at this grade level

The mission of the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill School District is to serve the community by preparing individuals to value challenges, learning opportunities, diversity and civic responsibility.

VVS Middle Level Program

Your child is in the “Middle Level” if in 5th – 8th grades

What is the Middle Level Program?

Our program focuses on the needs of children in grades 5 through 8, and their unique academic and developmental needs. Due to these students' special characteristics, our 5 – 8 teachers and administrators have come together as a team to develop and implement a program that meets their needs.

Is middle-level education something that only takes place in school buildings designated as middle schools?

No. Middle-level education is seen as a supportive but academically rigorous bridge between the elementary grades and high school, and may take place in various school buildings as long as the program and its staff are involved and committed to a common goal, mission, and elements of the program.

Middle Level (Grades 5 – 8)

Mission Statement

The VVS Middle Level School Program provides the opportunity for our students to acquire the skills and experience to be successful, and to develop a positive self-concept, a respect and appreciation of others, and the desire to continue learning.

It is the Mission of the Vernon Verona Sherrill School District to educate and prepare every child to be successful in life.

What does our program look like?

Seven elements have been established that best reflect our particular program.

Essential Elements of a Standards-Focused Middle Level Program:

- ✧ Element #1 – A philosophy and mission that reflects the intellectual and developmental needs and characteristics of adolescents
- ✧ Element #2 – An educational program this is comprehensive, challenging, purposeful, integrated, and standards based
- ✧ Element #3 – An organization and structure that support both academic excellence and personal development
- ✧ Element #4 – Classroom instruction appropriate to the needs and characteristics of young adolescents provided by skilled and knowledgeable teachers
- ✧ Element #5 – Strong educational leadership and a building administration that encourages, facilitates, sustains involvement, participation, and partnership
- ✧ Element #6 – A network of academic and personal support available for students.
- ✧ Element #7 – Professional training and staff development that are ongoing, planned, purposeful, and collaborated.

All students in grades 5 – 8 are challenged by a balanced and academically rigorous education that prepares them to succeed throughout their public school experience. Subject-by-subject curriculum includes the facts students must know, the skills they must acquire, and the concepts they must understand. Students and parents understand that teachers believe learning is a lifelong process and believe in continually updating their skills.

Between January and May, monthly meetings take place in the various buildings between the Middle School Principal, the MS School Counselor, and the 5th & 6th grade Teachers, Principals, School Counselors, and staff. Sixth grade visits to the Middle School take place. Parent orientation occurs in late April or early May.

School-Parent Compact

E.A. McAllister Elementary School

217 Kinsley Street

Sherrill, NY 13461

When parents actively participate in their child's education, studies have shown that their children do better in school. Neither parents nor schools alone can ensure the educational success of the child. It takes working together to meet this common goal. Toward that end, the faculty and staff of the E.A. McAllister Elementary School and parents, working cooperatively to provide for the successful education of the children, agree:

The School Agrees...	The Parent/Guardian Agrees...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To convene an annual meeting for parents to inform them of the educational program within the school and their right to be involved.• To offer a flexible number of meetings at various times.• To actively involve parents in planning, reviewing and improving the educational programs and the district parental involvement policy.• To provide parents with timely information about all programs.• To provide individual student assessment results for each child and other pertinent individuals.• To provide a high quality curriculum and instruction.• To deal with communication issues between parents and teachers through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Parent/teacher conferences at least annually- Reports to parents on progress at least quarterly- Reasonable access to staff- Opportunities to volunteer/participate in your child's class• To assure that parents may participate in professional development activities if the school determines that it is appropriate, i.e. literacy classes, workshops on reading strategies, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To oversee my child's attendance at school and completion of homework on time.• To balance my child's activities so he/she is reasonably rested and ready to learn at school.• To send my child to school prepared for learning (i.e. with textbooks, library books, signed notes, homework, etc.)• To work with my child on his/her schoolwork (i.e. to practice basic math facts, read with my child for 15 minutes each day, check assignment notebooks and proofread all written work for neatness and accuracy).• To become involved in developing, implementing, evaluating and revising the school parent involvement policy.• To demonstrate through words and actions proper respect for all school faculty, staff and facilities.• To share responsibility for improved student achievement.• To communicate with my child's teachers about his/her educational needs.• To ask parents and parent groups to provide information to the school on what type of training or assistance they would like and/or need to help them be more effective in assisting my child in the educational process.