



I am...



## ...a member of the global community

At Bertschi, our community is the heart of the school. We are learning together, sharing who we are, and making choices every day to care for each other and the earth. Diversity and Sustainability are more than concepts—they are the core values of our community and are woven throughout our curriculum.

Our students can explore who they are and express what they think. They gain the confidence to find a voice and know what's important to shout out. They learn the compassion to hear and “feel” the ideas of others. They find that everyone can lead by example and use their natural curiosity and creativity to find ways to do their part in our community—at Bertschi and beyond.

We appreciate what makes each of us unique and value our neighbors and our world.

One planet.

Many voices,  
faces, families,  
traditions,  
ecosystems,  
challenges,  
choices & footprints.

"Bertschi's commitment to diversity means that my child is a part of a school that embraces students and staff who come from differing socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds who all have a differing perspective on the world."

Divya Krishnan, parent

"We love Bertschi's commitment to sustainability—they not only put it into practice, but also teach the children how to preserve our planet for future generations."

Kim Armstrong, parent

"Our family is quite a mix: Irish, Filipino and Guatemalan. In addition, we're not a typical family—we're an adoptive family and we're a same sex family. Diversity means we have a safe environment of acceptance that relates to how fast our world is changing and allows our child to learn in an environment that nurtures his personal confidence and respect for all people. At Bertschi, we fit in."

Dennis Jumaquio, parent

"Bertschi's work towards sustainable operations, practices, and education gives the cause a big, loud voice. The good practices of a few are taught to many, and in turn raise interest and action from many more. The echo of sound choices being made continues. The great value of the new focus on sustainability is this ripple effect into the larger community."

Jessie Adamson, teacher

"Bertschi School quietly practices diversity, inclusiveness and sustainability. My children don't know these words per se, but at Bertschi they are learning about their meanings every day—seeing faces that don't resemble their own and by learning about how the smallest of actions can affect the world."

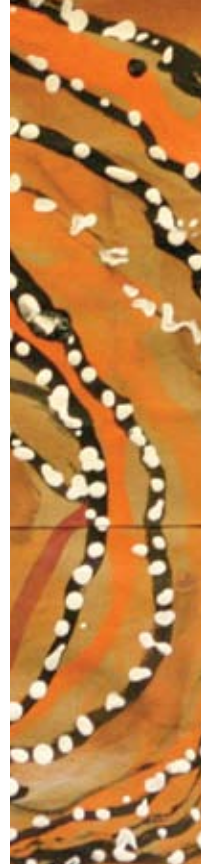
Sumi Almquist, parent

"I value Bertschi's focus on sustainability because it must be a priority for this generation of children. The school is teaching the children and their families how to make this a better planet through small but valuable steps that will hopefully turn into lifelong practices."

Cecilia Tung, parent

"We see Bertschi School as part of our extended family—whether it's in the classroom, after school at Extended Day, or on the playground—my son knows he is valued and supported. I appreciate how Bertschi School values every child and every family's identity, point of view and uniqueness."

Latasia Lanier, parent and teacher



## Bertschi Highlights

Students learn about the Pike Place Market as a microcosm of our planet. They explore where their food comes from, what “organic” means, and what markets are like throughout the country and around the globe. As a culminating activity, the students share an originally designed and created market with the entire school community and donate the profits to various social services at the Pike Place Market.

The Bertschi Center serves as a model for how human communities can learn to reduce our impact. Thanks to the rainwater collection system, it uses 30% less water than a conventional building. Our school generates electricity with the solar panels on campus, which helps light the Bertschi Center and power computers in our classrooms. This reduces our dependence on other resources and acts as a teaching tool for our students.

Throughout the year we monitor consumption and waste. Students regularly weigh trash, analyzing the items thrown away. They graph their results and then make recommendations to the whole school about how to use fewer resources and how to properly sort waste for recycling and composting. Similar studies are conducted for water and electricity usage.

From visiting local wetlands to creating model ecosystems in the classroom, Bertschi students explore and investigate the natural world. Curiosity guides their learning about flora and fauna and the connections among all living things. Through restoration and gardening projects, students reinforce their knowledge and practice good stewardship of their community and the earth.

Social studies is taught through a multicultural lens—with music, folktales, dance, and poetry from cultures around the world. We explore the five major religions of Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism to help understand and appreciate the diversity in our culture.

Students study the Lunar New Year, culminating in a field trip and lunch in the International District. A favorite annual event is the colorful Dragon Parade that the students perform for the school community.



# My voice echoes into the world

We embrace living in a dynamic and diverse global community. Our students are encouraged to ask questions, exchange ideas, respect the beliefs of others, and draw their own conclusions.

Children at Bertschi explore and challenge their understanding of themselves, others, and the physical world around them. Throughout their years at Bertschi, our students develop the knowledge, skills, and values to make positive contributions to their communities. Our goal is for them to gain a sense of hope and responsibility and become empowered to face the challenges of the future.



We recognize the critical role of young people in shaping a sustainable society. Sustainability weaves together both environmental and social responsibility and prioritizes economic systems that are good for people and the planet.

Educating young people about sustainability begins with fostering a sense of wonder and caring for the natural world and its residents. Bertschi students develop these values through hands-on investigations both at school and in the local environment. Students track consumption on campus and strive to reduce their impact. The LEED-certified Bertschi Center and campus facilities model responsible resource use and inspire creativity and conservation. By studying their local community, Bertschi students learn about the Puget Sound's ecosystem as well as its diverse human inhabitants. Local service activities provide the children opportunities to contribute in lasting, meaningful ways.

At Bertschi, we recognize and celebrate the many unique footprints in our community and the world.



# Our Mission

Bertschi School educates children to become compassionate, confident and creative learners in a global community.

# Our Values

Our community values integrity, inclusiveness, respect and a commitment to sustainable practices.



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*Bertschi School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation or disability.*

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