

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2011 Nissan Versa 1.8 SL HB

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2011 Ford Fiesta is an all-new subcompact available in hatchback and sedan body styles. It's entry-level car comes as a 4-door sedan or 4-door hatchback. It's affordable, safe and now comes with anti-lock brakes.

The SL hatchback has a continuously variable transmission (CVT) that behaves much like an automatic, a segmented belt rides up and down on cone-shaped pulleys to vary the speed ratio between the engine and the drivetrain. The 1.8-liter engine produces 122hp and 127 lb-ft of torque. Its suspension is tuned for a softer ride and for comfort on poor road surfaces. It still allows responsive handling with little body roll in normal driving. The electrically-assisted power steering feels right, it is a little tighter than I would have thought. If you are looking for speed this is not the vehicle for that, but great for everyday driving to get you around.

Every Versa comes standard with front side airbags and side curtain airbags. Antilock brakes are optional on the base car and standard on all other trim levels. Stability and trac-

tion control are optional on the 1.8 S and standard on the 1.8 SL. Depending on the Versa that you select you may also have an option of

manual transmission.

The 1.8 SL has 15-inch alloy wheels, a height-adjustable driver seat, upgraded cloth upholstery,

with audio controls with six-way 180 watt audio system. The Hatchback's Premium package adds 16-inch alloy wheels with the same basic standards. An auto-dimming rearview mirror and interior ambient lighting are optional on 1.8 SL; the hatch-

small touchscreen, real-time traffic, an iPod interface and satellite radio our tested vehicle came equipped (\$610).

The Versa is affordable for those on a budget. It has great passenger room and the hatchback offers more



Tested Vehicle Information: 1.8L 4 Cylinder engine; Xtronic CVT transmission; 28 City MPG, 34 Highway MPG; MRSP \$16,900 Tested Vehicle MSRP \$18,405.

a five-speed manual transmission is standard, while a four-speed automatic on the 1.6L and on the 1.8 a six

front and rear center armrests, and 60/40 split rear seat. Bluetooth and a leather-wrapped steering wheel

back can also be equipped with a sunroof. It can be equipped with a navigation system that includes a

storage capacity. It loaded with conveniences for the new generation looking for more than just a car.

Joyce Washington HIGH SCHOOL CLASSIC



The 11th Annual Basketball Game

Saturday, May 21 at Portland Community College, 705 N. Killingsworth

Doors open at 12 p.m.
Girls Classic at 1 p.m.
Boy's Classic at 3 p.m.

Tickets available at
 The Portland Observer
 4747 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Looking for High School Boys & Girls to Participate
 for more information contact Tony or Mark Washington at 288-0033

"Dedicated to our mother, whose purposeful life is our family inspiration." — The Washington family

Sponsored by: The Portland Observer SAFEWAY INC.
 Bashor's TEAM ATHLETICS
 Portland Community College