

THE VICTORY VOICE

WHERE EVERY STUDENT'S
SUCCESS IS HEARD



QUARTER 3

VAA STUDENTS WITH GCU
MBB TEAM



#ForTheKids

MISSION STATEMENT

Provide essential and equitable education opportunities to the underserved and vulnerable populations ensuring that ALL students have the opportunity to win and achieve future success.

OUR CORE VALUES

TEAM

WIN

WHATEVER IT TAKES

NO EXCUSES

100% EVERYDAY

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VICTORY SCHOOLS AND GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY: A WINNING PARTNERSHIP ON AND OFF THE COURT

At Victory Schools, we believe in the power of partnerships to inspire, uplift, and create lasting impact. One of the most meaningful collaborations we've developed is with the Grand Canyon University (GCU) Men's and Women's basketball teams. These student-athletes, fresh off winning their respective conference championships and punching their tickets to March Madness, are champions not only on the court but in our schools and communities.

Through this partnership, GCU's basketball players don't just make appearances—they make a difference. They join our students in P.E. activities, visit classrooms, speak at assemblies, eat lunch with students, and even play on the playground. They bring an energy that our kids feed off, often without even realizing it. Their presence is a breath of fresh air, a reminder that dreams are within reach, and that hard work, perseverance, and character are what truly define success.

But this partnership isn't just beneficial for our students—it's just as impactful for the GCU players. In an era of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) deals, GCU is committed to doing NIL the right way—by ensuring that their student-athletes give back to the local community. And that's exactly what they do at Victory Schools. The players get a chance to connect with young students who look up to them, to use their platform for good, and to experience firsthand the joy of making a difference in a child's life.



Beyond school visits, GCU also runs camps and clinics for our Victory Futures High School team, our Victory Collegiate Academy girls' and boys' teams, and our Victory Autism Academy Special Olympics teams. These clinics provide our student-athletes with high-level coaching, mentorship, and unforgettable experiences that help them grow both on and off the court.



Our students see these athletes as role models—strong, determined, and successful. But what makes this partnership truly special is that the GCU players see our students as inspiration too. The joy, enthusiasm, and resilience of our kids remind them why they fell in love with the game and the impact they can have beyond the hardwood.



We don't just wait for GCU to come to us—we bring our students to them. Victory Schools regularly attends GCU games, filling the stands with our students, families, and staff to cheer on our favorite teams. We are their biggest fans, celebrating their victories as if they were our own.



As GCU heads into March Madness, we'll be cheering them on just as they've cheered on our students. Because this partnership is more than just about basketball—it's about building relationships, fostering dreams, and creating moments that matter. Victory Schools and Grand Canyon University are united in a mission that goes beyond wins and losses. Together, we are shaping futures, one interaction at a time.



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: VICTORY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY STUDENTS DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF NATURE AT LAKE PLEASANT

At Victory Collegiate Academy, we believe that education isn't just about what happens within four walls—it's about experiencing the world, making connections, and bringing learning to life. That's why our students attend at least three field trips each year: one per semester to complement their classroom learning and one with their Best Buddies, ensuring that every child, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to explore, discover, and grow through hands-on experiences.

On March 19th, our fourth and fifth graders took their learning outside the classroom and into the breathtaking landscape of the Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant. This wasn't just another field trip—it was a chance to see, touch, and truly understand the world around them.

The day was filled with wide-eyed wonder as students explored the hidden ecosystem of Aquatic Life, where they marveled at the delicate balance of creatures thriving beneath the lake's surface. In In Cold Blood, they met reptiles and amphibians up close, gaining a newfound respect for these often-misunderstood desert dwellers. During the Nature Hike, students didn't just learn about the Sonoran Desert—they experienced it firsthand. They felt the warmth of the sun on their skin, the crunch of the earth beneath their feet, and the thrill of spotting a jackrabbit dart between cacti. The desert, once just an image in their textbooks, came alive before their eyes. But perhaps the most transformative moment came during the Desert Survival Combo session, where students worked together to build shelters and learn essential survival skills. In those moments, they weren't just students—they were problem-solvers, leaders, and adventurers, learning resilience and teamwork in a way no worksheet could ever teach.

These experiences are what set Victory Collegiate Academy apart. We know that knowledge isn't just about memorization—it's about feeling, seeing, and living what we learn. That's why our commitment to real-world learning through field trips remains at the heart of our educational philosophy. As the students returned to school, their conversations were filled with excitement—stories of what they saw, what they learned, and what they'll never forget. And that's the magic of experiential learning: it doesn't just teach students—it inspires them.



VICTORY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY HOSTS HEARTWARMING FATHER-DAUGHTER AND MOTHER-SON DANCES



Last month, Victory Collegiate Academy (VCA) hosted two unforgettable events that brought students and parents together for an evening of fun, music, and celebration. The Father-Daughter and Mother-Son dances were a huge success, with a fantastic turnout from both students and their families.

The separate dances were filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments as students shared special times with their parents. From twirling on the dance floor to posing for pictures, the evening allowed everyone to create lasting memories and strengthen their bonds. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, with families coming together to celebrate the importance of family connections in a fun, supportive environment.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled with the turnout and the energy in the room,” said Jessica Pena, Principal of VCA. “It was wonderful to see our students and their parents come together to enjoy each other’s company, dance, and make memories they’ll treasure for years.”

Both dances were a wonderful reminder of the strong sense of community at Victory Collegiate Academy, where every event is an opportunity to bring families closer together. We look forward to many more memorable moments like this in the future!

WE ARE A....

“HIGHLY PERFORMING SCHOOL”

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VICTORY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY: A "HIGHLY PERFORMING SCHOOL"

Victory Collegiate Academy has always been committed to excellence, and this year, that commitment was recognized in a big way. Earning a B letter grade and the Highly Performing School label is not just an accolade—it is proof of the hard work, perseverance, and determination of our students, staff, and parents alike.

This achievement didn't happen overnight. It is the result of a relentless dedication to building strong relationships, fostering character education, and implementing our comprehensive Healthy Body, Healthy Mind, Whole Child model. At Victory Collegiate Academy, we believe that true success comes from nurturing not just academics, but the social, emotional, and physical well-being of every student. This philosophy isn't just something we talk about—it's something we live every single day.

Our educators pour their hearts into creating an environment where students feel supported, challenged, and motivated to achieve their best. Parents play a crucial role as well, working in partnership with our school to reinforce learning at home and build a community of encouragement. And our students? They are the heartbeat of this success story—showing up, working hard, and proving that they are capable of incredible things.

Our character education and social-emotional learning programs have laid a strong foundation for our students to grow into resilient, responsible, and confident individuals. When you walk the campus of Victory Collegiate Academy, you see students who are not just learning facts and figures, but who are developing into future leaders, critical thinkers, and compassionate citizens.

This B rating is more than just a grade—it is a testament to the strength of our community and the effectiveness of our whole-child approach. It is validation that what we are doing works. And while we celebrate this milestone, we know the journey doesn't stop here. We will continue pushing forward, setting new goals, and striving for even greater success.

At Victory Collegiate Academy, we believe that every student has the potential to achieve greatness. This recognition is just the beginning. With perseverance, passion, and our unwavering commitment to our mission, we know that even brighter days are ahead.

Victory Collegiate Academy: Where excellence is not just a goal—it's our standard.



VICTORY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY SPOTLIGHTED BY GCU'S CANYON CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION

Victory Collegiate Academy (VCA) continues to shine as a national leader in character education! In February, the Grand Canyon University Canyon Center for Character Education selected VCA as their featured school, giving educators from across the nation the opportunity to learn from our dedicated stakeholders about what makes our character education program so highly successful.

During this incredible opportunity, schools nationwide had the chance to ask VCA stakeholders about the impact of character education on students, staff, and families. Representing VCA in this discussion were:

- Andy Parra, 8th Grade Student and Leader of the Student Character Council
- Caitlin Sims, Director of Schools for Victory Collegiate Academy and Victory Futures Academy
- Jessica Pena, Principal of Victory Collegiate Academy
- Loma Bazan, Parent of a 5th Grade Student at Victory Collegiate Academy
- Yasmine Vallin, 5th Grade Teacher at Victory Collegiate Academy

Each stakeholder brought a unique and powerful perspective, sharing firsthand how VCA's commitment to character education has transformed not just academic achievement, but also the school culture and student success. From Andy's leadership in the Student Character Council to Loma's experience as a parent witnessing her child's growth, the conversation was filled with passion, pride, and practical insights for schools looking to implement or strengthen their own character education programs.

This national recognition underscores the dedication of Victory Collegiate Academy to shaping well-rounded students who lead with integrity, respect, and responsibility. It is a testament to the Pillars of Victory, which guide our students in becoming future leaders of character.

For those who missed the live discussion, you can watch this exciting feature on the [@canyoncenterforcharactered](#) YouTube Channel and see how VCA is setting the standard for character education!



VICTORY FUTURES ACADEMY FINDS A NEW HOME: A BOLD STEP TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE



Victory Futures Academy (VFA) is taking a major step toward shaping the future of its students with the purchase of a new campus. The newly acquired property, located at the corner of 59th Avenue and Camelback Road in Phoenix, is the former Maryvale Bride United Methodist Church at 4802 North 58th Avenue. With a total of $\pm 16,676$ square feet on ± 5.75 acres, the campus is a perfect setting for VFA to spread its wings and establish its own high school, creating an environment where students can thrive and explore new opportunities.

For the first two years of operation, VFA has been based on the campus of Victory Collegiate Academy, but with growing demand and the desire for more space and resources, the school is now poised to embark on this exciting new chapter. The acquisition of this campus represents not only physical growth but a renewed commitment to providing students with the best possible learning experience in an environment that fosters independence, exploration, and growth.



A True High School Experience

The new campus will offer a true high school atmosphere, complete with ample space for classrooms, learning labs, and a weight room for physical education and fitness programs. Students will have access to a variety of new resources and opportunities that were not possible at the previous location. The large, open layout also includes an outdoor courtyard and patio area where students can gather, collaborate, and enjoy the beautiful Arizona weather.

Perhaps most exciting of all is the potential for a learning amphitheater, providing a unique and inspiring outdoor space for students to engage in lessons, performances, and collaborative work. In addition, there is even room to build a football/soccer field, which will further enhance the campus and offer additional extracurricular opportunities for students who want to participate in sports and athletic activities.

This new space is designed to support the holistic development of students, with everything from physical education and sports to specialized learning programs that will prepare them for success in the future.



VICTORY FUTURES ACADEMY FINDS A NEW HOME: A BOLD STEP TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE

A Campus That Supports Special Programs

Victory Futures Academy is known for its innovative and unique programs that provide students with tailored educational experiences. The new campus will make it easier to implement these programs and expand them to meet the growing needs of the student body. With dedicated classrooms and flexible learning spaces, VFA will be able to offer specialized instruction, mentorship programs, and other initiatives that cater to the diverse needs of its students.

The spacious design of the campus allows for creative, hands-on learning opportunities that empower students to take ownership of their education. From career readiness programs to college prep initiatives, VFA is ready to create an environment where every student can achieve their fullest potential.



Excitement for the Future

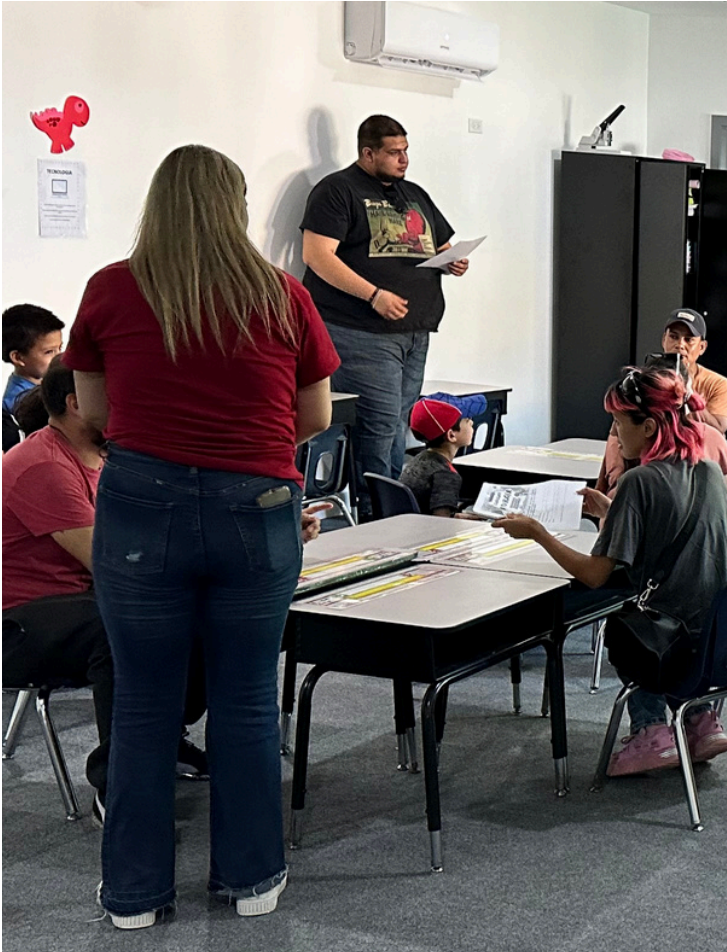
VFA's leadership is thrilled about the potential this new campus holds for the school and its students. "This move is a major milestone for Victory Futures Academy," said Nick Schuerman, CEO of Victory Schools. "We are so excited to have our own campus where we can continue to grow and expand our special programs. This is a place where our students will have room to dream big, to learn in new and innovative ways, and to build a strong foundation for their futures."

As VFA settles into its new home, there is a palpable sense of excitement about the opportunities this new campus will provide for students, faculty, and the community. With more space, more resources, and more potential, Victory Futures Academy is ready to continue its mission of preparing students for a successful future—one that is full of opportunity, growth, and success.

This move is just the beginning of what promises to be a bright future for Victory Futures Academy and the students who will call this new campus home. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to build and shape the future of education at Victory Futures Academy!



A SEASON OF MILESTONES AND MAGIC AT ESCUELA DE VICTORIA (EDV)



Wow, this semester has flown by at Escuela De Victoria (EDV)! As we reflect on the past few months, we're overwhelmed with gratitude and joy. So many of our students have reached meaningful milestones, some that many once thought were out of reach. These moments bring tears to our eyes and smiles to our faces as we witness the incredible growth happening each day on our campus.

Thanks to the unwavering support from Victory Autism Academy and the ongoing professional development offered to our team, EDV staff continue to grow in their knowledge and understanding of how to support our diverse student population. We're learning new tools, strategies, and perspectives that are making a real difference and the results speak for themselves.

One moment from this quarter touched all of us deeply. A young student who was non-verbal at the beginning of the year and who used to communicate only by pointing was recently recorded by her father at home. In the video, she was counting out loud, using her very own words. It was a powerful and emotional reminder of why we do what we do. Knowing that we played a role in her progress is nothing short of amazing.

And that's just one story.

This quarter, we also celebrated our students on the autism spectrum through a beautiful and heartfelt performance. Our older students took to the stage in front of their families to perform a play that honored differences and celebrated uniqueness. The message was simple, yet powerful: we may all have different personalities, interests, and ways of expressing ourselves, but deep down, we are all the same. The students shined, and the audience was moved.

EDV is a truly special place. It's a place where progress is possible, where students thrive, and where community matters. We can't wait to see what the next quarter holds but for now, we're celebrating every incredible moment we've shared this semester.



GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY ATHLETES INSPIRE YOUNG READERS AT VICTORY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

During the week of March 3rd, Grand Canyon University (GCU) athletes from volleyball, soccer, and basketball traded their courts and fields for classrooms at Victory Collegiate Academy (VCA). In celebration of Read Across America Week, these collegiate athletes stepped off the sidelines and into the hearts of young students, fostering a love of reading and showing the power of literacy in shaping bright futures.

Victory Collegiate Academy students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade were captivated as GCU athletes read stories aloud, engaging them with animated voices and personal reflections on the importance of education. The experience not only reinforced VCA’s commitment to literacy but also gave students the chance to connect with role models who emphasized the value of dedication—both in academics and athletics.

“At Victory Collegiate Academy, we believe that reading is the foundation for lifelong learning,” said school leaders. “Having GCU athletes here to share their time and love for reading made a lasting impression on our students. It showed them that literacy and leadership go hand in hand.”

For many students, this was more than just a special visit; it was an opportunity to see firsthand how hard work in the classroom translates to success in life. The GCU athletes shared personal stories about balancing sports and school, reinforcing Victory Collegiate Academy’s mission of developing well-rounded students who excel in character, academics, and leadership.

The event was part of Victory Schools’ broader efforts to create meaningful partnerships that support student growth. Through collaborations like this, Victory Collegiate Academy continues to inspire students to dream big, work hard, and embrace the power of reading.

As Read Across America Week came to a close, one thing was clear—Victory Collegiate Academy students didn’t just hear stories; they were inspired to write their own.



VICTORY AUTISM ACADEMY SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAMS BRING HOME GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS



Victory Autism Academy (VAA) is celebrating a momentous achievement as its Special Olympics teams returned home with impressive hardware from the recent games. With teams from three campuses—Goodyear, Phoenix/GCU, and Queen Creek—participating, VAA students showed incredible determination, sportsmanship, and team spirit, earning gold and silver medals in what was truly a celebration of athleticism, community, and growth.

The VAA Goodyear Campus team and the VAA Phoenix/GCU team both clinched gold medals, while the VAA Queen Creek team proudly earned the silver. These victories are not just about the medals themselves but about the joy, pride, and sense of accomplishment that each athlete experienced along the way. For the students, parents, and coaches, this was an unforgettable event that showcased the best of what Special Olympics is all about.

A Fun-Filled, Unifying Experience

From the very first moments of the games, it was clear that this event was about much more than winning. The energy was electric, and the joy on the faces of the athletes spoke volumes about the fun they were having.

“The most amazing part of this experience is seeing our students light up as they compete and enjoy themselves,” said Principal Bob Schumaker, a coach for the Goodyear Team. “This isn’t just about the medals; it’s about the sense of achievement and the sense of belonging that these athletes feel when they participate in something so special.”

Parents, too, were thrilled to watch their children shine in the spotlight. The event fostered a deep sense of community, with families coming together to cheer on the athletes, support one another, and celebrate their children’s hard work and dedication. The games provided an opportunity for the entire VAA family to connect in a way that is truly unique and powerful. It was a reminder of the importance of inclusion and the powerful impact of teamwork.



VICTORY AUTISM ACADEMY SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAMS BRING HOME GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS



Coaches and Volunteers: Heart of the Experience

Behind every victory and every smile, the VAA coaches and volunteers played a crucial role in preparing the athletes for success. They were the ones who helped the athletes develop their skills, build their confidence, and instill a sense of perseverance and resilience. The coaches' unwavering dedication to their athletes' growth, both on and off the field, shone through in every event.

"It's so rewarding to see these athletes give their best and succeed," said a coach at the Queen Creek campus. "The excitement is contagious, and seeing the joy on the faces of the kids, their families, and even the volunteers makes all the hard work worth it. It truly is a community event, and everyone involved feels like they're part of something bigger."

A Community Celebration

The VAA Special Olympics teams didn't just compete—they created lasting memories. The event had a festival-like atmosphere, bringing together athletes, families, coaches, and community members. It was a celebration of everything that the Special Olympics stands for: inclusion, determination, and the joy of sport.

The sense of community was palpable, with local supporters, friends, and fellow VAA students all coming together to cheer on the teams. The event was filled with cheers, high-fives, and hugs as athletes crossed the finish line, broke personal records, and reveled in the joy of participating in something truly meaningful.

"This experience has been such a gift," said Raymond Archer, a parent of one of the athletes. "Seeing my child so happy and proud of what they've achieved—and being surrounded by such a supportive, loving community—has been amazing. We are all so proud of them."





VICTORY AUTISM ACADEMY SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAMS BRING HOME GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS



Looking Ahead: Building on Success

The success of VAA's Special Olympics teams is just the beginning. The academy's commitment to fostering inclusive sports and athletic programs for students of all abilities continues to grow. The coaches, students, and families are already looking forward to future competitions and the continued development of VAA's athletic programs.

"This was an unforgettable experience," said Krystal Lowe, VAA Executive Director. "We are incredibly proud of all of our athletes and coaches. The medals they brought home are just one part of the bigger picture. The real victory is the growth we've seen in our students, the connections made between families and the broader community, and the lasting memories we've created together."

As Victory Autism Academy continues to champion the power of sports to unite, inspire, and empower, we can't wait to see what the future holds for our athletes. With the support of our dedicated community, there are no limits to what these students can achieve. Go VAA!



VICTORY AUTISM ACADEMY STUDENTS VISIT UPTOWN JUNGLE EVERY QUARTER: FUN, FITNESS, AND GROWTH



At Victory Autism Academy (VAA), one of the highlights of every school quarter is the exciting trip to UpTown Jungle, where every student—regardless of their grade or class—gets the chance to go four times a year. This unique experience has become a tradition that both students and staff eagerly look forward to, providing a perfect blend of fun, physical activity, and developmental benefits.

An Exciting Adventure for All.

For VAA students, the trips to UpTown Jungle are an adventure filled with smiles, laughter, and energy. From the moment they step into the facility, excitement fills the air as they explore the many attractions designed to challenge their agility, coordination, and motor skills. With features like climbing walls, obstacle courses, trampolines, and more, every child has the opportunity to engage in activities that promote physical fitness while having a blast.

"Every time we go, it's a different experience for the kids," said Kayla Wycoff, the Principal at VAA Queen Creek "The joy and excitement they feel when they arrive is contagious. It's incredible to watch them interact with the space and each other. For some students, it's a chance to overcome fears, while for others, it's an opportunity to show off newfound skills. Either way, they all come back with huge smiles on their faces."

Benefits for Students with Autism

For children with autism, the benefits of going to UpTown Jungle extend far beyond just fun. Engaging in physical play in an open, safe environment helps children develop important motor skills and sensory processing abilities. It's also a chance for students to work on socialization and communication skills as they interact with their peers in a group setting. Whether it's teaming up to complete an obstacle course or simply playing together, students are practicing important life skills while enjoying themselves.

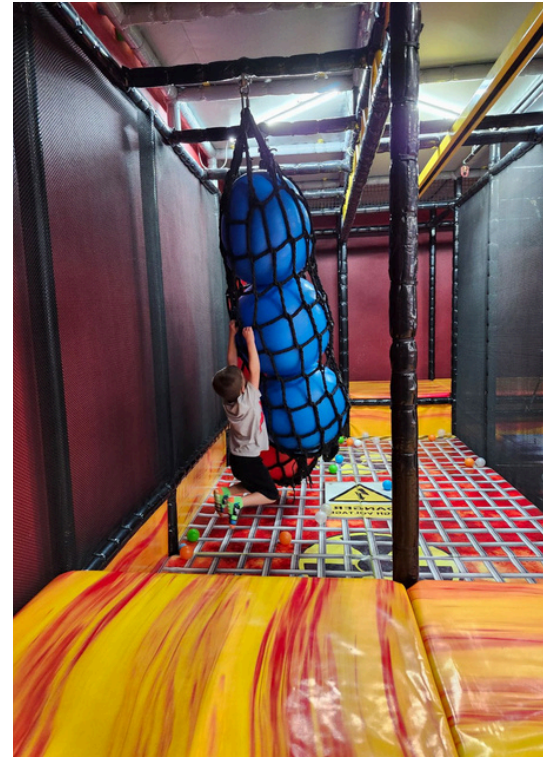
Physical activities like those found at UpTown Jungle also help with sensory regulation, which is especially important for children with autism who may sometimes struggle with sensory overload. The combination of movement, coordination, and play helps students learn how to better manage their sensory needs in a controlled and supportive environment.

"UpTown Jungle provides a space where kids can focus on being active and having fun without feeling overwhelmed," explained, a therapist at VAA. "The freedom to move around, jump, and explore helps them develop their body awareness and balance, which is a great foundation for both their physical and social development."

Building Confidence and Independence

One of the most rewarding aspects of these trips is seeing the students build confidence and independence. Every quarter, the children are given the opportunity to step outside of their usual routine and try something new. Whether it's jumping higher on the trampoline or conquering a difficult climbing wall, these experiences allow students to gain a sense of accomplishment and boost their self-esteem.

"Every time they hit a new milestone, whether it's overcoming a fear of heights or making a new friend, we see the students grow," said a staff member who joins the students on these outings. "It's an environment that encourages them to push their boundaries in a safe and supportive way. It's amazing to see how their confidence grows with each visit."



Fostering Socialization and Friendships

In addition to the physical and developmental benefits, the trips to UpTown Jungle are a great way for students to practice and strengthen their social skills. The group setting allows students to interact with their peers, engage in cooperative play, and learn how to communicate and work as a team. For many students with autism, these outings provide a unique opportunity to practice socialization in a less structured environment, which helps them build friendships and develop important interpersonal skills.

Parents and staff alike have noticed the positive impact these outings have on the students' social development. "My son absolutely loves the trips to UpTown Jungle," said Amanda Starbauch. "It's not only a fun way to burn off energy, but it's also helped him build more confidence in social situations. I've seen him open up and interact more with his classmates since these trips started."

Looking Ahead to More Fun and Growth

The tradition of visiting UpTown Jungle every quarter is one that continues to be a highlight for both students and staff at VAA. It's more than just a field trip; it's a chance to foster physical health, social growth, and emotional development in an environment where every child can thrive. With each visit, VAA students are not only improving their motor skills and fitness levels, but they are also creating lasting memories and building bonds that will benefit them for years to come.

"We're so fortunate to offer this opportunity to our students," said Nick Schuerman, CEO of Victory Schools. "The benefits are clear in the growth we see in our students, and the excitement they have when they know a trip to UpTown Jungle is coming up is priceless. It's an experience we look forward to every quarter, and we can't wait to see all the new milestones our students will achieve."

As VAA continues to invest in the physical, social, and emotional growth of its students, trips to UpTown Jungle will remain a cherished tradition—a time to play, learn, and grow in a fun and supportive environment.



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