

THE VICTORY VOICE

*WHERE EVERY STUDENT'S
SUCCESS IS HEARD*



QUARTER 4

Victory
SCHOOLS

#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

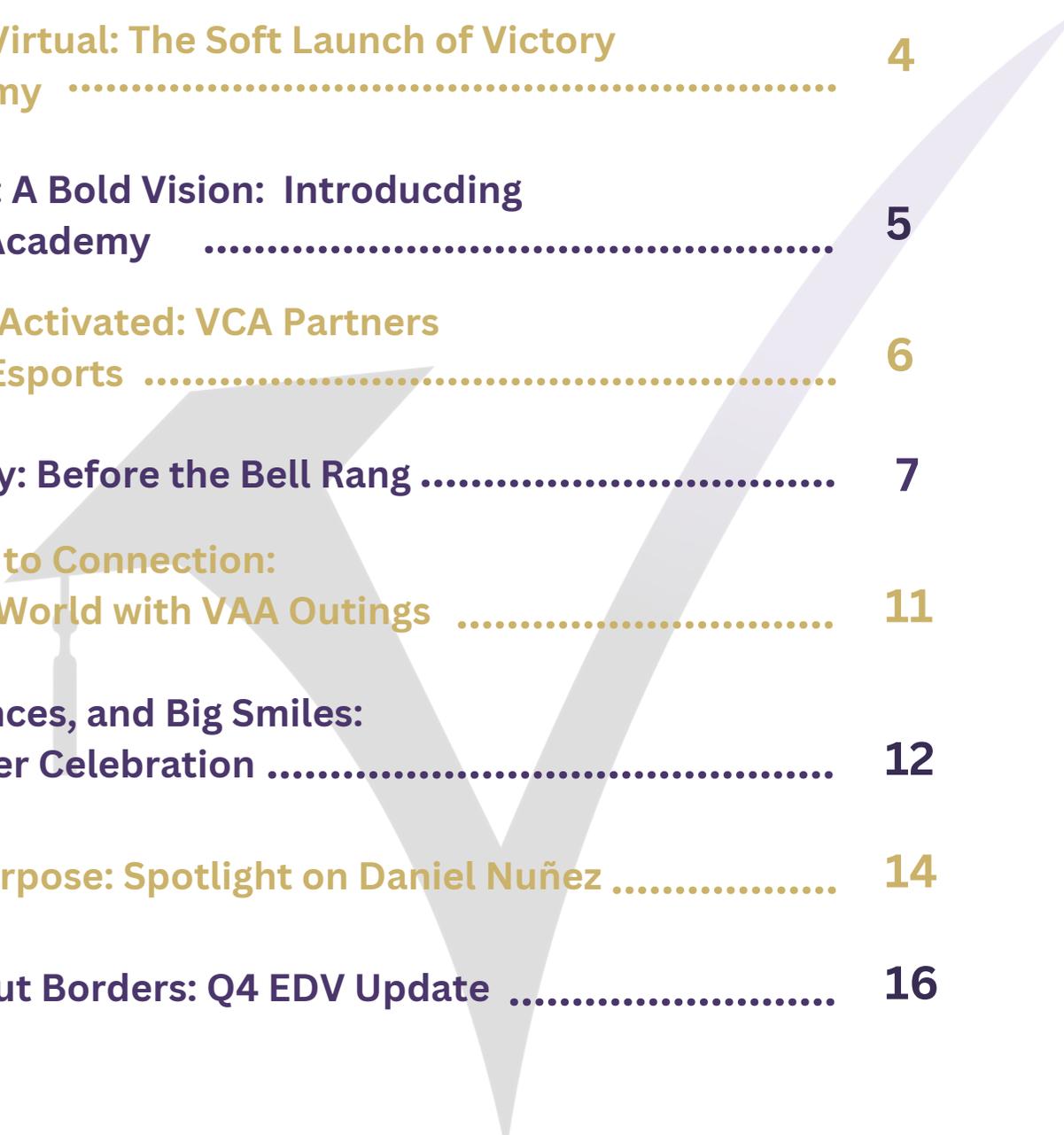
WHATEVER IT TAKES

NO EXCUSES

100% EVERYDAY

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BIG LEAGUE IMPACT: VAA AND GCU HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK FOR AUTISM

On a sunny afternoon at Grand Canyon University’s baseball field, the spirit of community and inclusion was on full display. Victory Autism Academy (VAA) and GCU partnered to host an unforgettable Autism Awareness Game—an event that blended fun, advocacy, and connection for families, students, and supporters alike. Well before the first pitch, the big lawn outside the stadium gates came to life with activity. VAA hosted a vibrant resource and activity fair, where families engaged in sensory-friendly games, hands-on crafts, and interactive play—all designed with the needs of neurodiverse children in mind. One of the highlights was the animal therapy farm, brought in by VAA to offer students calming, one-on-one moments with gentle animals. It was a thoughtful, therapeutic touch that reinforced the school’s deep understanding of its students' needs.

Adding to the inclusive atmosphere, GCU generously provided free pizza for all attendees—a gesture that underscored their commitment to creating a welcoming, family-focused experience. Children laughed and played while families connected, and a joyful energy filled the air.

As the game got underway, the crowd gathered to celebrate a powerful moment: Nick Schuerman, CEO of Victory Schools, took the mound to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. The applause wasn’t just for the pitch—it was a salute to a growing partnership rooted in purpose. Inside the stadium, VAA went a step further by creating a sensory-friendly room for families who needed a quiet space during the game. Designed to be calming, comfortable, and accessible, the room was a safe retreat and a symbol of what true inclusion looks like—meeting every family where they are. “Today was everything I wanted it to be—and then some,” said Schuerman. “It was about more than baseball. It was about creating a space where families feel seen, supported, and celebrated. We’re proud to partner with GCU in that mission.”





The impact of the event was also felt by GCU leadership, who were equally proud to be part of such a meaningful day. Jamie Boggs, Vice President of Athletics at GCU, shared:

"GCU and the Victory Schools are closely aligned in our commitment to serving the community and our mission to providing access to great education across the socio-economic spectrum. We are proud to partner with Victory Autism Academy to provide a fun and inclusive game day environment for this special community. There is no one more committed to serving the autism community the right way than Nick Schuerman, and we were honored to partner with him and the Victory Schools."

The afternoon showcased the power of collaboration between K–12 schools and higher education institutions. Through shared values and a student-first mindset, Victory Autism Academy and GCU created more than an event—they created a memory. One where kids felt free to be themselves, families felt connected, and awareness took center stage.

This game may be over, but its impact continues to ripple through the Victory community. One pitch, one booth, one family at a time—together, VAA and GCU truly hit it out of the park.



SPLASHTASTIC: A VICTORY SCHOOLS TRADITION



As the school year winds down and the Arizona sun heats up, there's one event every Victory student looks forward to with giddy anticipation: Splash Day.

Held during the final weeks of the school year, Splash Day has become a beloved tradition across all Victory Schools campuses. It's more than just water games—it's a celebration of hard work, growth, and community. It's a moment to pause and appreciate all that's been accomplished before saying goodbye for summer.

Each campus transforms into a water-filled wonderland featuring water balloon fights, slip 'n slides, kiddie pools, and large-scale inflatable slides that bring out pure joy in every student (and more than a few staff members). The laughter is contagious, the energy is high, and the smiles are everywhere. "Splash Day is one of those events that reminds us what it's all about," said Nick Schuerman, CEO of Victory Schools. "We push hard all year—academically, socially, emotionally. This is our way of celebrating kids being kids. They've earned it."

From the younger students experiencing their first Splash Day to the older ones savoring their last, the day is packed with fun, friendship, and unforgettable memories. Staff members join in the fun too—getting dunked, sprayed, or sometimes caught in the middle of a friendly balloon ambush.

But beneath all the water games is something deeper: connection. Events like Splash Day reinforce the strong relationships Victory students and staff build throughout the year. It's not just a party. It's a celebration of the culture Victory Schools works hard to create—one where students feel safe, supported, and celebrated every step of the way.

As another school year comes to a close, Splash Day remains a favorite tradition that wraps up the year with laughter, joy, and just the right amount of water.

Same tradition. Same joy. Victory style. Splashtastic, every single time.



VICTORY GOES VIRTUAL: THE SOFT LAUNCH OF VICTORY ONLINE ACADEMY

Victory Schools is excited to announce the soft launch of Victory Online Academy (VOA)—a grades 6–12 online school designed to be as dynamic, personalized, and student-focused as the Victory network itself. While the full launch of VOA is slated for the 2026–2027 school year, planning begins now—with vision, purpose, and a strategy that sets it apart from any other online model.

To help bring this bold vision to life, Victory has partnered with Grand Canyon University (GCU)—the nation’s largest online university, serving over 95,000 students worldwide. Together, Victory and GCU are collaborating to design and build a fully customized Learning Management System (LMS) that supports student growth, flexibility, and real-world success.

The 2025–2026 school year will be a year of deep planning, platform development, and pilot programs. “This is not just an online school—it’s a new way of doing school,” said Nick Schuerman, CEO of Victory Schools. “We are leveraging the strength of our entire network to create a program that offers flexibility, support, and connection like never before.”

What makes Victory Online Academy truly unique is its innovative hub model. All of Victory’s brick-and-mortar campuses will serve as VOA hubs, giving online students access to in-person one-on-one tutoring, mentoring, academic coaching, and critical wraparound services. Students enrolled in VOA will be able to receive therapy services, counseling, athletics, social-emotional support, and more—all tailored to their individual needs.

No other online school in Arizona is doing what Victory is doing: combining the flexibility of virtual learning with the strength, resources, and personal connection of a thriving school network.

“Victory Online Academy won’t be about students learning in isolation,” added Schuerman. “It will be about freedom with support, independence with connection, and choice with structure.”

Victory’s commitment to the whole child extends into the virtual space with VOA. Every decision in the design process is being made with student wellness, equity, and growth at the center. And with a full year of planning and collaboration with GCU, the launch of VOA promises to set a new standard for what online education can—and should—be.

Victory is going virtual. The model is innovative. The vision is bold. And the possibilities are limitless.

A NEW SCHOOL. A BOLD VISION.

INTRODUCING

VICTORY DEAF ACADEMY

Victory Schools is proud to announce the newest addition to our growing network of specialized campuses: Victory Deaf Academy, a school dedicated to serving Deaf and hard of hearing students with excellence, equity, and heart.

This isn't just the launch of a new school—it's the expansion of a bold vision. A vision rooted in the belief that all students, regardless of ability or circumstance, deserve access to a high-quality, individualized education. Victory Deaf Academy will open its doors in the 2025–2026 school year, continuing our mission to serve vulnerable and underserved populations with the respect, support, and high expectations they deserve.

Deaf and hard of hearing students are often overlooked in traditional education models. At Victory Schools, we see this as an opportunity—a calling—to step in and provide a place where every student is understood, empowered, and equipped to thrive.

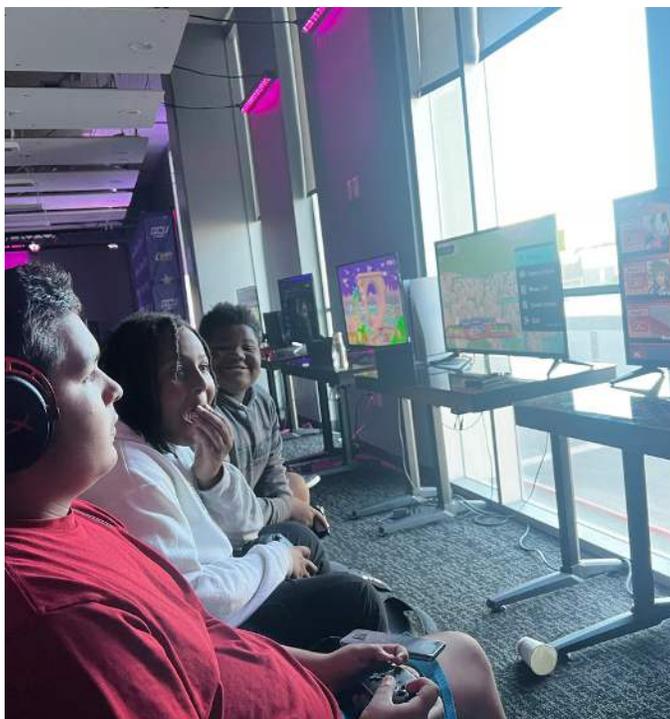
As outlined at victorydeafacademy.com, the school's model is built on a foundation of Connection, Community, and Confidence—guiding principles that shape everything from instructional design to student support systems. Victory Deaf Academy will focus on individualized instruction, strong Deaf cultural awareness, language accessibility, and holistic development in a supportive, inclusive environment.

“We're branching into this new space with purpose, and we couldn't be more thrilled,” said Nick Schuerman, CEO of Victory Schools. “Victory Deaf Academy is a natural extension of who we are—an organization that shows up for the students and families who need us most.”



VICTORY MODE ACTIVATED:

VCA PARTNERS WITH GCU FOR ESPORTS



In a world where education meets innovation, Victory Collegiate Academy (VCA) and Grand Canyon University (GCU) have teamed up to bring students a powerful new outlet—one that combines technology, mentorship, and community: Esports.

Through a unique partnership, GCU students and staff have opened their doors—and their hearts—to VCA’s students, launching an initiative that’s already transforming lives. Each week, GCU picks up VCA students and brings them to the university’s state-of-the-art Esports facility, where they spend the afternoon immersed in learning, competition, and connection. But this is about more than just gaming.

It’s about mentorship, structure, and opportunity. GCU students aren’t just introducing VCA kids to high-level competitive gaming—they’re teaching them strategy, communication, teamwork, and discipline. They’re modeling leadership and professionalism while creating an environment where students feel safe, challenged, and empowered.

For many VCA students, this partnership provides a structured, positive space to grow—an alternative to less productive paths, and a reminder that their potential is limitless. As CEO Nick Schuerman shared, “This partnership is more than just access to Esports. It’s about investing in students’ futures—keeping them engaged, focused, and surrounded by people who believe in them.”

The students haven’t just participated—they’ve completed. Thanks to GCU’s coaching and support, VCA has entered organized Esports competitions, learning to win—and lose—with grace, strategy, and pride. The growth in student confidence, responsibility, and motivation has been remarkable. Parents have taken notice. Teachers have seen the difference. And GCU has shown what it truly means to go beyond the classroom and into the community. This isn’t just a program. It’s a lifeline. A game-changer. A bold collaboration between a university and a charter school, both united in their mission to build up the next generation.

Victory Mode has officially been activated—and we’re just getting started.





OGS OF VICTORY: BEFORE THE BELL RANG

As Victory Schools celebrates eight incredible years and prepares to open its twelfth campus, we pause to honor the individuals who have been part of the journey since day one. These aren't just long-time employees—they're the Originals. The ones who believed in the vision before it was a reality. The ones who said yes when there was only one school—Victory Collegiate Academy (VCA)—and a dream.



Rubi Zubia: The Heart of the Campus

If you've been to Victory, chances are you've met Rubi. Officially, she's a paraprofessional. Unofficially, she's everything. Counselor. Secretary. Nurse. Best friend. Problem-solver. Trusted voice. "She's the go-to person that holds the heartbeat of the campus," one colleague shared. Rubi's compassion and consistency have been a steady force from day one. She's the kind of person who shows up—for students, for staff, and for anyone who needs her.

But her dedication goes beyond the school day. Before and after school, she's leading clubs, organizing events, and making sure kids have a safe and fun place to be. Whether she's comforting a student, answering phones, covering a class, or helping run a school-wide activity, Rubi simply does it all—and does it with heart.

"I stay with Victory because here, I'm valued. I've been allowed to grow, to lead, and to love these kids like they're my own. This is more than a job—it's a family." – Rubi Zubia

Raymond Blossom:

Raymond Blossom’s journey is the definition of growth. Starting as a PE teacher, he moved into counseling and eventually took on a network-wide role as Director of Transportation and Athletics. But despite all the titles he’s earned, he never walked away from his first love—coaching.

Raymond has remained a hands-on coach through it all. This year alone, he helped launch Victory Schools’ first-ever tackle football team at Victory Futures Academy and currently serves as head coach for the middle school boys’ basketball team. Whether he’s managing bus routes or drawing up game plans, Raymond is the definition of dedication. His ability to lead with calm strength and serve wherever needed has made him a rock of reliability in the Victory family. “Victory gave me space to evolve. I’ve had the freedom to explore my strengths and find where I can make the biggest impact. That kind of trust is rare—and I’m grateful for it every day.” – Raymond Blossom



Krystal Lowe: The Visionary Heartbeat of VAA

Krystal Lowe’s story is one of vision, resilience, and a whole lot of grit. From her beginnings as a special education teacher to becoming a director, an assistant principal, and ultimately Deputy CEO of Victory Schools, her impact has been massive. But it’s her role as co-founder of all five Victory Autism Academy campuses that defines her legacy. Her fingerprints are on every classroom, every family event, every policy that puts students first.

Krystal is the heartbeat of the VAA network, and anyone who has worked with her knows the truth—her work ethic is unmatched. Her days (and nights) are filled with meetings, mentorship, decisions, and support. She pours in endless hours, not for recognition, but for the students and families who need her most. Her belief in the mission runs deep, and her leadership has helped shape what Victory Schools stands for today.

“I’ve stayed because the mission has never wavered—kids first, always. I’ve been trusted to help build something that truly changes lives. That kind of work fills your heart and fuels your soul.” – Krystal Lowe



And At the Helm Since Day One...

Of course, none of it would have happened without the vision and relentless drive of Nick Schuerman, the founder and CEO of Victory Schools. As the original leader of Victory Collegiate Academy, Nick has remained at the helm from day one—guiding the organization through exponential growth with a clear mission, unwavering passion, and bold leadership.

But Nick doesn't lead from behind a desk. He coaches sports, attends events, visits campuses, and gets in the trenches right alongside his team. He leads by doing—showing up early, staying late, and modeling what it means to live the mission.

Because of the foundation laid at VCA, the Victory network has now grown to 12 campuses—and continues to expand. Through every success and every challenge, Nick has remained deeply rooted in the values that started it all. "I didn't do it alone. We did it together—from the ground up. I'm proud of what we've built, and even prouder of who I've built it with. You can't be great without the greatness of others—and Rubi, Raymond, and Krystal are more than great." – Nick Schuerman

As Victory Schools moves into its next chapter, it does so with the same heart it started with—thanks to the unwavering presence of the OGs of Victory, who were there before the bell rang... and never stopped showing up since.





FROM CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY: MAKING CONNECTIONS AND TRANSFERRING SKILLS WITH VAA OUTINGS



At Victory Autism Academy (VAA), learning doesn't stop at the classroom door—in fact, that's where some of the most powerful lessons begin. Through carefully planned community outings, VAA students take what they learn in class and apply it to the real world, building essential life skills, confidence, and independence with every experience.

These outings are more than just field trips. They're intentional opportunities for Victory Autism Academy students to practice communication, social interaction, and daily living skills in real-time environments. Whether it's ordering food at a restaurant, navigating a grocery store, or enjoying unstructured time at a local park, every outing is a chance to transfer skills from campus to community.

“Outings are where everything comes together,” said Krystal Lowe, Victory Schools Deputy CEO. “We see students take what they've been working on—eye contact, communication, money skills—and use it naturally. That kind of growth is life-changing.”

Each experience is designed to target a variety of learning goals. At the grocery store, VAA students practice **money literacy**—learning to budget, make purchasing decisions, and interact with cashiers appropriately. At restaurants, they **order their own meals**, using full sentences and polite language, while working on patience and flexibility. Trips to places like **Uptown Jungle** or local parks provide opportunities for **peer interaction, turn-taking, and unstructured social play**

Even seemingly simple outings are packed with purpose. Every hello, every exchange of money, every choice made by the student is a step toward self-sufficiency and confidence. For families, these outings mean more than progress—they mean possibility. They show what their child can do, not just in school, but in life. And for the students, they mean joy. They mean pride. They mean connection.

“At VAA and all of our schools, we don't just teach students how to thrive in school—we prepare them to thrive in the world,” said Nick Schuerman, CEO of Victory Schools. “These community experiences are an essential part of that mission.”

Victory Autism Academy's commitment to whole-child development extends far beyond academics. Through thoughtful, consistent, and meaningful outings, VAA is helping students build the life skills that matter most—confidence, independence, and real-world readiness.

Because at VAA, we're not just preparing students for the classroom—we're preparing them for life.

BUNNIES, BOUNCES, AND BIG SMILES: VICTORY'S EASTER CELEBRATION



Victory Schools believes in learning, laughter, and building memories—and this spring, our District Office turned into a wonderland of joy for our youngest learners. With only a few weeks left in the school year, every kindergartener across Victory Schools was invited to celebrate the season at our district-wide Easter Bash, and it was nothing short of magical.

From the moment students arrived, the excitement was contagious. Colorful bounce houses lined the lawn, filling the air with laughter and squeals of delight as kids jumped, raced, and played with classmates from across the network. For many, it was their first time at the District Office—turning what might have felt like a big administrative building into a place of celebration, color, and connection.



The highlight of the day?
An epic egg hunt, of course!
Students dashed across the grounds with baskets in hand, hunting for brightly colored eggs tucked behind trees, under slides, and even hiding in plain sight. Each egg was filled with surprises, and every student left with a bag full of goodies and a heart full of joy.

But no Easter celebration would be complete without a special guest—and the Easter Bunny delivered!

From hugs and high-fives to photos and dance moves, the Easter Bunny made every student feel seen and celebrated. The smiles were endless, and the memories created will last well beyond springtime.



Behind the scenes, our District Office team pulled off something special—an event that brought together students from all campuses and reminded us all what Victory is truly about: creating moments that matter. It took planning, teamwork, and dedication from every staff member involved. And the result? A day filled with fun, connection, and community spirit.



“At Victory, we believe in celebrating the whole child—academics, relationships, joy, and belonging,” said Nick Schuerman, CEO of Victory Schools. “Events like this one are just as important as test scores. They show our kids they’re part of something bigger. And they deserve every bit of it.”

With the sun shining, music playing, and over a hundred kindergarteners beaming from ear to ear, the Victory Easter Bash was everything we hoped it would be—and then some.

Bunnies. Bounces. Big smiles. Just another day at Victory.

PARA WITH A PURPOSE: SPOTLIGHT ON **DANIEL NUÑEZ**



Meet Daniel Nuñez—a man whose journey is defined by resilience, faith, and a deep desire to serve others. At 44 years old, Daniel is currently making a difference every day as a paraprofessional at Victory Collegiate Academy (VCA), while simultaneously pursuing his Master’s in Social Work. But his path here wasn’t easy—and his story is a testament to perseverance and purpose.

Originally from Fresno, California, Daniel began his higher education journey at a local community college. But in 2019, he felt called to something greater. With no family or support system waiting for him, he moved to Phoenix, Arizona, driven by a desire to grow both personally and professionally. That same year, he enrolled at Grand Canyon University (GCU), choosing it for its Christian values and the welcoming community he immediately felt part of.

“Everyone was just so nice and willing to help,” Daniel recalls. “It felt like the right place to be.” To make ends meet and stay afloat during his studies, Daniel worked on campus at GCU while pursuing his Bachelor’s in Sociology and Social Work. He graduated in 2022—an accomplishment built on sheer determination, long hours, and an unwavering commitment to his goals.

Today, as he works toward his Master of Social Work—anticipated in January 2026—Daniel is completing his graduate internship at VCA, the same campus where he supports students daily as a paraprofessional. But his commitment to the school community goes far beyond his job description.

Daniel volunteers his time to pick up and drop off students, ensuring they can attend school and participate in extracurricular activities. He's often found speaking proudly about the great things happening at VCA, helping spread the word and boost enrollment. Whenever he's able to snag a few free tickets, he takes students to GCU events—opening their eyes to the possibilities of higher education.

As a mentor and guide for middle and high school students, Daniel leads with compassion and purpose. He recently took two students to a local store to purchase items and donate them to a nearby shelter, modeling the importance of giving back. He also took a group of incoming high schoolers to the Refocus Center, where they explored how to stay organized and engaged over the summer, all while connecting with a positive social outlet.



Daniel is always going above and beyond. He lives and breathes the Victory Schools core values—We are a TEAM, We will WIN, We do WHATEVER IT TAKES, We have NO EXCUSES, We give 100 PERCENT EVERY DAY!

He embodies VCA's Whole Child approach, ensuring that students feel supported not just academically, but emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

Victory Schools is proud to spotlight Daniel Nuñez as a true Para with a Purpose—a reminder that with heart, humility, and a commitment to service, one person really can make a lasting impact.

VICTORY WITHOUT BORDERS: Q4 EDV UPDATE

At Escuela De Victoria, every milestone is a victory worth celebrating. This quarter, we're shining a spotlight on the incredible progress of several students who exemplify the spirit of perseverance, resilience, and growth that defines our school community.

K-3 Classroom Highlights Luis Alcantar, Age 6

Just a few short months ago, mornings were difficult for Luis and his family. Transitions to school were filled with frustration and tears. Luis would hit and kick, refusing to leave the car. But in January, something shifted. For the first time, he started walking into school with a smile, grabbing his backpack independently, and leaving his mom with peace of mind. Luis, a verbal and independent student, has made remarkable gains in social interaction and classroom participation. He now completes full learning rotations at the teacher's desk and is learning how to connect with his classmates. His growth stands as a testament to the power of consistency, care, and communication.



Daniela López, Age 10

When Daniela first joined EDV, she barely spoke, didn't engage with peers, and isolated herself in the classroom. Mealtimes and play were a challenge, and the only activity that brought her comfort was using the tablet during technology rotations.

Then came a breakthrough. While doing homework one weekend, Daniela suddenly began counting numbers aloud—an exciting moment that brought joy to her family and teachers. Through ongoing support, Daniela has made incredible strides: she now communicates more, enjoys learning, and thanks to occupational therapy, has developed enough fine motor strength to draw and paint with confidence.

Class 4–8 Transformations

Diego Aguirre, Age 7

Diego came to EDV as a quiet observer—nonverbal, disconnected, and often wandering the classroom without engagement or interaction. Doctors once told his family that communication might never be possible for him.

But Diego has rewritten that narrative.

In January, he began identifying letters and learning how to use a communication board. He can now point to his name and numbers, and more importantly, he is smiling, playing with friends, and attempting to speak. These milestones mark a powerful shift in both his academic and social journey—and offer a glimpse of what’s to come.



These are just a few of the many success stories happening every day at Escuela De Victoria. Each student brings a unique story of growth, and with continued dedication from our educators and families, we’re proud to witness lives transforming in real time.



THE VICTORY VOICE



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