

THE VICTORY VOICE

WHERE EVERY STUDENT'S
SUCCESS IS HEARD


Welcome
Victory Schools Team

VICTORY



SUMMER EDITION



#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

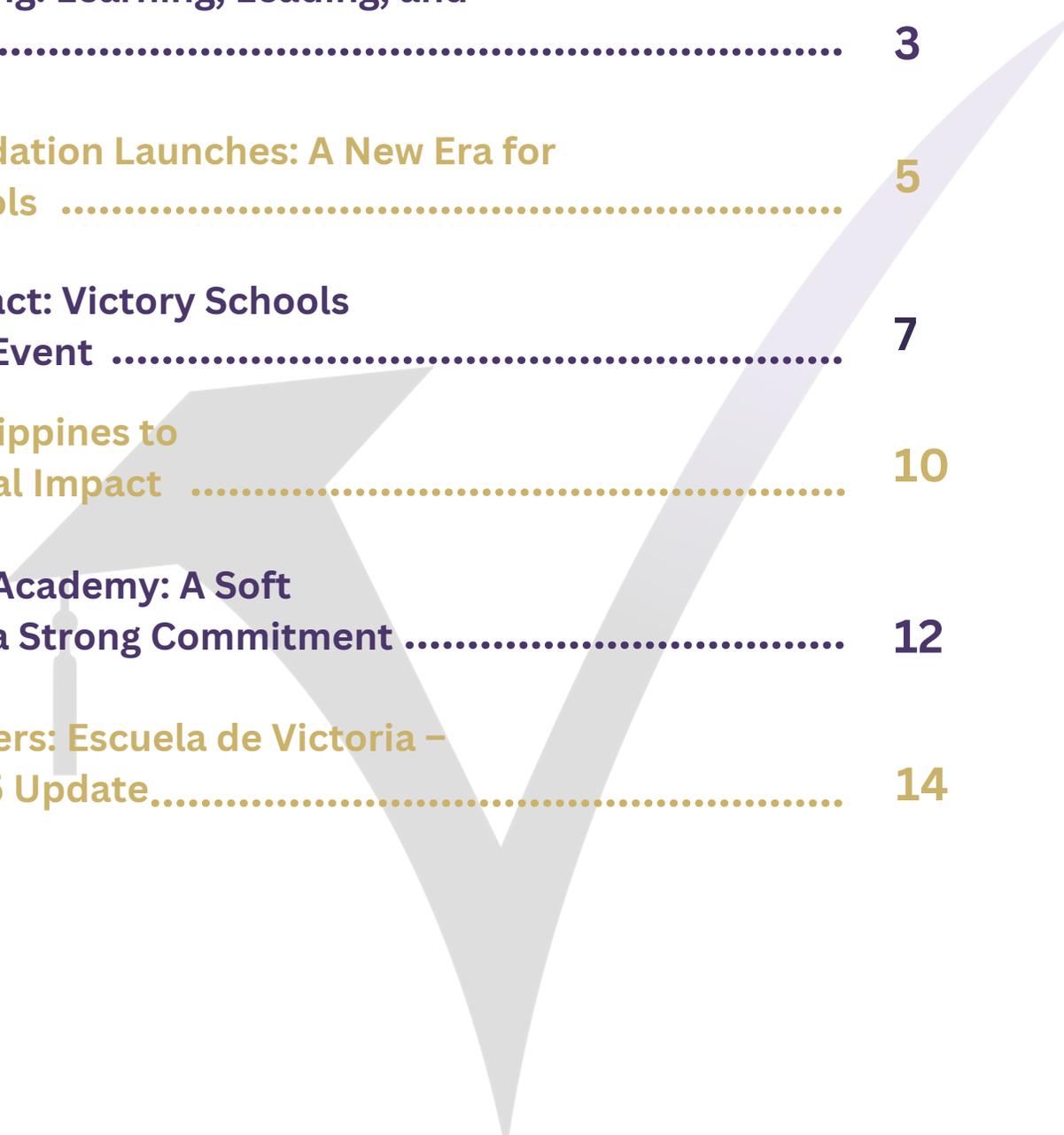
WHATEVER IT TAKES

NO EXCUSES

100% EVERYDAY

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GRIT. GRACE. GLORY.

HOW GCU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BROUGHT LEADERSHIP AND LOVE TO TWO POWERFUL GIRLS' CAMPS

On a scorching Saturday in Phoenix, while most college students called in sick to the heat or slept in, the Grand Canyon University Women's Basketball team chose to rise. They served not just one, but two basketball camps hosted by Victory Schools—one for Victory Collegiate Academy, a public charter school for vulnerable and at-risk students, and another for Victory Autism Academy, tailored like a Special Olympics-style camp for girls with autism. Their mission—teach, mentor, empower—came with a deeper purpose. What unfolded wasn't merely drills and layups; it was a vivid expression of GCU's "Grace. Grit. Glory." initiative, a bold new campaign from GCU Women's Athletics that proudly declares: "women athletes have humility and grace, compete fiercely with grit, and play for the glory of God".

GRIT IN ACTION

At VCA's camp, GCU players channeled fun intensity—running stations, pushing through game-like drills, and modeling the perseverance that "grit" embodies. "Grit is about showing up and giving your all, even when no one's watching," a player reflected—and the young campers responded in kind, sweat and smiles included.

Meanwhile, at the autism camp, grit revealed itself through patience, calm repetition, and unwavering support. Each made basket, each encouragement, punctuated the unique resilience these girls showed—reinforcing grit in all its forms.





LEADING WITH GRACE

Grace wasn't just a quiet virtue; it was the heart of every interaction. Whether tying a laced shoe, offering a reassuring high-five, or bending low to listen to a camper's story, the GCU Women's Basketball Players led with empathy and kindness—the very essence of the "grace" GCU celebrates.

On one court, grace looked like loud applause for a first layup; on the other, like gentle reassurance when frustration faced a missed shot. In every moment, the campers were seen, supported, and genuinely cherished.

A GLIMPSE OF GLORY

Then came the glory—the intangible but indelible moments. At VCA, it was the proud beam after mastering a drill. At VAA, it was the joyous laugh or wide-eyed smile that lit the room. This glory, GCU reminds us, isn't about spotlight or stats—it's about bringing "the glory of God," built on humility and connection. That's exactly what happened: campers felt seen, valued, and capable—opening doors to possibility.

MORE THAN A GAME

This day wasn't just basketball; it was a reflection of GCU's aspirational drive to "be the premier university for women's sports" a mission lived out through servant-leadership, character, and community. The GCU women didn't just run drills—they planted seeds of confidence, belonging, and hope in girls who needed it most.

"Nick Schuerman is transforming lives through the Victory Schools and we are so thankful for the opportunity he has given our women's basketball team to serve and connect with his students. Our student-athletes have a heart to serve and make a positive impact but always leave feeling impacted by the amazing Victory Schools community."

When grit meets grace, glory is shared, and real impact happens. That's GCU's promise and a championship worth celebrating.

SUMMER STRONG: LEARNING, LEADING, AND LEVELING UP

HOW VICTORY SCHOOLS TURNED SIX WEEKS INTO A SEASON OF GROWTH, GRIT, AND GREATNESS



While many schools go quiet in the summer, Victory Schools became alive.

Across every single campus in the Victory Schools network, classrooms stayed open, teachers stayed energized, and students showed up—ready to learn, grow, and lead. For six powerful weeks, hundreds of students participated in Victory’s network-wide Summer Program. A comprehensive effort that blended academics, character education, social-emotional learning, and real-life skills into something far greater than your average summer school.

This wasn’t just a way to fill the calendar—it was a mission-driven commitment to invest deeply in students, especially those who need it most.

A VICTORY VISION FOR SUMMER

Victory’s summer program wasn’t one-size-fits-all. It was uniquely tailored at each campus to meet the needs of its community—whether serving at-risk students, neurodivergent learners, or those in underserved neighborhoods.

Yet across all sites, the foundation remained the same:

- Academic Excellence – Students received small-group instruction in literacy, math, and writing, closing gaps and getting ahead before the next school year even begins.
- Character Education – Every day reinforced core values like responsibility, teamwork, resilience, and kindness—building not just smarter students, but stronger people.
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) – Through circles, check-ins, and structured conversations, students learned how to manage emotions, solve conflicts, and build healthy relationships.

Life Skills – From cooking and budgeting to collaboration and leadership, kids gained practical tools for success inside and outside the classroom.

SUMMER STRONG: LEARNING, LEADING, AND LEVELING UP

STUDENTS WHO SHOWED UP AND SHINED

Attendance across the Victory network wasn't just consistent—it was enthusiastic. Kids showed up with energy. Families expressed gratitude, and staff reported breakthroughs both academically and emotionally. In classrooms filled with laughter, determination, and discovery, something powerful happened: students wanted to be there.

They found mentors, made friends, and tried hard things. Students walked away more confident, more capable, and more ready to take on the school year ahead.

WHY IT MATTERED

Victory Schools serve students who often face more challenges than most—poverty, trauma, learning differences, or language barriers. That's why summer can't be a break from learning; it must be a bridge.

This six-week investment wasn't a bonus. It was a lifeline. It was the kind of deep, sustained support that changes trajectories—not just for a year, but for a lifetime.

A NETWORK UNITED

From Goodyear to Queen Creek, from Maryvale to Anthem, and every other city we are in, Victory schools answered the call. Principals, teachers, aides, therapists, and office staff came together in a unified effort to give students their very best—even in the heat of summer.

It was a testament to the power of teamwork, shared purpose, believing that every week counts—especially these six.

This was more than summer school.

It was momentum.

It was mentorship.

It was Victory—in every sense of the word.



VICTORY FOUNDATION LAUNCHES: A NEW ERA FOR VICTORY SCHOOLS:

EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH PURPOSE, PARTNERSHIPS & PROMISE

In a defining milestone for Victory Schools, the network has officially launched the Victory Foundation—a bold new chapter in its commitment to students, families, and communities. This launch isn't just symbolic; it marks the first time in the organization's history that a Director of Development has been appointed to lead a dedicated fundraising arm focused on transforming lives through strategic impact.

A MISSION WITH A MAP: THE SIX-POINT IMPACT PLAN

At the heart of the Foundation's vision is a clear, focused framework: the Six-Point Impact Plan. Created to elevate and extend the reach of Victory's work, the plan outlines six key areas of philanthropic focus:

- **Beyond Borders** – Escuela de Victoria, Victory's special needs school in Puerto Peñasco fully funded by Victory Schools, is transforming lives in a region long devoid of services—empowering students to thrive and sparking a ripple effect of hope and opportunity for entire families.
- **The Angel Program** – Victory Schools' Angel Program is transforming lives by pairing students facing poverty and trauma with supportive donors, while also empowering entire families through education, care, and opportunity.
- **Above and Beyond** – The Above and Beyond Fund enables Victory Schools to respond immediately and compassionately to urgent family crises—offering direct support for everything from housing and medical emergencies to travel and basic needs, embodying the spirit of a school that operates like a family.
- **Leveling the Playing Field** – Victory's athletic initiative where students can access the life-changing benefits of sports by covering costs like gear, fees, travel, and nutrition, creating opportunity, confidence, and inclusion both on and off the field.
- **Beyond the Tassel** – Victory's scholarship and transition fund that provides up to \$10,000 per student to break financial barriers after graduation—covering college, trade school, or career costs so students can turn their diplomas into real opportunities.
- **Seen and Heard** – Victory's commitment to Deaf education—providing the staff, technology, and culturally rich environment needed to ensure Deaf and hard of hearing students are not only accommodated, but fully empowered to thrive and lead.

The plan ensures donors and partners know exactly how their dollars are driving real impact—every day, in every setting.

INTRODUCING BOB SCHUMACHER: LEADING WITH HEART

Victory Schools didn't look far for the right person to lead this movement. Bob Schumacher, who has served the last three years as Principal of Victory Autism Academy in Goodyear, has officially stepped into the role of Director of Development for the Victory Foundation. Bob is more than qualified—he's the embodiment of the mission. His leadership has been marked by passion, humility, deep compassion, and unwavering commitment to the students who need it most. Bob knows the families. He's walked the halls. He's been there for the wins and the heartbreaks. And he understands exactly what it takes to lift communities through purpose-driven education and support. He brings with him not just the skills to raise funds—but the relationships, credibility, and heart to raise belief.



WHY IT MATTERS

Victory Schools exists to serve students who face significant barriers—poverty, trauma, learning differences, lack of access—and turn those barriers into bridges. The Foundation now provides the resources and structure to support that mission in even greater ways.

This is about creating sustainable change:

- ✓ More wraparound services for families
- ✓ More enrichment and afterschool programs
- ✓ More scholarships and opportunities
- ✓ More lives impacted

With Bob at the helm and the Six-Point Plan as the guide, the Foundation is poised to scale impact faster and farther than ever before.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Explore the Mission: Visit victoryfoundationforthekids.com to learn about the Six-Point Plan and how you can help.
- Meet Bob: Connect with our new Director of Development to hear our vision and get involved at: rschumacher@victoryschoolsaz.com or by phone at 602-345-0219.
- Join the Movement: Every gift—big or small—goes toward making life-changing moments possible for students across the Victory network.

The Victory Foundation is more than a nonprofit. It's a promise, a platform, and the belief every child deserves a champion.

A DAY OF IMPACT: VICTORY SCHOOLS UNITES 400+ STAFF TO KICK OFF THE 2025–26 SCHOOL YEAR

INSPIRATION, CELEBRATION, AND THE POWER OF PURPOSE

On July 23, 2025, the Global Credit Union Arena at Grand Canyon University wasn't just filled—it was alive. More than 400 Victory Schools employees gathered for a landmark event: the first-ever Victory Schools Day of Impact. Part back-to-school kickoff, part inspirational summit, and part joyful celebration—it was a day built to uplift, encourage, and remind every staff member why their role matters.

From stirring keynote speeches to unforgettable student showcases, the message rang loud and clear: What you do changes lives. What you do creates impact.



A STAGE OF VISIONARY VOICES

The day featured two powerhouse keynote speakers from GCU, both deeply aligned with Victory Schools' mission:

- Brian Mueller, President of Grand Canyon University, opened the day with a powerful reflection on what it means to be a servant-leader in education—and how high expectations combined with high support can transform entire communities.
- Dr. Meredith Critchfield, Dean of the College of Education at GCU, delivered a passionate and practical message about leading with empathy, excellence, and authenticity. Her words left the room charged with a renewed sense of purpose.

Victory CEO Nick Schuerman followed with a passionate address titled “IMPACT”—reminding the crowd that every action, every word, every role, every day holds the power to shape a child’s life. His rally cry was clear: If you’re part of Victory, you’re part of something bigger than yourself.

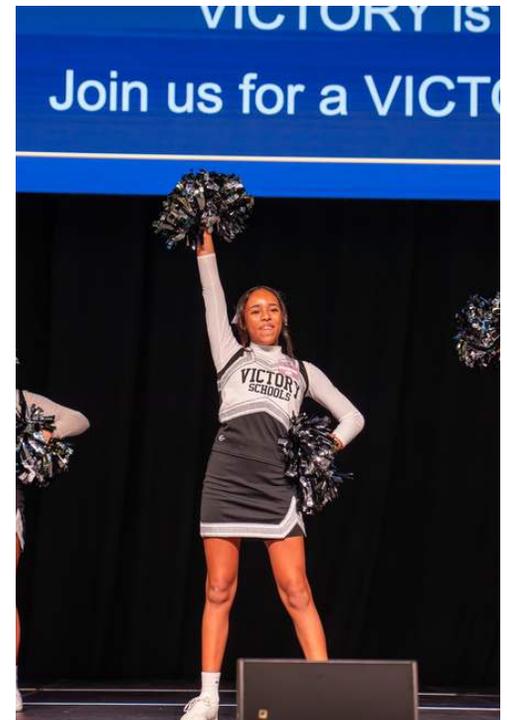
A DAY OF IMPACT: VICTORY SCHOOLS UNITES 400+ STAFF TO KICK OFF THE 2025–26 SCHOOL YEAR

INSPIRATION, CELEBRATION, AND THE POWER OF PURPOSE

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS: THE HEART OF THE DAY

The event wasn't just about adult inspiration—it was also a showcase of Victory's incredible students:

- The Victory Collegiate Academy middle school boys' basketball team saw their state championship rings in front of all victory staff—highlighting a season of excellence, hard work, and heart.
- The Victory Collegiate Academy cheerleaders brought the arena to life with two high-energy routines, showcasing both school spirit and student leadership.
- A deeply moving moment came when students from Victory Autism Academy were honored for their outstanding success at the Special Olympics, several of whom earned gold medals. The crowd rose to its feet in applause, visibly moved by their strength and determination.
- In a beautiful expression of global community, Victory's large cohort of Filipino teachers shared a vibrant display of cultural pride through traditional dances performed on stage. It was a moment of unity, joy, and celebration of the diverse talent that makes Victory special.



A DAY OF IMPACT: VICTORY SCHOOLS UNITES 400+ STAFF TO KICK OFF THE 2025–26 SCHOOL YEAR

INSPIRATION, CELEBRATION, AND THE POWER OF PURPOSE



WISDOM FROM THOSE WHO'VE WALKED THE WALK

Breakout sessions featured guest speakers who brought a combined century of leadership and experience in education:

- **Dennis Schuerman**, a retired principal—and father of Victory’s CEO—spoke about legacy, mission, and the lifelong ripple effect of a committed educator.
- **Harry Amend**, a seasoned and well-respected retired superintendent, offered reflections on staying grounded in values and adapting to the needs of high-risk student populations.
- **Tim Boykin**, founder and CEO of Scholars Academy, challenged Victory staff to think innovatively and lead courageously in schools that serve the underserved.

Each session echoed the same truth: Impact is not reserved for the few—it belongs to all of us.

THE LAUNCH OF A POWERFUL YEAR

The Victory Schools Day of Impact wasn’t just an event—it was a launchpad for the entire 2025–2026 school year.

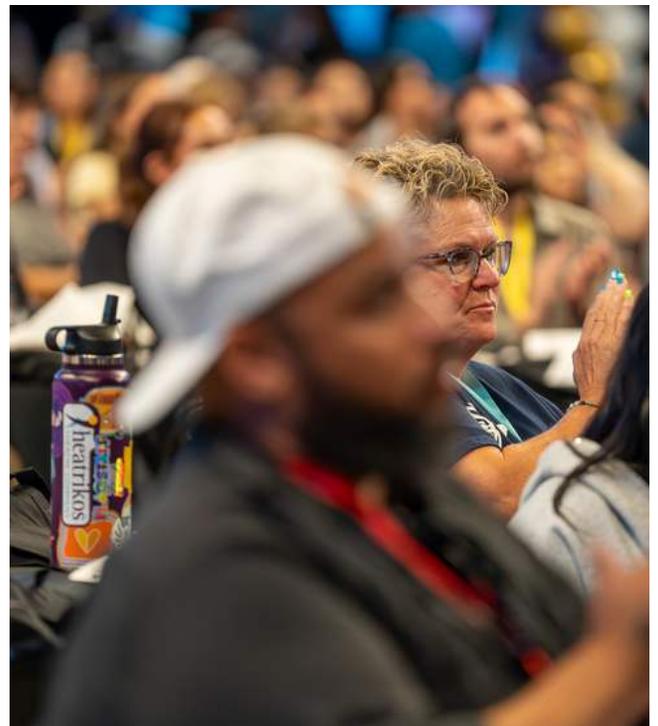
It was a day of:

- Inspiration – reminding staff why they chose this work.
- Celebration – honoring the victories that already define Victory Schools.
- Unity – bringing together every campus, every role, every person under one shared purpose.

As employees returned to their schools across the Valley, they did so not just with schedules and supplies—but with conviction. They left knowing they belong to a team, a mission, and a movement.

The Day of Impact may be over, but the year of impact has only just begun.

Victory is not just our name—it’s our culture, our calling, and our commitment. Let’s go make an impact each and every day.



FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO VICTORY, GLOBAL IMPACT



At Victory Schools, excellence doesn't happen by chance—it's built by people who believe deeply in the mission. Few groups embody that more than our growing team of Filipino teachers.

Today, 25 educators from the Philippines proudly serve across our network—bringing not just talent and professionalism, but an unmatched level of work ethic, passion, and heart. Their presence has become a cornerstone of our culture, and their impact can be felt in every classroom, every hallway, and every child they reach.

WISDOM FROM THOSE WHO'VE WALKED THE WALK

This remarkable journey began with one teacher, Ms. Tess, who joined Victory Schools several years ago and quickly became a force for good. Not only did she excel in her own role, but she also became a mentor, guide, and advocate for others.

Ms. Tess has played a pivotal role in recruiting, supporting, and leading Victory's international teacher program. From navigating the challenges of relocation to organizing professional development and building systems of support, Tess has poured in countless hours, days, and late nights to ensure that every teacher arriving from the Philippines is set up for success.

Simply put: Ms. Tess is the heart behind the movement.



THE HARDEST-WORKING EDUCATORS IN THE BUILDING

There's a phrase echoed across Victory campuses when someone asks about our Filipino teachers: "They work harder than anyone."

It's not just a compliment—it's the truth. These educators consistently go above and beyond. They stay late, show up early, volunteer for everything, and always bring a positive, joyful spirit to the work.

Their dedication isn't motivated by recognition. It comes from within—a deep love for teaching, an unwavering commitment to students, and a fierce pride in representing their country and their profession at the highest level.

WISDOM FROM THOSE WHO'VE WALKED THE WALK

While these educators came to Victory for opportunity, it's clear that Victory Schools has gained just as much from them.

- Our students benefit from new cultural perspectives, compassion-driven instruction, and role models of perseverance.
- Our staff benefit from colleagues who bring fresh insight, humility, and support.
- Our communities benefit from the beautiful cross-cultural exchange that reminds us we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

Perhaps most importantly, we're building global bridges—with love, respect, and shared purpose at the center.



WE LOVE HAVING THEM— AND THEY LOVE BEING HERE

Ask any one of our Filipino teachers how they feel about Victory, and you'll hear words like:

"Grateful." "Fulfilled." "At home."

They've become not just coworkers—but family. They show up at every event, every training, every celebration—and their presence makes us better. Their laughter, resilience, and humility have become part of the DNA of Victory Schools.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Victory Schools remains committed to growing and supporting this incredible team. With leaders like Ms. Tess continuing to mentor and lead, and a network that embraces their talent, we know this is just the beginning.

To Tess, and to every Filipino teacher at Victory—thank you.

Thank you for your heart.

Thank you for your hustle.

Thank you for choosing Victory. You are not just making a difference. **You are the difference!**





VICTORY DEAF ACADEMY:

A SOFT LAUNCH WITH A STRONG COMMITMENT

In true Victory fashion, when faced with a difficult decision, we chose the path that puts students first.

Earlier this summer, Victory Deaf Academy (VDA) was at risk of shutting down due to low enrollment. With just a small number of students confirmed, the financial and operational challenges of opening a standalone program were significant. However, after deep reflection, planning, and problem-solving, one thing became clear:

We couldn't walk away from the students and families who were counting on us.

That's why we've made the decision to move forward with a soft launch of Victory Deaf Academy for the 2025–2026 school year—and we're doing it in a way that ensures sustainability, quality, and support from day one.

A SCHOOL WITHIN A SCHOOL: LAUNCHING INSIDE VICTORY AUTISM ACADEMY - QUEEN CREEK

For its first year, Victory Deaf Academy will operate within the Victory Autism Academy campus in Queen Creek, utilizing a “school within a school” model. This approach allows us to deliver a high-quality, specialized program for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, while also being fiscally responsible and operationally strategic.

This model will not only help VDA thrive long-term—it gives our students immediate access to a rich network of shared resources.



Leveraging Strength: Shared Services, Powerful Support

By housing VDA within VAA–Queen Creek, we’re unlocking access to a host of supports already embedded in the campus, including:

- **Speech and Language Therapy**
- **Occupational Therapy**
- **Animal-Assisted Therapy**
- **Experienced Special Education Staff and Behavior Teams**
- **On-site Administrative and Operational Support**

This environment creates a foundation where **deaf students are not isolated, but included**, surrounded by professionals who understand diverse learning needs and are deeply committed to individualized student success.

The Heart Behind the Decision

This isn’t a temporary fix—it’s a thoughtful strategy. Our goal is to build VDA slowly, deliberately, and sustainably, so it can serve deaf students for years to come. And while the school will begin with a small group, our vision remains bold.

We believe every child deserves access to a high-quality education that reflects their identity, culture, and potential. Victory Deaf Academy is a vital part of that vision.

Learn More & Join Us

This year will be foundational. We’ll build trust with families, refine our model, and continue to recruit students and staff who believe in what we’re building.

To those who have stayed with us—thank you for your patience, your belief, and your commitment. Victory Deaf Academy may be launching small, but its purpose is mighty and the future is bright.

📍 For more information, visit victorydeafacademy.com.

Victory doesn’t always come in the biggest launch or loudest moment.

Sometimes, it comes in quiet resolve. In staying the course. In showing up for kids—even when it’s hard. This is Victory Deaf Academy, and we’re just getting started.





BEYOND BORDERS

AN UPDATE FROM ESCUELA DE VICTORIA – SUMMER 2025

At Escuela de Victoria in Puerto Peñasco, love is spoken in many ways—through smiles, sounds, signs, and small but powerful breakthroughs. This summer, we’re proud to share just a few of the many moments that continue to remind us why this school exists, and why your support matters.



Voices Emerging: Fernanda’s Story

Six-year-old Fernanda Mendez, who has autism, recently returned home from school and gave her mom the biggest surprise—a smile, eye contact, and the words “Mom” and later, “Dad.” For a family who has waited for signs of connection, these moments were nothing short of life-changing. Fernanda is now making greater efforts to communicate each day, and her family couldn’t be more grateful.

Love for Learning: Sofia’s Spark

Sofia Bujando, also six years old and living with microcephaly, has begun recognizing letters on her own, without prompting. Her curiosity and joy for learning are so strong that she becomes upset when the school day ends. Her love for school is proof of how deeply she feels the warmth, attention, and belief our teachers pour into each lesson.

Beyond the Classroom: Field Trips Spark Joy

This season, our students ventured into the community for their very first field trips. Classes 1 and 2 explored the local Aquarium, wide-eyed and full of questions. Meanwhile, our Life Skills class immersed themselves in the wonders of Prehistoric World, where learning and laughter went hand in hand. These outings not only enrich the academic experience, but also build confidence and wonder.



A Father's Gratitude

Eduardo Escalante, father of student Franco, recently shared a message with our team that moved us deeply: “The only thing left to say is thank you—with words that will never be enough to express all the feelings you have achieved in our families. The love and dedication that you put into each one of our children! The satisfaction we feel as parents, knowing that our children are in a safe place—a place full of love and understanding. Thank you for being the pillar of learning, for brightening their days. Thank you, Escuela de Victoria, for offering us another panorama for something that many of us thought was lost.”- Eduardo Escalante

Escuela de Victoria was born out of a belief that every child deserves a chance—regardless of ability, language, or location. These stories are reminders that we’re not just teaching; we’re restoring hope, dignity, and joy.





THE VICTORY VOICE



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