THE VICTORY VOICE

WHERE EVERY STUDENT'S SUCCESS IS HEARD



Q1 EDITION

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Forward Together: A Message from the CEO 1

Breaking Barriers: VDA Helps Shape the Future of Deaf-First AI 2

Starting Strong: Early Intervention, Lifelong Impact 3

Open for Business: Victory Cafés Serve Up Real-World Life Skills 4

Work Hard. Play Hard. At Victory, Play Is Part of the Plan 5

Victory Hooptown Academy Boys Basketball Claims Second Fall Championship 6

VCA Girls Volleyball Returns to the State Tournament 7

Raising the Bar: A Renewed Focus on Academic Excellence 8

VFA Varsity Athletics: Building the Future 9

Lopes Up. Victory Forward. The Victory Schools + GCU Partnership Continues to Grow 10

Building Skills. Bridging Teams. Serving Our Students. 13

TEN YEARS OF VISION. TEN YEARS OF GROWTH. ONE VICTORY.

As we begin our tenth year since the inception of Victory Collegiate Academy in 2017, I can't help but reflect on just how far we have come.
What started with one school, one vision, and a commitment to doing whatever it takes for kids has grown into something far greater than I could have imagined.

Today, Victory serves more than 1,600 students across our schools and programs. Our reach now extends across multiple communities, grade levels, educational models, and student populations, and even beyond the United States through our work in Mexico.

But the most important part of our growth isn't the number of schools we have opened or the number of students we serve. It is the lives behind those numbers.

Every Victory campus exists because we saw a need and believed we could do something about it. Whether we are serving students with autism and other exceptional needs, students in our general education schools, high school students preparing for their next chapter, or children and families in communities that have historically had fewer educational opportunities, our purpose remains the same: to provide essential and equitable educational opportunities so that ALL students have the opportunity to thrive and achieve life success.

Over the past decade, thousands of students, families, teachers, support staff, administrators, community partners, and supporters have become part of the Victory story. Each has played a role in building the organization we are today.

And we are not finished.



As proud as I am of what we have accomplished, I am even more excited about where we are going. We will continue to grow, innovate, take chances, challenge the status quo, and find new ways to serve students who need us. We will continue to believe that every child deserves an opportunity, and that when an opportunity doesn't exist, sometimes you have to create it.

Our tenth year is an opportunity to celebrate where we have been, but more importantly, it is an opportunity to look ahead.

To every member of the Victory family, thank you. Thank you for believing in our mission, for believing in our students, and for giving 100% every day.

Ten years ago, Victory was an idea.
Today, it is a community.
And I believe the best chapters of our story are still ahead of us.

Be Victorious. Be Courageous.

Nick Schuerman
Founder & CEO
Victory Schools

VICTORY DEAF ACADEMY HELPS SHAPE THE FUTURE OF DEAF FIRST AI



At Victory Deaf Academy, innovation starts with a simple question: how can we make communication more accessible for our students? This month, VDA is taking an exciting step toward answering it by working with GoVoBo, an artificial intelligence company focused on improving communication access for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

GoVoBo's technology goes beyond traditional captioning. It is being developed to better understand the many ways people communicate, including speech, sign language, gestures, visual cues, context, and Deaf-accented speech.

The work brings together research insights from Gallaudet University, one of the world's leading institutions in Deaf and hard-of-hearing education, and advanced speech and language technology from AppTek. Just as importantly, the technology is being developed and tested with direct input from Deaf and hard of hearing individuals, the very people who will use it.

Victory Deaf Academy now has an opportunity to contribute to that work. Members of the Victory team are in Washington, D.C., this month for GoVoBo training, learning about the technology and its potential applications for students. Later this month, the GoVoBo team will visit VDA to work alongside staff and students. This hands-on collaboration will let the school community experience emerging accessibility tools and provide real world feedback to help shape their continued development.

For Victory, this is about much more than trying new technology. It is about giving our students a seat at the table as the future of accessible communication is being built.

Technology should adapt to the way Deaf and hard of hearing individuals communicate, not require them to adapt to technology. That philosophy reflects a wider Victory belief: when traditional systems do not adequately meet students' needs, we look for better solutions.

At Victory Deaf Academy, we do not just want our students prepared for the future.
We want them to have a voice in shaping it.

> ***"Accessibility is about more than giving someone access to information. It's about creating opportunities for people to participate, communicate, and be understood in the way that works best for them." - VDA Staff Member***

A NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM EXPANDS SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and discover what is possible. For young children with special needs, timely, individualized support can help lay the groundwork for that journey.

Our Victory family in Mexico continues to grow. This year, our special needs school in Mexico expanded its services by opening a new preschool program designed specifically for young children with special needs.

The preschool years are a critical time for building communication, social-emotional, behavioral, motor, and early learning skills. Identifying needs and providing individualized support early can give children a stronger foundation as they enter their school years.

For families, the program also means access to support, resources, and a team that understands their child's unique needs from the very beginning.

Opening this preschool is another step in Victory's commitment to reaching children where they are, meeting their individual needs, and creating opportunities for every child to thrive, no matter where they live.

Sometimes, the biggest victories begin with our smallest learners.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS: VICTORY CAFÉS TURN EVERYDAY TASKS INTO REAL-WORLD SKILLS



At Victory Autism Academy campuses, the Victory Cafés are up and running, and quickly becoming favorites among students and staff. These student run cafés serve up more than snacks and drinks: they give students meaningful opportunities to practice independence, build confidence, and apply skills in real world settings.

The learning begins before the café opens. Students visit local stores to purchase products, practicing how to navigate the community, locate items, compare choices, interact with employees, handle money, and complete purchases. Back on campus, they help stock and organize inventory, prepare the café, take orders, interact with customers, handle transactions, and keep everything running.

Each step creates an opportunity to practice communication, social interaction, organization, teamwork, responsibility, money management, customer service, problem-solving, and independence. Students are not simply learning about these skills; they are putting them to work.

And perhaps the best part? The students love it, and our staff do, too.

The Victory Cafés are a great example of what happens when learning moves beyond a textbook and into everyday life. Students gain practice, responsibility, and experiences they can carry into future employment and greater independence.

> ***"I like being able to help with the café and serve people. It gives me a chance to practice what I'm learning and do things on my own." - a participating student***

WORK HARD. PLAY HARD.
AT VICTORY, PLAY IS PART OF THE PLAN



At Victory, we believe kids need to be kids. Whether students attend a general education school, an autism campus, or another specialized program, play is intentionally built into the school day. We believe students learn better, connect better, regulate better, and thrive when they have opportunities to move, explore, laugh, socialize, and simply have fun.
Play is not something we squeeze in when there is extra time. It is part of the plan, and this summer, Victory made a significant investment in play across our campuses.

At VAA Phoenix, we installed a new play field, and another play field is currently being installed at Queen Creek Middle/High School. New playgrounds and play structures were also added at our Sun City, Phoenix, Goodyear, and Queen Creek Middle/High School campuses.

We are happy to share that when Owen's Adventure closed, Victory had the opportunity to purchase one of its large indoor play structures. We jumped at the opportunity, relocated it, and installed it inside VAA GCU, creating an incredible indoor space where students can climb, move, explore, and play regardless of the weather outside. Coming soon...

Before students could climb aboard, members of the District Office team had to conduct a very serious and highly scientific safety inspection. In other words, the adults had to take it for a test drive first. We are happy to report that it passed, and the DO staff did not seem to mind the assignment.

Behind the fun is something we take seriously. Play supports physical development, communication, creativity, problem-solving, social skills, emotional regulation, friendships, and independence. For many students with special needs, thoughtfully designed opportunities for movement and play can be an especially important part of their development and school experience.

We ask a lot of our students. We challenge them academically, teach independence, build life skills, and prepare them for what comes next. Along the way, we also want them to have an incredible childhood and genuinely enjoy coming to school.

Across Victory, we will keep investing in classrooms, curriculum, technology, teachers, and yes, playgrounds, fields, and really big indoor play structures.

BECAUSE AROUND HERE, WE BELIEVE IN WORKING HARD.
AND WE DEFINITELY BELIEVE IN PLAYING HARD.

VICTORY HOOPTOWN ACADEMY BOYS BASKETBALL CLAIMS SECOND FALL CHAMPIONSHIP



The Victory Hooptown Academy Pronghorns are making their mark this fall, capturing their second competitive tournament championship of the season after battling through a highly competitive local weekend tournament.

With two tournament championships already this fall, the Pronghorns are building momentum and establishing a culture of hard work, competitiveness, and excellence on and off the court. The future of Victory Hooptown Academy basketball is looking bright.

Sophomore captain Andy Parra led the way in the championship game with an incredible 44-point performance, helping secure the title. His leadership and competitive drive have been important parts of the team's success this season. General Manager and Head Coach Adam Morales said: ***"We have been extremely purposeful and intentional this off-season, working on our weaknesses, pushing our strengths, and building a championship culture that goes beyond the game of basketball and into the game of life. It has been an honor serving these young men, and we are laser-focused and dialed into preparing for this upcoming season".***

VCA GIRLS VOLLEYBALL RETURNS TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT



Victory Collegiate Academy Girls Volleyball has earned a place in the CAA Junior High Division 1 State Playoff Tournament for the second consecutive year, a milestone that reflects the program's continued growth.

The Knights entered the tournament with a better record and higher seeding than the previous season. Although they fell in the opening round, the team competed at a higher level and showed significant progress throughout the season. Along the way, the players continued building a culture centered on hard work, commitment, teamwork, and camaraderie.

Leading the Knights is Coach Iman Isom, VCA Middle School Math Teacher, former collegiate volleyball player, and experienced volleyball coach. Coach Isom expressed tremendous pride in the team's growth, work ethic, impact, and the relationships the players built with one another throughout the season.

With back to back state tournament appearances, talented student athletes, and dedicated coaching, the future of VCA Girls Volleyball is bright. The Knights are building something special, and this is only the beginning.





RAISING THE BAR: A RENEWED FOCUS ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Strong schools are built on strong instruction. Across Victory's general education campuses, teams are placing renewed and intentional focus on student learning, instructional quality, and meaningful academic growth.

Over the past several months, schools have been strengthening the core systems that support teaching and learning. More effective assessment tools, rigorous instructional resources, and clearer evaluation practices are helping teachers and leaders better understand what students know, what they need, and how to accelerate their progress.

Just as important, school leadership teams are embracing a mindset centered on instructional impact and student results. Principals and teachers are raising expectations, examining evidence, responding to student needs, and working together to make every minute of instruction count.

This work depends on the educators who bring that commitment into their classrooms every day. A huge thank-you to Victory's principals and teachers for embracing the challenge, elevating expectations, and keeping the focus where it belongs: on teaching, learning, and academic success. The work is happening. The bar is rising. And our students are worth it.

"Students bring so much more to school than their academic abilities. When we help them build confidence, develop relationships, and navigate challenges, we're giving them tools they can use in the classroom and throughout their lives." - School Admin

VFA VARSITY ATHLETICS: BUILDING THE FUTURE



This season marked two exciting firsts for Victory Futures Academy: the launch of the school's inaugural Varsity Girls Volleyball Team and inaugural Varsity Boys Soccer Team. With young, talented student athletes taking the court and field, both programs are laying the foundation for a bright future of Spartans athletics.

Neither program advanced to the CAA Division 1 State Tournament this season, but both teams demonstrated growth, competitiveness, and progress. For a young athletic program, these experiences are invaluable. They help build confidence, develop student-athletes, and establish the culture and expectations that will shape VFA athletics for years to come. VFA's Athletic Director, who also serves as our Guidance Counselor and overseer of our Student Advancement Programs, Raymond Blossom, has expressed confidence and hope for our programs by sharing, **"The story of our Varsity programs at VFA shares a similar path of Victory as a whole, where we start out with big aspirations and aren't afraid of the process of building the foundations required of our programs to be victorious".**

The excitement continues with the upcoming Varsity Boys Basketball and Varsity Cheer seasons. After a strong run last season, the Spartans boys basketball team enters the year with high expectations and is projected by many around the program to compete for a place in the CAA Division 1 Final Four. Mr. Blossom, who is part of the coaching staff of this team, stated that **"we have high hopes and expectations for our boys this upcoming season, as the program design mirrors the high bar of collegiate athletics from the summer training, pre-season strength and conditioning program, and our never-ending quest as a program and team to bring home that state championship title".**

The future of VFA athletics is bright. New programs, new traditions, and a new generation of Spartans are building something special.



WHOLE CHILD EDUCATION IN ACTION: SUPPORTING STUDENTS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Education is about far more than what happens inside a classroom. Across Victory's elementary, middle, and high school campuses, our Whole Child approach recognizes that students thrive when their academic, social, emotional, and personal development are supported together.

Character Education continues to grow across campuses through classroom lessons, monthly character pillars, character assemblies, and meaningful opportunities to put shared values into action. These experiences help students build character, develop confidence, strengthen relationships, and understand what it means to be part of the Victory community.

Victory campuses are also investing in Social Emotional Learning through curriculum, professional development, training, and resources that help teams better support students as they navigate challenges, build relationships, develop life skills, and grow as individuals. Our partnership with Grand Canyon University is creating even more opportunities for students and staff. These include Federal Work Study paraprofessionals, Changing Lives Program partnerships, GCU student-athletes volunteering and coaching with students, expanded mentorship and engagement, and field trips and other experiences that help students explore the world beyond school walls.

At the heart of this work is a simple belief: our students deserve to be known, supported, challenged, and celebrated. Thank you to Victory's teachers, paraprofessionals, principals, and GCU partners for making Whole Child Education come alive every day. As Executive Director of General Education, Adam Morales, shares, "Our whole child approach at all of our campuses is what separates Victory Schools, and the impact on our students academically and personally is monumental".

From character and social emotional learning to mentorship, athletics, field trips, and community partnerships, Victory is investing in the whole child, and in experiences students will carry with them long after they leave the classroom.

LOPES UP. VICTORY FORWARD. THE VICTORY SCHOOLS + GCU PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW



Victory Schools' partnership with Grand Canyon University continues to grow, and with it, so do the opportunities available to our students and staff.

What began as a relationship between two educational organizations has developed into a multifaceted partnership connecting the Victory community with college experiences, mentorship, professional development, community engagement, career exploration, and the resources of a major university right in our own backyard.

Here are a few examples of that partnership in action this school year.



LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY: CANYON CIVIC CONFERENCE

Victory Schools was honored to participate in GCU's inaugural Canyon Civic Conference, which brought together leaders focused on strengthening communities and creating meaningful impact.

The event included a panel featuring best selling author Arthur C. Brooks and GCU President Brian Mueller. They shared perspectives on leadership, community, purpose, and the responsibility organizations have to positively impact the people they serve.

For Victory, opportunities like this allow our leaders to keep learning, build relationships, and bring new ideas back to our schools and communities.

GCU STUDENTS CHANGING LIVES AT VICTORY

Our partnership is not just about bringing Victory students to GCU. We are also bringing GCU students into Victory.

Victory representatives from VAA, VCA, and VFA recently presented to GCU Social Work faculty and students participating in the university's Changing Lives Outreach Program. Beginning in October, participating GCU students will volunteer on Victory campuses, gaining valuable real-world experience while providing students with mentorship, Tier 1 counseling, and additional support.

It is a partnership that benefits both sides: future social work professionals gain meaningful experience working directly with students, while Victory students gain another caring and supportive person in their corner.



ALL IN: OPENING DOORS TO CAREERS IN SPORTS

The world of sports offers far more career paths than those on the field or court. Through a new partnership, VFA students are getting a closer look at those possibilities.

VFA has partnered with GCU Coach Jordan Jackson and the ALL IN SPORTS Foundation to become the first school cohort to participate in the organization's All Access workshops and training.

Students will gain hands-on exposure to the many careers that make the sports industry work, while developing practical skills in networking, professionalism, résumé writing, career preparation, and more. The experience can help students connect their interests with opportunities they may not have known existed.

MORE DOORS. MORE POSSIBILITIES.

These initiatives represent only a portion of the growing relationship between Victory Schools and Grand Canyon University. The strength of a great partnership is not measured by a logo on a banner or an agreement on paper. It is measured by the opportunities it creates for people.

From an elementary student receiving additional mentorship, to a high school senior submitting a college application, to a student discovering a career they never knew existed, each connection creates another opportunity.

At Victory, we believe our students deserve access to every opportunity possible. Together with GCU, we are opening more doors, and helping our students build the confidence to walk through them.

BUILDING SKILLS. BRIDGING TEAMS. SERVING OUR STUDENTS.



At Victory, maintaining exceptional campuses takes teamwork, shared knowledge, and a commitment to creating the best possible environments for our students. This quarter, we're proud to recognize JR Zugaste, a member of our District Office Maintenance Team, for leading Victory's first ever hands on Custodian Training!

JR brought custodians from across our campuses together for a collaborative training focused on building practical skills, strengthening preventative maintenance, and helping our teams better care for their school environments. Topics included troubleshooting leaks, repairing drywall, maintaining equipment, and identifying issues that can be addressed early, before they become larger maintenance projects. What made this training especially meaningful was JR's commitment to hands on learning. Rather than simply discussing techniques, he came prepared with actual drywall and repair materials, giving custodians the opportunity to see the process up close and practice the skills themselves. This interactive approach helped turn everyday maintenance challenges into valuable learning experiences that custodians can take back to their campuses.

But this initiative is about more than learning how to repair. It's about bridging the gap between Custodial and Maintenance, building stronger working relationships, and empowering our teams to work together. When custodians have the knowledge and confidence to identify concerns, provide preventative care, and address smaller issues early, they become an even stronger part of the effort to maintain safe, clean, and well cared for campuses.

And this is just the beginning; Victory plans to continue these trainings quarterly, creating ongoing opportunities for professional growth, skill development, and collaboration across our campuses. By investing in our custodial teams and sharing the expertise of our maintenance professionals, we're building a more proactive approach to facilities care, allowing our Maintenance Team to focus on larger repairs and projects while our custodians help prevent issues before they grow. A huge thank you to JR for taking the initiative, sharing his knowledge, and helping establish a new tradition of teamwork and continuous improvement at Victory.

Because when we invest in our people, strengthen our teams, and work together with purpose, our campuses are better for it, and our kids are the ones who benefit most.
Built to Serve...For the Kids!

Victory SCHOOLS

THE VICTORY VOICE

Subscribe To Our Newsletter