

WWW.VICTORSCHOOLS.ORG

# EXCELLENCE

VOLUME 16

ISSUE 1

## ON DISPLAY

**VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
NEWS MAGAZINE

FALL 2023

# Contents

- 3 Superintendent's Message
- 4 Unsung Heroes
- 5 VCS Adds New Counselor
- 6 Homecoming
- 7 Hall of Fame
- 8 VCS Launches New Learning Center
- 9 New Work-Based Coordinator
- 10 News and Notes



## CONNECT WITH US!

### WEBSITE

[www.victorschools.org](http://www.victorschools.org)

### PARENTSQUARE

[www.parentsquare.com/signin](http://www.parentsquare.com/signin)

### PEACHJAR FLYERS

<https://app.peachjar.com/flyers/all/districts/32620>

Find out the latest happenings by building or District wide. Sign up to receive emails in the top right corner.

### FACEBOOK

Victor Central Schools

### INSTAGRAM

victorcentralschools

### X (formerly TWITTER)

@victorschools

### VCS Board of Education

Tim DeLucia - President

Christopher Parks - Vice President

Bryan Adams

Kristin Elliott

Lisa Kostecki

Elizabeth Mitchell

Adam Snyder

The Board of Education meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Victor Early Childhood School Boardroom at 7:15 PM. Residents are welcome to attend. Meetings are also live streamed on the VCS YouTube Channel.

### Superintendent of Schools

Timothy Terranova, Ed.D. (585) 924-3252 (ext 1400)

### District Clerk

Maureen Goodberlet (585) 924-3252 (ext 1402)

### Office of School and Community Relations

(585) 924-3252 (ext 1407)

*Excellence on Display* is the official publication of the Victor Central School District.

# A Message From Our Superintendent

The 2023-2024 school year is underway!

I hope you and your family have had an enjoyable first three months of school. It has been a great start at VCS and one we could not have accomplished without your support!

VCS support comes from so many places. A significant strength of our District is our faculty and staff. This group of impressive professionals represents the best of the best! They build tremendous relationships with all our students, implement strong classroom systems, and provide unsurpassed academic and social-emotional support, all of which form the backbone for successful learning in the 21st century.

Behind the strength of our faculty, staff, and community is our Five-year Strategic Plan. As we enter the second year of this exciting plan, one of our main goals is focusing on learning and instruction - accentuated by research-based teaching practices that integrate academic competencies, social-emotional learning, and equity and inclusion for all.

Thanks to your continued support, this school year we were able to add staff for our new Victor Learning Center (page 8), which supports the academic and social-emotional needs of students who are out of the mainstream school environment for short periods of time. We also added a full time Work-Based Learning Coordinator (page 9) who is developing a rigorous internship program for our high school students to practice real world skills in business settings across our community.

Supporting students is what VCS is all about. This year, we also added a full time Substance Abuse Counselor (page 5) who will collaborate with our Pupil Services Staff to support students and families who are dealing with alcohol and other drug challenges. This counselor



Timothy Terranova

will also work proactively with our community to educate our youth about the dangers of this use.

As always, we continue to emphasize balancing the needs of our children with the financial needs of our community. Despite increases in staff, our current Tax Rate per \$1000 has decreased since the 2019-20 school year.

In addition to our work with children, another goal for this year is to finalize our next Capital Project. You will receive a separate mailing on this initiative in the coming months as the details are finalized with the New York State Education Department.

The 2023-2024 school year is moving quickly and smoothly, and I could not be more delighted to be a part of it. We continue to strive to build as many opportunities as possible for our students when they graduate, whether it is in college, a career, or the military. Feel free to stop and chat with me if you see me out at an event. I would love to learn how you think we are doing and what we can do to be even better.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me directly.

With gratitude,

Superintendent Tim Terranova, Ed.D.

# Our Unsung Heroes

This August, VCS celebrated its 2023 Unsung Heroes at the Opening Day assembly for faculty and staff. The Unsung Hero award is a tradition that took root at VCS more than twenty years ago to honor employees that go above and beyond in the workplace. Honorees represent five categories: Transportation, Teacher Aides, Clerical, Food Services and Building and Grounds. The following reflects some of what this year's nominators had to say about our 2023 heroes.



## Transportation: Doreen Benschop

Doreen began working at VCS in 2013 as a bus driver. In 2018, she became a trainer, and in 2021 she became a certified examiner. During the bus driver shortage Doreen did everything she could to recruit new bus drivers, from hanging signs around town, to talking to people at festivals, job fairs, and parades. Doreen recently even trained her own husband to become a bus driver! This year marks her 10th year as a school bus driver.

## Teacher Aide: Sandy Kramer

In her almost 30 years at VCS, Sandy has worked as a teacher aide in multiple capacities. For the last several years she has supported students in the Intermediate School as a one-to-one aide. Sandy is a problem solver, approaching each challenge with creativity and collaboration. She is the definition of perseverance and a role model for us all!



## Clerical: Erin Lettman

Erin always has a smile on her face. She goes out of her way to locate books, assist with printing student materials, and checks thousands of books in and out each year. Several years ago, she introduced a recess initiative where students learn to quilt and donate their finished works to children in need. Erin is an active member of the VIS Sunshine Committee, the VIS Community Read Committee and creator of amazing library displays!

## Building and Grounds: David Graham

David is always pleasant and helpful when asked to complete a task. One of his main duties is to understand the fire alarm systems on campus, a job that ensures the safety of thousands of students and staff each and every day. As our resident expert on fire systems, David coordinates all the yearly fire department visits. He has a can-do attitude and figures out what needs to be repaired with a positive attitude and a smile.



## Food Services: Ann Rauscher

Anne has been a dedicated Food Services employee for 8 years. She consistently demonstrates excellence in her role and is always kind and helpful to students and staff. In addition to her own work, Anne happily helps her coworkers and assists with training new employees. Whether she is preparing food, cleaning up, or interacting with customers, Anne serves up her best each day.

# VCS Adds New Substance Abuse Counselor

Benjamin Franklin was onto something in the 1700's when he said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure;" at least that's what Lindsay Snyder, the District's new Substance Abuse Counselor, believes. It's no wonder that prevention is the cornerstone of Snyder's plan for the District. "My role will balance substance abuse prevention, education, and intervention and support for students, staff, and the community. Prevention and education will occur K-12, though likely heavier 4-12," Snyder said.

In addition, Snyder will provide opportunities for parent education as well as engagement with community partners who can support substance use prevention in our community. Therapeutic intervention and support will also be available to all students in the District based on parent and/or staff referrals, student self-identification, or as part of a restorative approach

following a code of conduct violation or violation of the extracurricular agreement.

Today, more than ever before, students face extraordinary social pressures, but according to Snyder, one of the biggest obstacles to healthy living is exposure to misinformation. "Providing evidence-based education will be a large part of my role with students, whether it is done formally through a classroom lesson or counseling session, or informally through posters, a website, or newsletters. Part of my role is to provide the facts to students and families so that students can make informed decisions throughout their lives," Snyder said.



## Virtual Town Hall Meetings



Each month Superintendent, Dr. Timothy Terranova takes time to engage with our community through his Facebook Live Town Hall Meetings. You can find all of our archived Facebook Live Town Halls on our YouTube Channel. Be sure to check in with us each month on Facebook for new topics and news from Victor Central Schools. Town Halls run from 6:30-7:30 PM.

- November 28**
- December 19**
- January 31**
- February 26**
- March 26**
- April 23**
- May 30**

# Homecoming

The last week of September not only brought out some amazing fall colors, but it also ushered in one of the biggest weeks of the school year, Homecoming! From exciting athletic events to daily spirit week challenges like Twin Day, Favorite Band T-Shirt Day and our beloved Blue and Gold Day, students, staff, community members, and alumni had the chance to show their school spirit in a variety of ways. Of course, we cannot forget the highly anticipated high school pep rally with student skits, cheers, and celebrations that will last a lifetime.



# Hall of Fame

On Thursday, September 28th, five VCS alumni were inducted into the prestigious Athletic Hall of Fame during a special ceremony held at the Victor Junior/Senior High School Performing Arts Center.

**David Ahonen '07** - Football, Basketball, and Baseball; **Matthew Portland '12** - Ice Hockey and Baseball; **Zachary Rivers '08** - Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track; and **Kacie Strong '10** - Tennis, Basketball, and Softball were honored at the special induction ceremony. **Liz Hogan '07** - Lacrosse - was unable to attend the ceremony in-person but through the power of modern technology managed to zoom into the event, live from California.

The Victor Athletic Hall of Fame was created to honor athletes, coaches and honorary community members who have made a significant impact on the Victor Athletic Program. You can read more about our newest inductees, and their accomplishments on our website.



The Victor Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame committee honored its 2023 inductee, **Benjamin**

**Alexander Barbash** (Class of 1991), posthumously, during the October 12th Board of Education meeting. Barbash was a highly respected visionary, artist, businessman and a friend to all. Upon graduating from VCS, he attended the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

Barbash's career spanned from the east to the west coast. He worked for the Manhattan Theatre Club and Actors Equity in NYC, established a fiber art center and served as the executive director of Valentown Hall in Victor, and managed the Fairfax Landmark Motion Picture Theatre in Los Angeles.

He dreamed of implementing theater programs in shopping malls and developing a cultural corridor from Rochester to Oswego. According to Barbash's father, "He could go out and bring people together in ways no one could think of."

The Victor Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame was established in 2018 to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of outstanding alumni, staff and community members who have excelled in the Arts. It was also created to inspire current students.





# VCS Launches New Learning Center

This fall, VCS opened a brand-new place for learning at its recently purchased 200 South High Street location.

The Victor Learning Center was established to provide a space where individuals can continue their learning journey, despite any obstacles that may arise. "Obstacles" include disciplinary suspensions from school, medical issues, and gaps students may experience while awaiting placement in an alternative setting.

**“We wanted to be able to respond effectively and efficiently to our students’ needs as they arise.”**

Students are referred to the Victor Learning Center through the thoughtful care and consideration of teachers, administrators, and the Pupil Personal Services (PPS) team under the direction of Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, Karyn Ryan, and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Karen Finter. It is not a walk-in support facility. Extra assistance is always available during Activity Periods at the end of the school day in Grades 7-12. In addition, buildings keep a list of subject-specific tutors available to support students outside of their school day.

In the past, VCS utilized BOCES tutors, but per diem tutors are in limited supply, and this often resulted in a waitlist for students. "We wanted to be able to respond effectively and efficiently to our students' needs. When students are working through consequences of their behaviors, for instance, we must continue to provide steady, ongoing support, so they learn from their mistake and don't fall behind academically," Finter said.

This school year, VCS anticipates that the Learning Center will support between 80-100 students. "Some students will be there for a short time (3-5 days), while others may be there for an extended time," Finter added.

# NYS Seal of Biliteracy Highlights the Value of Diversity



This June, ten graduating seniors walked across Innovative Field with more than just a diploma, but also with a seal of approval from the NYS Education Department for their commitment to diversity, in particular, language diversity.

The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes high school students who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English. Jennifer Grimes, Senior High Assistant Principal, and Seal of Biliteracy coordinator for the District, said the criteria challenges students on multiple fronts. "Students must maintain an 85% or better in both their English and World Language courses and complete a portfolio documenting their skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in both languages," Grimes said.

The Victor Central School District is no stranger to multilingualism. More than 20 cultures and 24 different languages are represented on the VCS campus.

The Seal of Biliteracy is just one more way VCS celebrates its diversity. "Offering the Seal of Biliteracy not only demonstrates our value of language diversity, but students who earn it will have another element of 21st century skills for future accomplishments, opportunities, and employment," Grimes said.



# Science Investigations Promote Critical Thinking

Life Cycles, Energy, Weather, Earth, Space, Matter. These are just a sampling of the science disciplines that students in grades 3 to 8 are studying in greater depth and dimension thanks to the New York State Science Investigations Program. Science Investigations are hands-on learning experiences that are aligned to the New York State Science Learning Standards (NYSSLS). Much like a high school lab experience, these required investigations ensure that all students can apply their science knowledge in a meaningful manner at least once a year. While Science Investigations are not assessments, components of the investigations help students prepare students for the

5th and 8th grade NYS Science Assessments. VCS partially rolled out the State mandated investigations in the 2022-2023 school year. This school year, the District is implementing a full plan. Carrie Goodell, VCS Director of Math and Science, says the purpose of these investigations is to help students build their ability to think critically, while designing and conducting experiments that demonstrate an understanding of science concepts/skills. "These are valuable learning experiences because they provide connections between what students are learning in the classroom and its role in the world around them," she said



## New Work-Based Coordinator Joins High School Team

This year, Victor Senior High School students will have the opportunity to expand their learning beyond the walls of a classroom. Soon, students will also have the opportunity to engage in learning experiences in variety of authentic work settings.

Sue Utz, the new Senior High Work-Based Learning Coordinator, is leading the team in charge of creating these new community connections. The goal? To establish a program that enables students to explore their career goals and interests while applying academic knowledge/skills in a real-world context.

"I am excited to help students make connections between their school instruction and the professional community around them," Utz said.

Utz is the perfect candidate for the new role. In addition to being a business teacher for the past 15 years, she worked in corporate sales and marketing for more than 12 years. She also co-founded the popular VSH business club, DECA, in 2012, alongside SH social studies teacher, Erica Thompson.



Susan Utz

"Once a student has identified an area of interest, we will work together to make a connection between them and the larger community," Utz said. Whatever the connection, according to Utz, Work-Based Learning enhances important workplace competencies like communication, teamwork, and project planning. It also helps students better understand workplace expectations and the skills needed to be successful.

Success. That is the ultimate goal of the Work-Based Learning-Program. "The entire WBL team is committed to helping students achieve success by establishing partnerships that will benefit both them and local employers," Utz said.

## Victor Senior High Named a Top School

This fall, U.S. News and World Report published its annual high school rankings and Victor Senior High was among the top. Nearly 18,000 schools nationwide were ranked on six weighted factors: College Readiness, College Curriculum Breadth, State Assessment Proficiency, State Assessment Performance, Underserved Student Performance, and Graduation Rate.

VSH ranked #7 in the Greater Rochester region (top 10%), #111 in New York State (top 8%), and #1,044 nationally (top 6%).

**we're  
hiring.**

**Come work with us!**  
We are now hiring for a variety of positions.  
Check out the full listing on our website and apply today!

## VCS Welcomes Two New Assistant Principals

This summer, the Victor Central School District Board of Education appointed two new Assistant Principals. **Keith Pedzich**, the new AP for the Senior High School, comes from the Canandaigua City School District where he was a Technology Integration Specialist at their middle school and high school academy. **Natalie Sonnevile**, the new AP for the Intermediate School, comes to VCS from the Wayne Central School District where she was an Assistant Principal at their middle school.



Keith Pedzich



Natalie Sonnevile

## Upcoming MUSIC EVENTS

*All concerts take place in the Jr./Sr. High Auditorium unless noted otherwise*

- 12/5** 7th Grade Band/Chorus 7 PM
- 12/7** 8th Grade Band/Chorus 7 PM
- 12/11** VSH Bands 7 PM
- 12/13** VIS Orchestras 7 PM
- 12/18** VSH Orchestras & Choirs 7 PM
- 1/17** Grades 4/5 Chorus 7 PM
- 1/18** Grade 6 Band & Chorus 7 PM
- 1/23** Beginning & Grade 5 Bands 7 PM
- 1/26 & 27** JH/SH All-County Music Festival at Red Jacket
- 2/2 & 3** Elementary All-County West Music Festival at Victor

## ATTENTION Parents of Students Who Attend Private/ Parochial Schools

### *Important Busing Information*

To qualify for transportation to a private/parochial school, parents must submit their request no later than April 1st of the previous year. In addition, you must live within 15 miles of the school of your choice. Find more information on our website!



# Early Childhood School Announces 2024-2025 Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration Schedule

Pre-Kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 Victor Early Childhood School year will begin on Thursday, January 4, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Pupil Personnel Services Office in the District Office building adjacent to the Victor Early Childhood School.

Children who are four years old on December 1, 2024, are eligible to register for Pre-K. The lottery for Pre-K will be Friday, February 16, 2024. The lottery represents a truly random process. Notification letters will be mailed the week of February 26, 2024. Please note that lottery results will not be shared over the phone.

Kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year will begin on Friday, March 1, 2024 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Pupil Personnel Services Of-



office in the District Office building adjacent to the Victor Early Childhood School.

## Class of 1964 SAVE THE DATE!

The Class of 1964 will hold a casual get together for their 60th Reunion on June 8, 2024 at the home of a classmate.

Details will be posted on Facebook on the following FB page: VCS1964Reunion or the Central School Alumni Association. The Class of 1964 is also encouraged to attend the VCS Alumni Banquet on June 9, 2024 at the Ravenwood Golf Club in Victor.

## REUNION PLANNED for Class of 1984

The Class of 1984 will hold a 40th Reunion Celebration at the Victor Village Inn on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

For more information, please contact Greg "Doc" Lefebvre: [greg@rochesterleasing.com](mailto:greg@rochesterleasing.com)

## College Camp Prepares Students

This past summer, 150 students from the rising senior class signed up for College Camp, a four day/three hour a day workshop where students learn how to write the Common App Personal Essay and begin to address any supplements that are required by individual colleges.

Camp takes place every summer during the first two weeks of August, in the Junior High/Senior High School Library and the Large Group Instruction room in the Senior High School.



# Victor Central School District

953 High Street  
Victor, NY 14564

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Victor, NY  
Permit # 10

## Visual & Performing Arts HALL OF FAME

***Do you know a VCS alumnus who has made a significant contribution to the arts?***

The Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame honors such individuals.



Please visit our website for more information and to fill out the nomination form.

## VCS Seeks Distinguished Graduates

***Do you know a VCS alumnus who has made a significant contribution to society?***

The Graduates of Distinction Program honors such individuals. Please visit our website for more information and to fill out the nomination form.



**Download the  
ParentSquare app today!**

Stay involved with your student's learning and activities at school. From anywhere.



ParentSquare



## Blue Devil Athletics



Find all the latest scores and schedules for VCS Blue Devil Athletics on our website and join us for a game! Go Blue Devils!



### To: Victor Central School District Residents

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services maintains a list of registered sex offenders and offers many resources through its web site, [criminaljustice.state.ny.us](http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us). People may search the Sex Offender Registry using the criteria of name, county or zip code. Parents and guardians may want to talk with children about interacting with adults and people they do not know.