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ON DISPLAY

VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS MAGAZINE 2024

VCS Board of Education

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Elizabeth Mitchell

Christopher Parks

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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.
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Kenadee Comstock

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



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A Message from Our Superintendent

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

First, a huge thank you to the VCS community for supporting our Capital Project vote with a 73% approval rate. This vote was another example of the long standing tradition that the Victor community has of supporting the school district. Because of this vote, we will be able to upgrade safety and security features, build enough classroom space for all of our programs, and continue to offer innovative educational programming, including building our own Career and Technical Education Center on campus.

I believe a major reason for the success of this vote is the respect our community has for the work the faculty and staff do for our kids. Each day they build relationships with families, balancing high expectations for student learning with a classroom culture built on respect and kindness. This respect transcends the classroom to include all of our professionals who work tirelessly for students each day.

VCS continues to balance reading, writing, math, and critical thinking skills as children move through the elementary and secondary level, with authentic learning experiences. As always, we strive to offer as many opportunities as possible for our students when they graduate, whether it is college, a career, or the military.

In this magazine you will find highlights of our District's major focus areas. This includes our revised Mission and Vision statements, which frame the expectations that we have not only for our current educational program, but also for our future goals. Our new Mission and Vision meshes nicely with our Five Year Strategic Plan,



which is currently in its third year. In addition, the magazine shows examples of our emphasis on early literacy as well as the importance of authentic reading experiences, such as the VIS Community read, that occur throughout the District.

The magazine also highlights our Unsung Heroes, who are staff members in a variety of positions that go above and beyond for our kids. Finally, we highlight our amazing fine arts and music offerings, which are essential to having a comprehensive education for children.

Whether you're a current student, parent, or alumni, VCS is filled with opportunities for all of you. Feel free to stop and chat with me when 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. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me directly.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Tim Terranova". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Tim Terranova, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Our Unsung Heroes

Heroes don't always wear capes – just look at our Unsung Heroes! The Unsung Hero tradition began at VCS more than twenty years ago to honor employees that go above and beyond their regular job duties. Honorees represent five categories: Transportation, Teacher Aides, Clerical, Food Services and Building and Grounds. Whether they wield a steering wheel, pencil, book, food tray or paint brush, these men and women define excellence.



Transportation: Jeff Faunce

Jeff Faunce has been a dedicated member of the Transportation Department since 2016. From day one, he has contributed significantly to our team, consistently bringing a positive attitude to the workplace, fostering strong relationships with his colleagues, and genuinely caring for all the students he transports.

Teacher Aide: Cory Grant

Cory is the absolute rock star of the Senior High! He consistently helps so many of our students have great experiences both in the regular day-to-day setting and special events. For example, he planned a special walking tour for some of our students with different challenges during the senior trip, giving them a great personalized experience that they would not have had otherwise. He is always looking out for the best interests of students and “shows up” for everything.

Clerical: Maureen Goodberlet

Maureen started working for the District in 1998 in the JH Counseling Office before moving to District Office in 2007 where she has worked with three Superintendents, multiple Board members, and countless District personnel. Maureen's professionalism is in a league all its own. Maureen's colleagues said, “She is always professional, caring and organized. When I need anything, I can reach out to her, and she quickly responds with the answer and a caring message.”

Building and Grounds: Violet Bunt

Violet is ready and willing to help our teachers with anything! Nominators said, “Many times I don't even need to ask, she just notices a need and takes care of it. She went above and beyond to help me get my classroom set up – helping me cart things in from my car, getting me matching furniture, replacing broken items, keeping an eye out for any items I might need.”

Food Services: Val Kokkinis

Val is kind and helpful to our students, as well as to our staff. She is patient and has a special knack for making students, especially the new little ones, feel comfortable. Going through the serving line, learning the rules, and having to make decisions on their own, can be sometimes difficult for students who are attending school for the first time, but Val has a way of making it better.

Painting the VCS Art Program

A Q&A with VCS Art Teacher, Shawn Duckworth

When one thinks of art, they often only think of paintings, drawings, and designs, but as an educational discipline, art is so much more. In a recent Q&A, Shawn Duckworth, K-12 Visual Art Educator and Teacher Leader, explained why the VCS Art Program, much like any work of art, has so much depth and dimension.



What are the goals of the VCS Art Program?

Some of the most important goals of our program are to help students build technical skills in various mediums and encourage students to express their thoughts and feelings through their artwork. In addition, we also encourage looking at art from the past and present to help students develop an understanding of art history and cultural contexts. We focus on critical thinking to enhance students' ability to critique their own work and that of others, and we work toward collaborative projects and exhibitions to build a sense of community among students. And finally, we hope to equip students with skills and knowledge necessary to further their education in the arts or related fields.



as well as their own personal style. Students learn drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, and mixed media techniques in all grade levels. As students become more capable in the arts, they work with digital art, photography, graphic design, and advanced techniques in all mediums. Our older students also have access to a variety of Advanced Placement Art classes to help them continue their art journey in college. This year, we added an AP sculpture class.

Why is art important for students today?

Art provides a vital outlet for students to express their thoughts, emotions, and ideas, fostering individuality and self-confidence. Engaging in artistic processes also encourages students to think critically, approach problems creatively, and develop innovative solutions. Being creative can reduce stress and offer a therapeutic outlet. Group art projects encourage collaboration, teaching students to work together, share ideas, and respect differing opinions.

What are some of the various art forms students are exposed to?

Students from UPK through high school are exposed to a wide variety of art forms which can help them explore their creativity and develop different skills,

Virtual Town Hall Meetings

Each month, Dr. Terranova takes time to engage with our school 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.**

January 31
February 26
March 26
April 23
May 30

virtual **VCS**
TOWN HALL
meetings

Archived Town Halls can be found on our



VCS Launches NEW Mission and Vision

This fall, VCS launched new Mission and Vision statements. Mission and Vision statements are used by organizations to define their purpose and goals.

The VCS Mission & Vision development process, which began last winter, was a collaborative effort between staff, students, community members, and our Board of Education.

Superintendent Tim Terranova says he is especially proud of the involvement of our students with the development and refinement of both our Vision and Mission statements.

“Our vision builds on the immense community pride for our schools that leads to high expectations for learning. These high expectations are realized through the work of an incredible staff that creates individualized pathways for each child, where everyone feels valued, safe, and inspired to do their best.”

—Tim Terranova

Vision Statement

Together, we will build a thriving educational community that inspires every individual to shape their own future with confidence and pride.



Mission Statement

We Are Victor

Together we create engaging learning environments that promote empathy, inclusivity and opportunity by uniting community and classroom. Our dedicated, supported staff prepare and inspire every student to achieve their academic potential and thrive in an ever-changing world.



District Vision

At Victor Central School District (VCS), we will cultivate a vibrant and supportive learning community built upon the cornerstones of respect, inclusivity, and empowerment. Every day, in every building, every person will feel safe, valued, inspired, and motivated to grow—both academically and personally. We will celebrate diversity, foster a sense of belonging and strive for academic achievement, and students will become informed, confident scholars and leaders who are prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world.



We will create an environment where students confidently take risks, embrace new learning experiences and persevere through challenges. Our approach will address the academic, social and emotional needs of every student, ensuring they develop essential life skills and feel valued throughout their academic journey. Strong connections between students, staff, families, and local organizations will be built through clear and consistent communication. We will ensure community members and families are well-informed and engaged in both their student's

daily life and the numerous community-building activities hosted by the District.

We believe that there are many pathways to success that meet the diverse interests and learning styles of our students. Through hands-on opportunities and real-world experiences tailored to their unique interests, strengths and aspirations, students will gain the skills and adaptability needed to excel in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

Our classrooms will be spaces that support student-led discovery-based learning, where they are encouraged to explore with guidance from dedicated educators. Together we will create individualized learning opportunities to enable students to reach their full potential.

At VCS, we understand the importance of providing the support both students and staff need to thrive academically, professionally and emotionally. Our state-of-the-art facilities and evolving resources will be designed to meet the needs of everyone in our dynamic community. We will continually explore, embrace and integrate new strategies and technologies to ensure that all members of our school community have the tools necessary for success. Educators, viewing themselves as lifelong learners committed to the success of each student, will actively collaborate with the District to seek the continual learning and professional development needed to excel in their roles.



The sense of pride on the Victor campus will be unmistakable. Victor Central Schools will be a District where families choose to live, staff are eager to work, and the community is committed to supporting our continued success. Our one-campus environment will be the place where we bridge the gap between long-standing and new community members, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

Homecoming 2024

VCS puts the “Home” in “Homecoming” by bringing together the community for a week of fun and friendship. VCS 2024 Homecoming Week ran from Monday, September 30 to Saturday, October 5. From spirit activities and dress themes to multiple athletic contests, students, staff, and the community were

Blue Devil proud all week long. Special highlights included the traditional Homecoming football game with a half time performance by the Marching Blue Devils, the induction of our 2024 Athletic Hall of Fame recipients, and the Homecoming Dance.



2024 VCS Athletic Hall of Fame

On Friday, October 4, one coach and two athletes were inducted into the prestigious VCS Athletic Hall of Fame during a special ceremony at the JH/SH Arts Center. Congratulations to Bob Thompson, former PE teacher (1981-2011) and soccer coach (1988-2000), and former athletes Robbie Page (Class of 2010/ Volleyball and Basketball) and Alan Altman (Class of 1998/Volleyball and Baseball). All three recipients also took part in a ceremonial coin toss at the 2024 Homecoming football game vs. Irondequoit. The induction of Coach Thompson, Robbie Page and Alan Altman into the Athletic Hall of Fame is an expression of gratitude for their incredible contributions to the Victor Blue Devils' Athletic Program. ***For more information on the accomplishments of this year's Athletic Hall of Fame recipients, please visit our website.***



Pictured from left: Alan Altman '98, Coach Bob Thompson, and Robbie Page '10.



Justin Barnes '97

Arts Hall of Fame Recognizes '97 Alumnus

Justin Barnes (Class of 1997), was inducted into the VCS Arts Hall of Fame on Thursday, October 17, during the regular Board of Education meeting.

Justin is the founding partner and Executive Creative Director of VERSUS, an award-winning and culture-defining creative agency based in New York City.

The Emmy award-winning company has produced work featured on Thursday Night Football, in advertising campaigns like "Lenovo Presents: ThinkPad" and the "Beatbox Torture Test," and in full-length feature films.

After graduating from Victor in 1997, Justin traveled the world as a skateboarder. He later earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Brooklyn College and began working as an art director and motion designer across broadcast TV, commercials, film, and the web. In 2013, he leveraged his expertise and creativity to launch VERSUS.

VCS Appoints Two New Administrators

Kira Carinci, Director of Humanities

This past July, Kira Carinci joined Victor Central Schools as the new Director of Humanities. Carinci comes to VCS from Central Square Central Schools (CSCS) where she was the Principal at Hastings-Mallory Elementary School for the past two years. Prior to this administrative position, she was the Director of Academic Supports and Interventions for CSCS where she collaborated with administrators to plan and implement strategies to address learning gaps at middle and high school levels. Much of Carinci's career was spent at CSCS, first as an elementary teacher for ten years, and later as a Curriculum Consultant for nine years.



James Mauro, Intermediate School Principal

The Board of Education appointed James Mauro as the new Principal for the Intermediate School this past June. Mr. Mauro had been serving as an Assistant Principal for the Victor Senior High School since January 2022. Prior to his work at the high school, he worked extensively in elementary education. He was a teacher for over 14 years, seven and a half of which were spent at the Victor Intermediate School.



Upcoming Music Events

All music concerts take place in the Jr./Sr. High Auditorium at 7 PM unless noted otherwise.

January/February

15 (Wednesday) 4th & 5th Grade Chorus

22 (Wednesday) 6th Grade Band/Chorus

23 (Thursday) Beginning & 5th Grade Bands

24 & 25 (Friday & Saturday) JH/SH All-County Festival (Midlakes)

Jan. 31 & Feb. 1 (Friday & Saturday) Elementary All-County Festival (Bloomfield)

March

6-8 (Thursday-Saturday) Senior High Musical

13 (Thursday) District Orchestra Concert (SH Gym)

24 (Monday) JH/SH Bands

26 (Wednesday) JH/SH Choirs

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 1 of the previous year**. In addition, you must live within 15 miles of the school of your choice.

Please fill out the form located on our website at:

<https://www.victorschools.org/departments/transportation/non-public-school-transportation-form>

For questions contact:

Kelly Clink, Director of Transportation at clinkk@victorschools.org

or:

585-924-3252, ext. 7110



Stay Connected!

2025 Alumni Banquet Slated for June

Save the date! The 128th VCS Alumni Banquet is scheduled for Sunday, June 8, 2025 at Ravenwood Golf Club.

Anyone interested in learning more about the VCS Alumni Association can contact **Jim Exton** at **585-545-5457** or **jexton@rochester.rr.com**. Alumni information can also be found on Facebook at Victor Central School Alumni Association, Victor, NY.



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!



Early Childhood School Announces 2025-2026 Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration Schedule

Pre-Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 Victor Early Childhood School year will begin on Thursday, January 9, **on the District registration webpage**. **In addition, families can register in person**, 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, 2025, are eligible to register for Pre-K. The lottery for Pre-K will be Friday, February 14, 2025. The lottery represents a truly random process. Twins or multiples will be considered one entry, unless otherwise specified by caregivers. Notification letters will be mailed by Friday, March 7, 2025. Please note that lottery results will not be shared over the phone.

Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year will begin on Friday, March 7, **on the District registration webpage**. **In addition, families can register in person**, 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.



Pre-K Registration begins January 9, 2025
Kindergarten Registration begins March 7, 2025

Superkids Program Takes Early Literacy to New Heights

While reading, writing and word work have always been fundamental forces in VCS' early literacy program, last year, we introduced a new program called *Superkids*, to take our literacy efforts to the next level.

Superkids is a comprehensive, research-based literacy program that focuses on developing foundational reading skills through engaging characters and stories that support phonics, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing. The program is structured to build a strong literacy base, emphasizing a balanced approach that includes phonemic awareness, fluency, and love for reading.



The program also provides differentiated instruction and assessments to meet the diverse needs of learners, helping all students progress at their own pace. This structured approach reflects the latest reading science, giving students the tools they need to become confident, independent readers.

VCS Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Karen Finter, said; "The *Superkids* Program aligns perfectly with the work that VCS has already been doing over the last several years – training all staff on evidence-based practices that

support early literacy development." According to Finter, this training has provided a foundation in the systematic approach to reading instruction, which is a major part of our literacy curriculum.

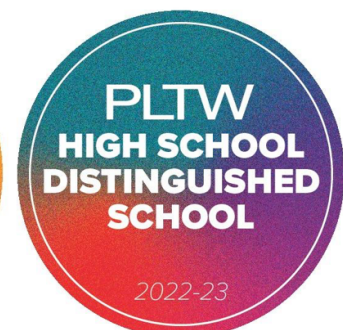
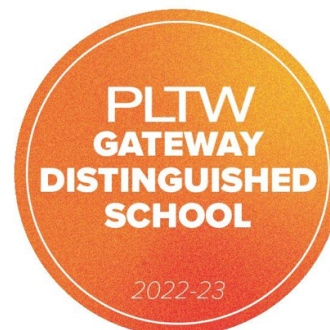
"Between our already established training practices and the Superkids Program, we are equipping our educators with tools and strategies to help children build strong reading skills from an early age. Our work will create a solid foundation for lifelong learning, ensuring that every child can succeed," Finter said.



VJH and VSH Receive National Recognition for STEM Curriculum

Victor Junior and Senior High Schools received national recognition from the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) organization this past spring. This is the third year the VJH has been recognized as a PLTW Gateway School and the fifth year the VSH has been honored as a Distinguished School.

VCS is part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering STEM learning opportunities.



Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that offers STEM curriculum and pre-engineering courses for students in grades PreK-12.

20th Community Read Keeps VIS Students in Suspense

The Intermediate School launched its' annual Community Read this September during a special assembly on Corbit Field. Students and staff narrated and acted out the first chapter of this year's suspenseful book, *Explorer Academy: The Nebula Secret*. There was also a special drone fly over! The Community Read features a common read aloud book that is shared by all teachers and students at the start of the new school year. This year marks the 20th year of this special event.



VCS Computer Science Skills for Life

The Senior High Computer Science Program has been around since the early 2000s. In 2012 there was only one Intro to Computer Science class with 18 students. Every year, since that solo class, the program has grown. In 2013, VCS brought back AP Computer Science A. This year, a third course was added, Data Structures and Algorithms (DSA). Today, VSH has 3 sections of Intro to Computer Science, 2 sections of AP Computer Science, and 2 sections of DSA.

Chris Wuest, SH Computer Science teacher, said he is most proud of how many females are currently enrolled in computer science, a once predominantly male area of study. "Out of the 140 students currently enrolled we have 52 females taking Computer Science! In addition, 50% of students who take two years of Computer Science end up with a career in Computer Science after college," Wuest said.

Whatever path a student takes, the computer science trek is logical, linear, and lifelong. Students learn all the basics of Computer Programming and then by the time they get into AP Computer Science, they dive into Java specific content: Classes, Inheritance, Collections, and Searching/Sorting algorithms. Wuest said all these skills are transferable to any language students will encounter in college and beyond.

Outside of the classroom, Wuest is proud to be spearheading a new Coding Club whose mission is to help inspire young students to pursue Computer

Science. This January, this club will be exposing all the 3rd graders in the Primary School to coding through an event called the "Hour of Code." This nationwide program was introduced by code.org to help promote Computer Science to all children.



Chris Wuest

Whether a student is creating code or sorting algorithms, Wuest believes the greatest benefit of Computer Science is providing students with the ability to decompose a complex problem to produce a unique solution. "This skill set transfers to any area of study they will pursue in the future. Even if they don't want to have a Computer Science career, the skills we teach them will make them better for the rest of their life," he said.



Retired Music Teacher and Band Director Inducted Into NYS Field Band Conference Hall of Fame

Congratulations to retired VCS Music Teacher and Field Band Director, Eric Everhart, for being inducted into the NYS Field Band Conference Hall of Fame this fall during a special ceremony at the Championship Show at the JMA Dome in Syracuse.

The NYS Field Band Conference established the Hall of Fame in 2012 to honor directors and staff who have impacted marching band activity in NYS, either with their success in competition or contributions to its existence and success. There have been 22 inducted into the Hall of Fame since 2012. Everhart was one of 3 additional inductees this year.

Everhart's career with the Victor Marching Band spanned 33 years. During his first 9 years as Assistant Director, the band won 2 State Championships in 1989 and 1990. In 1996, when Everhart became Band Director, the program went on to win 6 more State Championships in 3 different divisions. (2000 & 2001 in the SS2 class, 2006 & 2007 in the SS1 class, and 2010 & 2015 in the National Class.)



Eric Everhart



Cristie Rydzynski

Victor Teacher Named NYS Teacher of the Year for English Speakers of Other Languages

Cristie Rydzynski, Senior High English New Learners (ENL) Teacher and ENL Teacher Leader was named the 2024 New York State Teacher of the Year for English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at the 54th Annual TESOL Conference held at the Rochester Hyatt Regency Hotel this fall. Rydzynski has been supporting VCS English Language Learners (ELL) and their families since 2011. Before coming to VCS, she was an ENL teacher in Fairport and an elementary teacher before that. Outside of the classroom, she was instrumental in creating the English as a New Language Family Dinner, a multi-cultural celebration where families share foods from their native countries. Thanks to Rydzynski, this special event will be celebrating its 10th anniversary this year!

Bravo!

Congratulations to the cast and crew of this fall's Senior High play, *Snow Angel*, and Junior High musical, *The Addams Family*!



Congratulations to our Fall Section V Winners!

Section V Champion
Individual Girls Golf
Destiny Jodoin



Section V Champions
Girls Golf



Section V Champion
Individual Girls Swimming
200m Freestyle Relay and 100m
Butterfly events – Meredith Hogan



Section V Far East Champions
Unified Bowling Team

Senior High Named a Best High School

US News and World Report named VSH is an award-winning school in its 2024 rankings. Nationally, VSH ranked #1,182 out of 25,000 high schools. VSH ranked #121 Statewide and #6 in the Greater Rochester Region. Nearly 18,000 schools nationwide were ranked on: College Readiness, College Curriculum Breadth,

State Assessment Proficiency & Performance, Underserved Student Performance, and Graduation Rate.



Music Program Earns National Recognition

Victor Central School District has been named the recipient of the NAAM Foundation's 2024 Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) Award. This is the fourth year in a row that VCS has earned this honor. The NAMM Foundation's BCME Award is a signature program that celebrates school districts for their support and commitment to music education.



Senior High Named School of Distinction

The 2023-2024 school year was a success for students on and off the fields and courts! Not only were ALL of VCS' '23-'24 varsity sports teams named NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams, Victor Senior High School also qualified as School of Distinction for the 6th consecutive year!

The Distinction award is given to schools when ALL their varsity teams receive the Scholar-Athlete title. To qualify for this title, 75% a team's GPA must have a 90% average or higher.



Victor Central School District

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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.*



Lunar New Year Declared NYS Holiday

School will be closed on **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**, in recognition of Lunar New Year, which was declared a New York State public holiday last September by Governor Kathy Hochul.



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!

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 website, 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.