

Richard Garcia

Victory High School Changed My Life

Victory High School Changed my life and has made me a better more mature person. I can only illustrate this by giving you some of my history. In short, where I was mentally, emotionally, and as a lost young man, to where I am now.

I started my high school experience in 2015 as a freshman at Fairfax High School. I was an OK student as a freshman then on February 6, 2016 my father passed away. I was mentally and emotionally stunned and lost without him. I moved in with my Nana and transferred to Central High School. I admit I was rebellious, distant, and disconnected from everything. I lost interest in school and my life in general. In short, nothing really mattered.

My Sophomore year of high school was a disaster. I skipped as much as 65 PLUS days between the opening of school and the winter break. I was out of control and nothing seemed to matter. Thank God, my Nana found Victory High School.

My Nana and I came to the school and met with Dr. Branham. She explained the expectations she would have of me if she accepted me into her Victory family; and Victory High School has indeed become my family.

Here at Victory I have found acceptance, love, RESPECT, kindness, help, and support. I feel human again. The administration at Victory...Dr. Branham, Ms. Jackson, and Mr. Melendez have helped give me all the tools I need to be successful. Dr. Branham can be a tough taskmaster, which I think, is something I needed. I've gone from skipping tons of school to having won awards for Perfect Attendance. I am very proud of this accomplishment.

Although my transition wasn't always smooth as I did have some run ins with Mr. Faison (for which I have apologized) I never felt I wasn't loved and supported. This made my transition much easier. I have had to work extra hard to catch up with all the work I had missed at Central and Ms. Jackson, Mr. Faison, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. Gonzalez, and Mr. Bloom have helped me with these areas. I thank them for their help with my education.

My classmates have helped me grow in ways they will never really know. They helped me transition from a rebellious uncaring person into a more mature

responsible young adult. Their acceptance made me a better person and I thank them for their support.

I think a real turning point was my junior year when I played Mr. Bloom one-on-one in basketball and broke his rib. To hear all my classmates cheering me on and giving me high fives really made me feel respected and accepted. That really helped me feel as though I had finally become one of them.

I owe a special thank you to Mr. Bloom, for his help in keeping me from being expelled from school (in my junior year) by saying he would just keep me in his classroom and work with me. Then again just this year, Mr. Faison and I had a disagreement in his classroom and Dr. Branham and Ms. Jackson talked with Mr. Bloom about me staying in his class again full time. He once more accepted me into his classroom and helped guide me through each day. This has given me even more time to adjust to the Victory High School way of doing things which will forever impact my life.

So then, this is how Victory High School changed my life. The discipline, love, respect, and acceptance I found here helped me come to terms with my father's passing and eased some of that pain. Being challenged to work harder and pay more attention to my studies helped me grow as a student. Being accepted as a person just as I am, helped me grow as a young man into a more mature, responsible person, and I am forever grateful to Dr. Branham, the administration, staff, and my classmates at Victory High School... You all Changed my life.