



The AZCSP Zip

Arizona Charter Schools Program

December 2020



Looking Ahead

Instructional Rounds

12/03/2020 COHORT ONE
Start @ 8:30 am. VIRTUAL
Heritage Academy

01/07/2021 COHORT ONE
Start @ 8:30 am. VIRTUAL
Pensar Academy

01/14/2021 COHORT TWO
Start @ 8:30 am. VIRTUAL
AMS Glendale

Formative Assessment

12/01/2020
FA #2. Start @ 3:30 pm.
Kaleidoscope

12/01/2020
FA #2. Start @ 3:45 pm.
Heritage

12/02/2020
FA #2. Start @ 2:00 pm.
AMS Glendale & Peoria

12/02/2020
FA #2. Start @ 2:15 pm.
Great Hearts Maryvale Prep

12/04/2020
FA #2. Start @ 12:30 pm.
Somerset

12/04/2020
FA #2. Start @ 1:00 pm.
A+

12/04/2020
FA #2. Start @ 1:40 pm.
Vista College Prep

12/09/2020
FA #2. Start @ 1:30 pm.
Providence High School

12/09/2020
FA #2. Start @ 2:00 pm.
AMS Avondale & South Mountain

12/10/2020
FA #2. Start @ 2:10 pm.
CASA Academy

12/11/2020
FA #2. Start @ 2:00 pm.
Empower

01/05/2021
FA #3. Start @ 9:00 am.
EML

01/12/2021
FA #3. Start @ 3:45 pm.
Heritage

01/13/2021
FA #3. Start @ 1:30 pm.
Providence High School

01/13/2021
FA #3. Start @ 2:00 pm.
AMS Avondale & South Mountain

01/15/2021
FA #3. Start @ 1:00 pm.
A+



Contacts

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Dr. Mark Francis writes...

Holiday Greetings,

The AZCSP team wishes you the very best as this extraordinary year draws to a close. Let's look forward to 2021 as we put this *annus horribilus* behind us. As the new year presents itself, vaccines and recovery can't come soon enough.

As we move forward, the AZCSP staff is eager to support your efforts and help you build success upon success.

Happy New Year,

Mark Francis

**"Instructional Rounds are amazing!
We have all these professionals adding to the
conversation about improving what we do which benefits
our students in the long run."**

Nick Shuerman
Founder, Victory Collegiate Academy

Victory Collegiate Academy in the Spotlight.

As told to David Fox by Adam Morales and Nick Schuerman

AZCSP: How is Victory Collegiate Academy fairing at this stage of the school year with the influence of the pandemic?

VCA: At the beginning of the school year we started 100% online. At this point we were able to make sure all of our students had Chromebooks. Then in Quarter 2 we moved to a hybrid model. Students were on a rotation schedule, and it seemed to work pretty well.

The community of Maryvale had a clear jump in the cases of COVID-19, and so a couple of weeks ago we returned to full online classes again. We are not sure when we will be able to return to the rotation schedule.

AZCSP: How have your families adjusted?

VCA: During the first three years of operation, we have spent a lot of time and energy on developing good communication with our families. They seem to be on board with what we do in response to the pandemic. We've had high family engagement all along, and there is definitely two way communication.



Nick Schuerman
Founder, CEO



Adam Morales
Principal

AZCSP: VCA hosted a recent, and completely virtual, Instructional Rounds. What was the data like that you got and how are you responding to it?

VCA: There are two things here.

The first is that the observations that were made lined up with what we had suspected: teacher heavy lessons, lots of teacher talk time, and students unoccupied with work.

Secondly, the data caused us to perk up our ears to the urgency of developing our EL practices across the board. We see this as an opportunity to strengthen our teachers.

We have already revamped our small group EL interventions. We are also examining our current reading program to determine if we need something that offers higher levels of rigor.

AZCSP: How are you planning to better equip teachers for the next steps in the process?

VCA: We have already begun the task of 1:1 coaching with our teachers. Each one has SMART goals tailored to their needs and in response to the IR data. We have redesigned our PLCs for teacher growth, even more so than in the past.

AZCSP: What benefits have you seen as a result of Instructional Rounds?

VCA: We've been able to adapt and re-adapt in response to Instructional Rounds when we hosted the IR and when we visited other schools and saw what was happening there. AS a result of our involvement in IR we've been able to have professional dialog with our teachers and we are getting better at examining our assessment practices.