



# Annual Report

**2016**

## Director's Welcome

Dearest Supporters,

Closing out our seventh year of programming means we are just one year away from our dream of sending our first group of Peruvian scholars off to university. As you well know, this will be an incredible accomplishment for our students, their families and their community. Your support throughout the year has meant so much to us as it has helped our Victor's Vision family realize this dream.

This year, Victor's Vision served nearly 70 students in the Chulucanas area. Those students received extra academic and character-development time, as well as nutrition, family workshops and field trip adventures that no other students in their community are offered.

Reflecting on the year, the one thing that makes me proudest is that this year, more than ever, 100% of programmatic decisions were made by our staff in Chulucanas. As you may know, all of our on-the-ground staff is local. Our teachers and directors are all from Chulucanas, earned their degrees in Peru and are dedicating their lives to growing their own community. Over the years we've done our best to give as much control of the organization to those who know the needs of our families best. This year they took the reigns more than ever. From field trips to curriculum to parent workshops, our staff worked tirelessly to create the best programming possible for our families, and the result of their work is a program that is stronger than ever.

As we head into the 2017 school year, we have a lot of work ahead of us. Our oldest group of students will be taking college entrance exams this year, as our younger students continue to practice their math, reading, writing, science, technology and English. All of our students will continue to explore new places, eat healthier meals and volunteer their time supporting the most at-risk in their own community. Thank you for supporting us through another great year of Victor's Vision programming!

Sincerely,

Emily Felsenthal  
Executive Director



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# Victor's Vision At-A-Glance

## Our Vision

Our vision is to empower Latin American youth to dream of a brighter future and to pursue such a dream through higher education.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to empower underprivileged Latin American youth to dream and to achieve their dreams. The key to this is college graduation, so Victor's Vision provides its students with the supplemental academic support, personal and academic guidance, and university scholarships necessary to attain a university degree.

## Our Values

We believe all children have the right to dream and to pursue their dreams.

We believe in equal access to all levels of education, regardless of race, class, gender, religion, age or family status.

We believe that when provided with the necessary support and guidance, all children can achieve and succeed.

## Fast Facts 2016

Student enrollment	69
Families impacted	60
Local staff employed	12
Local community partnerships	3
Grade levels served	3rd- 10 <sup>th</sup>
Average student: teacher ratio	8:1
Student attendance rate	98%
Annual operating expenses	\$35,000
Average cost per student	\$507
Year of program establishment	2009
Year of US 501 (c) (3) status	2010

# Core Programming



## Academics

Victor's Vision (VV) starts working with students when they are in the third grade. All students receive three extra hours of schooling, five days a week. Since inception in 2009, VV has offered classes in 4 core subject areas: math, language arts, science, and character development. In 2012, Victor's Vision began offering a fifth subject to all of its students: computer classes. In addition to the 15 hours of core subject work, students also engage in a monthly 3-hour computer class taught by VV staff. In 2014, Victor's Vision also began offering English classes to all of its students. Through our English program, all students receive one hour/week of English language instruction. VV's average class size in 2016 ranged from 7-12 students, which enabled the program's university-certified teachers to focus on the individual needs of every child. By supplementing the students' regular school day with a personalized learning atmosphere, VV ensures that every student is prepared with the skills and confidence necessary to pursue higher education and to ultimately overcome poverty.

### Why focus on academics?

Although the Peruvian government mandates the right for every child to attend a public school, the average Peruvian school day is often much shorter and of much poorer quality than those in the U.S. While the school day typically lasts 6-7 hours, instructional time may only take up a total of 3 hours of this time due to breaks between classes, recesses, and other unpredictable interruptions. The current public education system, providing 15-20 hours at best of instruction per week, simply isn't sufficient to prepare students that aim to pursue higher education. Additionally, many public schools, while free, still require registration fees, uniforms, books, school supplies, transportation fares, and other barriers that make it difficult for children from disadvantaged backgrounds to be fully prepared to learn.



Average student attendance for Victor's Vision classes in 2016 was **98%**

**100%** of regular school-day teachers agreed that their VV students improved at a faster rate than student other students in their classes.



## Nutrition

In order to ensure that students receive the nutrients necessary to learn and grow, VV implemented a nutrition program in January 2011. Through a partnership with a local restaurant owner, VV provides every student with one additional balanced meal every day of programming; this amounts to five additional meals per week, per student. Additionally, in 2013 Victor's Vision began providing additional medicine and meals for families in situations of extreme need, and continued these efforts in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Thanks to the support of local restaurant owners, VV was able to ensure that all students and families are healthy, well-nourished, and ready to learn and develop.

### Why focus on nutrition?

Research has shown that without the proper nutrition, it is highly unlikely that children reach their full academic potential. Malnourished students are unable to develop physically and mentally at a normal rate, and their academic growth suffers as a direct result. All VV students live in poverty (defined as a family income of less than \$2 per day) or extreme poverty (a family income of less than \$1 per day). As a result of this, many children join the program in a malnourished state. Ensuring the proper developmental ability of every student is essential to our programs' success.



In 2016, **100%** of students received one extra balanced meal every day they attended Victor's Vision's programs. All meals include **milk, fruit, protein, and bread.**

In 2016, over **5%** of Victor's Vision families received medicine or extra meals for their families during times of extreme need.



## Character Development

Along with Academics and Nutrition, Victor's Vision supplements our students' achievement through wholesome character development support, which instills in our students strong values and a desire to succeed. Since 2012, Victor's Vision students have met monthly with a psychologist who evaluates their mental and social health. Additionally, our students participate in monthly motivational workshops on topics such as bullying, sex education, and character values.

During the 2016 school year, VV students had the opportunity to participate in out of town field trips and several in-community day trips. Through these experiences, students broadened their horizons by exploring new areas and giving back to their community. These experiences included day trips to Catacaos, a city about 50 miles southwest of Chulucanas, and to Chiclayo, the capital city of the Lambayeque region. In addition to these exploratory trips, students spent several afternoons volunteering in a local orphanage & elderly home. Through these experiences, students had the opportunity to explore new cities as well as understand their own community in a new light.

### Why character development?

Victor's Vision recognizes the importance of ensuring that our students are mentally, socially and emotionally prepared to enter university. We believe monthly workshops, psychological support, and field trips can enhance this growth. VV's cultural experiences offer students the opportunity to see and experience different cultures and lifestyles, as well as develop an understanding of the value of service. As a result, our students are more driven in their pursuit of higher education and are more confident in their desire to give back to their own community.



**80%** of Victor's Vision students had never traveled outside of Chulucanas when they joined the program.  
**96%** of students had the opportunity to participate in at least one Victor's Vision out of town field trip,  
and **100%** of students participated in in-community service trips in 2016.

## Parental Involvement

VV recognizes parental involvement as a necessary factor for the long-term success of our students. While 100% of VV's parents dropped out of school prior to achieving a secondary education, VV actively works with parents to help them understand and value academic success. As a result, parents are empowered to encourage and establish high standards for their children's academic performance.

In addition to signing a commitment contract to invest in their child's education, VV parents attend monthly parent workshops. At these workshops, Victor's Vision staff and families address topics such as education, domestic abuse, and child labor. Through these workshops and bi-monthly home visits that are conducted by Victor's Vision teachers, we hope to provide parents with a safe space to share, grow and support their family's future.

### Why focus on parents?

In Chulucanas, students typically drop out of school by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in order to start working and earning money for their families. With such limited education, almost all of these individuals end up in one of four professions: moto-taxi driver (more than 50%), factory worker (about 10%), cleaning homes (about 15%) or selling goods in the market (about 25%). None of these professions allows individuals to earn sufficient income to escape poverty.

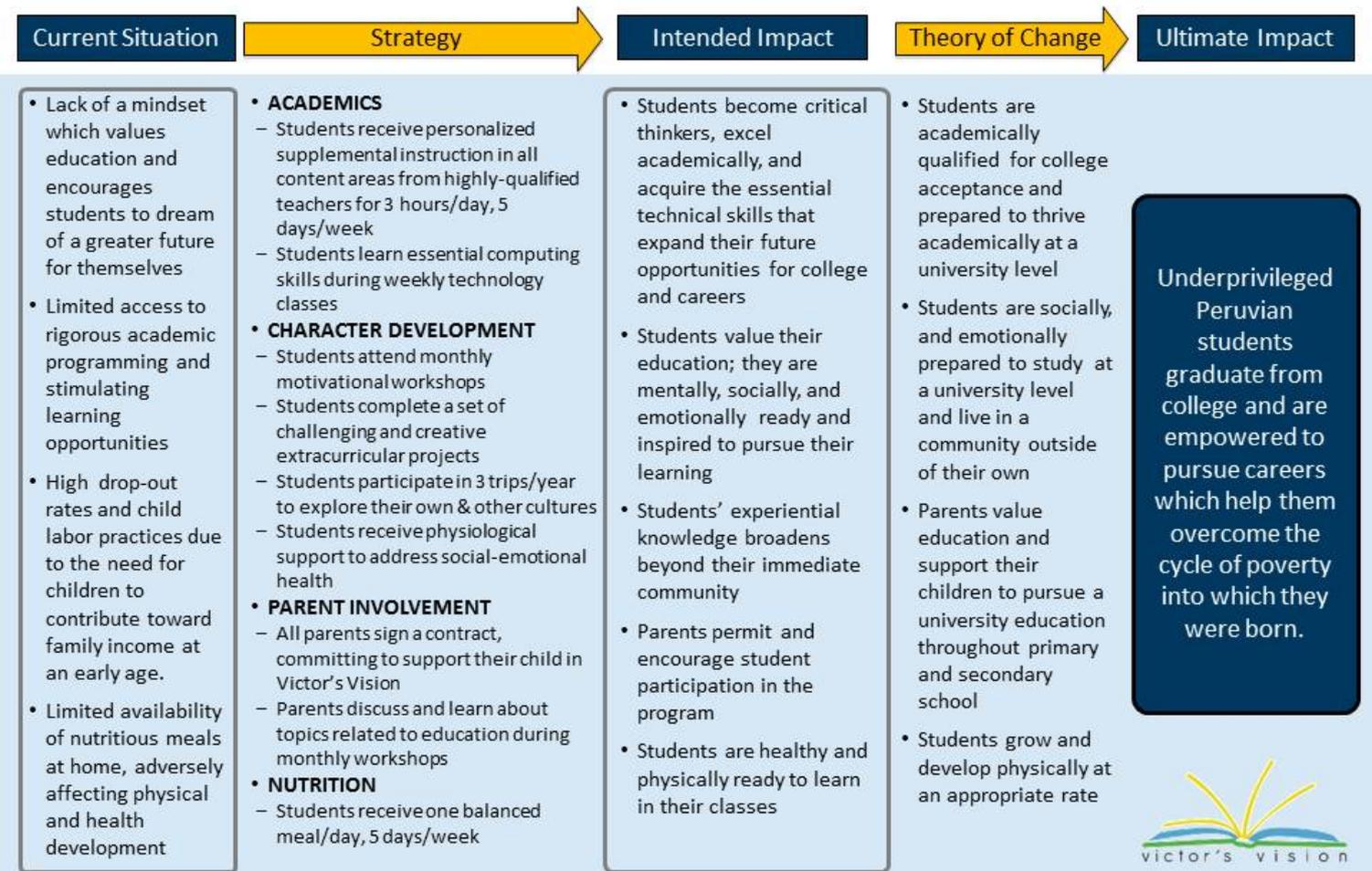
VV empowers parents to understand the benefits of higher education for their entire family. By communicating regularly with VV teachers and participating in monthly workshops, parents take on a larger role in their child's education and consequently their family's future. Under this approach, all VV children have the family support needed to succeed in the classroom.

**100%** of Victor's Vision parents say they feel more confident in their family's future as a result of Victor's Vision's programs.

On average, **94%** of Victor's Vision parents attended monthly workshops to discuss important topics and issues in 2016.



# Theory of Change



## Where We Work

Peru is a developing country in western South America with a poverty rate of 26% and a population of 30 million. Its economy is largely based on agriculture, fishing, mining, and manufacturing of products such as textiles.

Victor's Vision operates in Chulucanas, a small town with approximately 69,000 inhabitants located in the northwestern Piura region of the country. This area is most well-known for its ceramic tradition, an important aspect of Peruvian heritage that dates back to ancient civilizations.

### Fast Facts: Piura, Peru

Poverty Rate (living on less than \$2 a day)	63%
Students completing primary education (6th grade)	37%
Students completing secondary school (12 <sup>th</sup> grade)	27%
Students attaining a university degree	4%

### Fast Facts: Victor's Vision Families

Poverty Rate (living on less than \$2 a day)	100%
Households with internet access	10%
Single-parent households	25%
Average parent education attainment level	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Number of families in professional careers	0



## 2016 Revenue Summary

**Total Revenue: \$38,443**

In 2016, Victor's Vision secured funding through four primary sources of income: private donations, partnership support, fundraisers, merchandise sales, and in-kind donations.

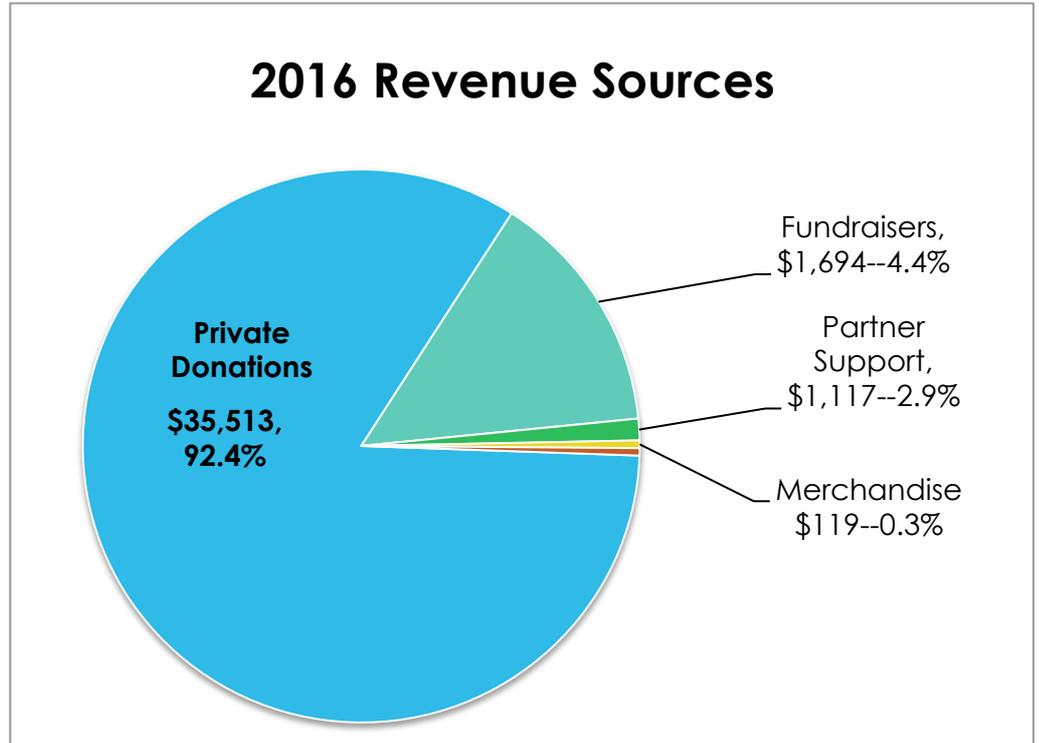
### Organization Fundraisers:

In 2016, Victor's Vision raised almost \$1,700 through various fundraisers held throughout the year by organization volunteers.

**Private Donations:** One of the most important sources of income for Victor's Vision continues to be donations from private sources, and Victor's Vision is very grateful for the generosity of these loyal individuals. In 2016, private donors funded more than 90% of the organization's revenue. Of these donors, nearly all had provided support for the organization previously, demonstrating a long-term commitment to Victor's Vision mission and work.

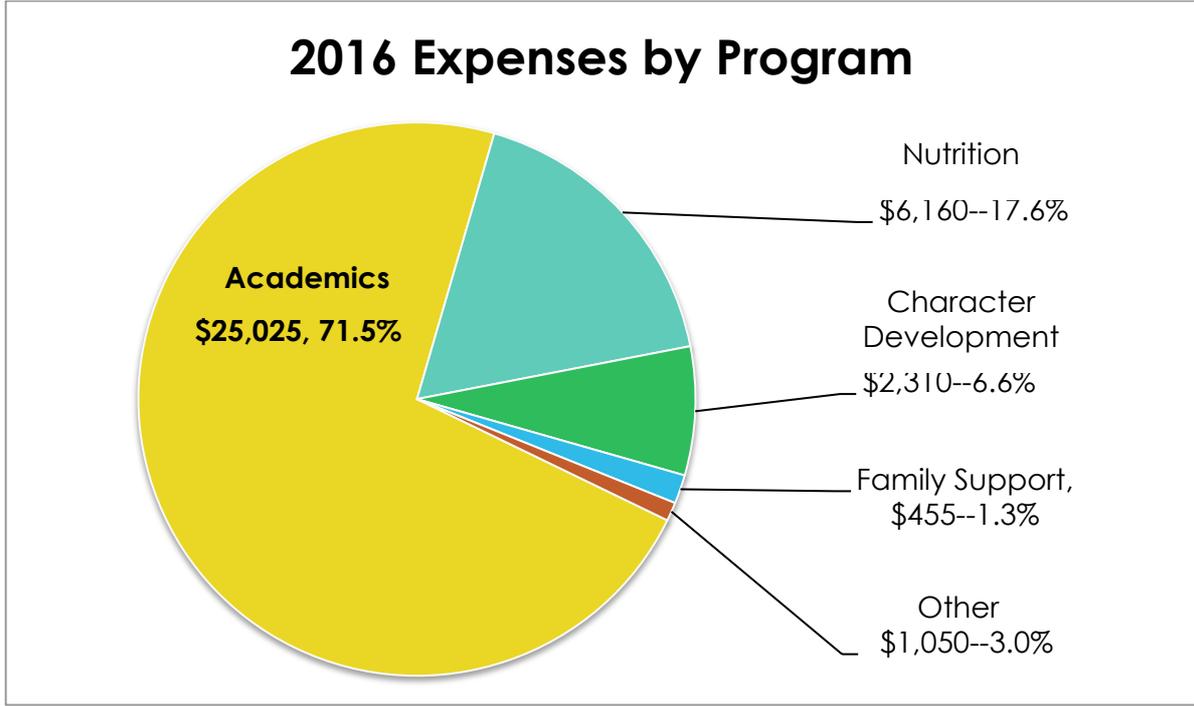
**Merchandise Sales:** In 2016, Victor's Vision continued a program started in 2015 raising supplemental income through the sale of two merchandise categories: ceramics and stationery. Chulucanas is famous for ceramics, and the pieces for sale were purchased directly from program families and therefore benefit our students twofold – the donation of proceeds to VV programming, while additionally contributing to the income of our ceramic-making families. Additionally, VV has created a stationery line featuring designs by our students. In 2016, VV made these items even more widely available for purchase, and sold \$119 worth of merchandise. 100% of the proceeds from the sales are donated directly to our programming.

**Partner Support:** Victor's Vision continued to enjoy an additional \$1,117 in financial support from generous partners.



# 2016 Expenses

**Total Expense: \$35,000**  
**Cost per Student: \$507**



## Testimonials

"Thank you so much to all of our teachers at Victor's Vision. They have helped us realize our dreams for our future and we are excited to return each year to the program."

-Victor's Vision Student (10<sup>th</sup> Grade)



"Here at Victor's Vision, I understand my teachers and because of their support I am able to be one of the best students in my class at regular school."

**-Lesly Anabel**

Victor's Vision Student (9<sup>th</sup> Grade)

"Our teachers at Victor's Vision are helping us learn a lot and they help us become better people."

**-Sadith Yakori**

Victor's Vision Student (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

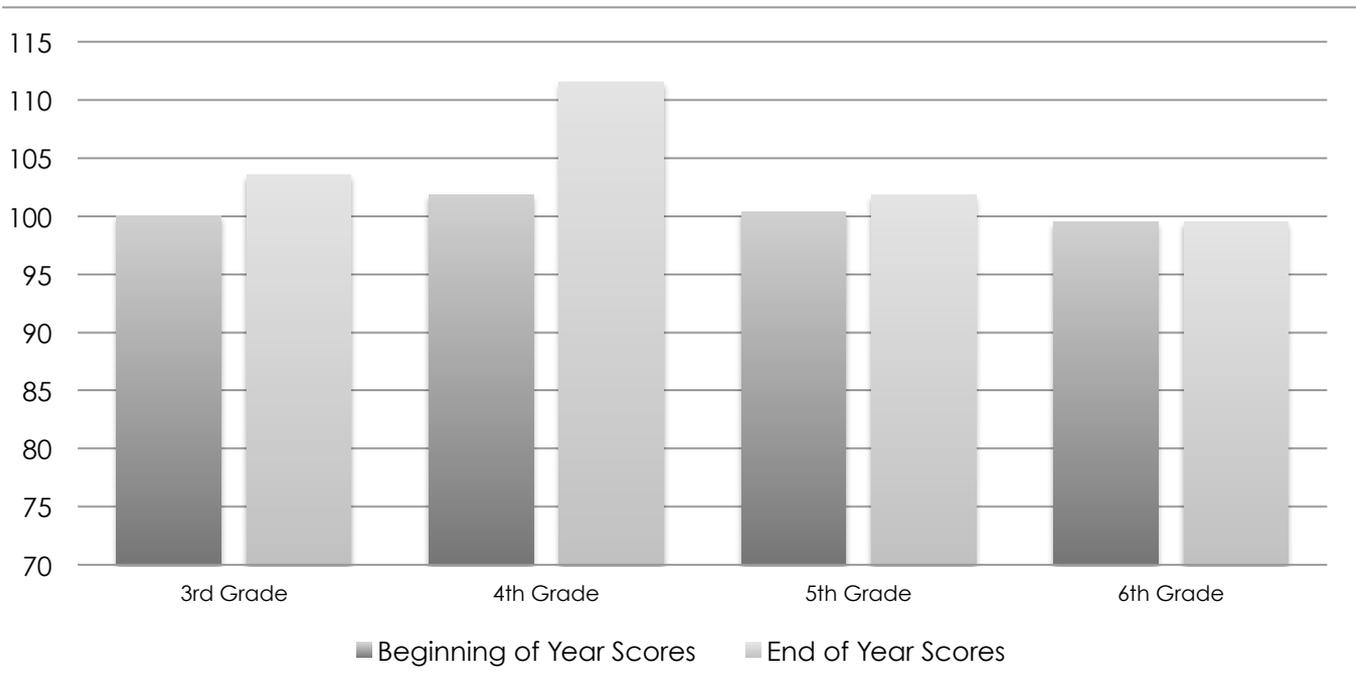
"I am so grateful that both of my sons get to attend this Victor's Vision program. Now they are at the top of their regular school classes and are more confident with their classwork. The field trips also offer my kids an opportunity to travel that my family would not be able to afford otherwise. I am so grateful to all the support from Victor's Vision."

**-Julia Preciado**

Victor's Vision Parent



## Primary Student Performance Data



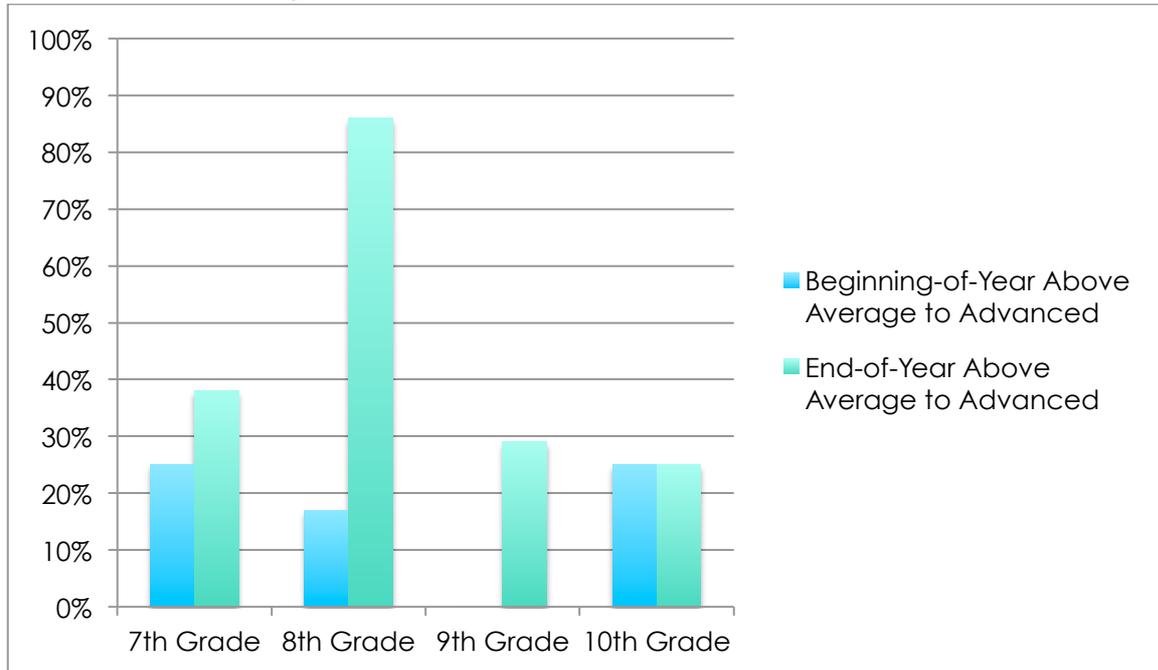
### Analysis

Since 2011, Victor's Vision has used a standardized test to measure the academic growth and progress of our students. The Cattell exam measures students in four core areas of logical thinking and assesses students' mathematical and communication logical capabilities. In this sense, the test does not simply measure *what* a student knows, rather how critically they are able to think. The exams are scored on a scale from 50-150 and are correlated with academic levels as listed in the following table:

Below Basic	50-79
Basic	80-99
Proficient	100-119
Advanced	120-139
Gifted Advanced	140-149

As the chart above shows, Victor's Vision primary students (grades 3-6) are performing at or above a proficient level on the Cattell assessment. While most students in Chulucanas are performing at a basic or below basic level, we are proud to see our students performing at a proficient to advanced level as early as third grade. This type of performance prepares our students for more advanced level work as they head into their secondary level classes both in school and with Victor's Vision.

## Secondary Student Performance Data



### Analysis

This year, Victor's Vision's fourth group of students entered secondary school. Since most students in Chulucanas drop out before the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, it is very exciting for each of our students to not only move on to secondary school, but continue to make substantial growth as secondary students.

As the graphs above show, each grade level took the CATTELL test which is normed by grade level. Knowing that our students are often scoring at on grade level by sixth grade, we evaluate the percentage of students that are performing above grade level for our secondary students. As the graph demonstrates, each of our grade levels saw a rise in the number of students performing in the above average to advanced categories on their tests with the exception of our 10<sup>th</sup> graders who maintained their scores.

This year, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class showed the most amount of growth, with over 80% of students ending the year above grade level. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes also impressively showed over 10% and 20% growth respectively.



