

VCA rejuvenates student learning

by Tony Potter Staff Writer tpotter@hibbingdailytribune.net | Posted: Thursday, September 4, 2014 6:00 am

HIBBING — Victory Christian Academy's (VCA) first bell Wednesday not only marked the start of a new school year, but the return of students and teachers to the former St. Leo's School and Catholic Church building.

"This is extremely momentous," said VCA Principal Jo Terska, noting the building had been vacant for more than a decade. "We now have the room to furnish our classrooms and departments with the necessary academic tools to help students grow as the world and technology continues to change."

Students wandered the hallways in search of their classrooms, gathered knowledge from their teachers and enjoyed the newly constructed playground equipment on the first official day of class Wednesday.

Terska said this marks the first time VCA has moved since it began leasing space from Christian Missionary Church about 30 years ago. It is also the first time in its 35-year history that VCA has owned its own building.

The timing of the move was perfect, she added. It has been four years since VCA expanded its classes from pre-K through grade 6 up to grade 12, and the school was in dire need of extra space to accommodate an increased student body.

"We were crammed like sardines," said Terska. "It was a wonderful place, but it began to limit what we could do."

Terska noted that VCA had its eye on the former St. Leo's building for several years, but the listing price was too costly. After some discussion with the building's previous owner, the price was dropped to a more affordable rate for VCA.

"We looked at many buildings, but St. Leo's was already a school. Minus a few renovations and adding a gym, most of what we needed was here," Terska said. "That's why we stayed fixated on it for so long."

Now that the school year has begun, everyone is buzzing about VCA's new home.

"The kids are enjoying it. You can see it on their faces," Terska said. "And the community has been



Moves to new home, gets fresh start

Tony PotterTeacher Sue Champion breaks in her new classroom by teaching her fourth grade students a lesson Wednesday at Victory Christian Academy. The school recently moved to a new location — the former St. Leo's School and Catholic Church building — located at 218 E. 39th St. in Hibbing.

wonderful. The neighborhood is phenomenal with support. They are so glad to hear kids voices playing here again.”

The excitement from staff members and students was evident Wednesday. Terska said one mom told her that her kids were so thrilled about the new school that they wanted to get out of the car before it was parked.

“Everybody is so excited. To have a sense of ownership toward the school is almost surreal,” she said. “This has been in our future plans for so long, but we’re finally here. Our dreams have finally been realized.”