

# BRIGHTSTAR VALOR ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL

 Listen to their Implementation Story

## COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Mission	At Bright Star Schools, our mission is to provide holistic, inclusive support for all students to achieve academic excellence and grow their unique talents so that they find joy and fulfillment in higher education, career, and life.
Location	North Hills, CA
Grades	5-8
Size	512 Students
Website	<a href="https://brightstarschools.org/VAMS">https://brightstarschools.org/VAMS</a>

## TIMELINE

October 2018	Finding the right model	Principal Perry began looking for an SEL program that would enable students to do their own internal examination to develop the self-knowledge to thrive in life.
March 2018	Building staff buy-in	Once Principal Perry found Compass, he visited Valor Collegiate Academy in Nashville, TN and got trained on how to lead Circles. Then he began running Staff Circles to show his staff the benefit of Circles and to build buy-in,
March 2018	Piloting Circles	While building staff buy-in, Principal Perry also piloted student Circles with a small group of students with behavioral challenges.
August 2019	Training staff	Staff at Brightstar Valor Academy Middle School engaged in a 4-day training to build an understanding of the foundations of circle and practice facilitation.
August 2019	Building family buy-in	Over the summer, Principal Perry and his team led sessions to share Circles with families and build buy-in.
August 2019	Rolling out Circles	At the start of the school year, Brightstar Valor Middle School rolled out Compass with students. They had a gradual roll out, starting with 5th graders only and with only certain components of Circle.
October 2019	Full Circles	Once they had student buy-in, Brightstar Valor Middle School began running Circles with all components.

