



THE RED & WHITE

AUGUST 2022

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Schools Families,

It's hard to believe that in a few short weeks our students will be returning. I hope that all our teachers, students, staff and parents took time to recharge this summer and that everyone can return ready to tackle an exciting new school year. I think we are all ready to begin a school year with more normalcy.

We've had exciting things happening in some of our buildings this summer, all thanks to our wonderful community. We can not wait to show off those improvements.

Both Indian Lake and Sunset Lake underwent some big upgrades that you will read about in this edition of the Red

and White. And the final element of our stadium upgrade, the Bulldog logo, was added to our football field this summer. These improvements were made possible thanks to our voters and we are so appreciative of your support to make sure that VCS students have the best environment possible to learn.

As we start this new year, I like to look back at our mission and vision statements here at VCS. Our vision is that all students will graduate college and career ready. And our mission is to maximize the success and potential of each student. I'd like to think we go beyond just making sure they are ready for

the real world and ready for careers and/or higher education. My hope is that while our students are here in Vicksburg we are helping them to become good citizens, life-long learners and people who will make our world a better place.

I hope as parents and community members you'll join me in being #BulldogsUnited to help our students achieve their maximum potential this school year.

Let's make this a great year!



Keevin O'Neill, *Superintendent*

Thanks to the Volunteer Doctors



We want to take the time to say thank you to the doctors who volunteered their time to perform sports physicals for our 2022-2023 student athletes.

This years list includes:

Dr. David Schriemer (Bronson Family Medicine - Vicksburg)

Dr. Matthew Miller (Bronson Family Medicine - Vicksburg)

Dr. Stacy Majoras (Bronson Sports Medicine)

Dr. Jon Christ (Bronson Sports Medicine)

Dr. David Waterson (Bronson Sports Medicine)

Thanks for making sure our students are healthy and ready to play this school year!

Vicksburg High School Ranks High in the State

Vicksburg High School is ranked 108th within Michigan! U.S. News and World Report named VHS one of the top high schools in the nation, ranking in the top 40-percent of the country and third overall in Kalamazoo county.

The high ranking comes because students have the opportunity to take numerous Advanced Placement coursework and exams. The AP participation rate at Vicksburg High School is 45 percent.



Congrats to the students and staff at VHS who make it a great place to learn!

INTRODUCING THE NEW VICKSBURGSCHOOLS.ORG!

Scan the QR code with your phone camera to visit our new and improved website! At vicksburgschools.org you can find all the answers to your questions and see the great things happening at Vicksburg Community Schools!



A Summer Full of Construction Projects

It was another exciting summer of construction at two of our elementary schools!

All of the work happened thanks to the bond that our wonderful voters passed in 2020.

This summer, the second half of Sunset Lake and all of Indian Lake elementary school received upgrades.

Some of those improvements at the two schools include:

HVAC upgrades, including hydronic piping for boiler water distribution, air conditioning, and

control systems.

Electrical upgrades, including LED lighting and upgraded fire and smoke alarms.

Interior renovations, including new ceilings and painting.

Exterior upgrades including new windows, masonry, insulation, and exterior metal panels.

The final piece of our stadium improvements was also completed this summer. Crews added the Bulldog logo to the center of the football field.

In addition to thanking our community for making these improvements possible, we also want to recognize the many companies that have been working to ensure all the improvements will be completed in time for students to return.

Thank you to:

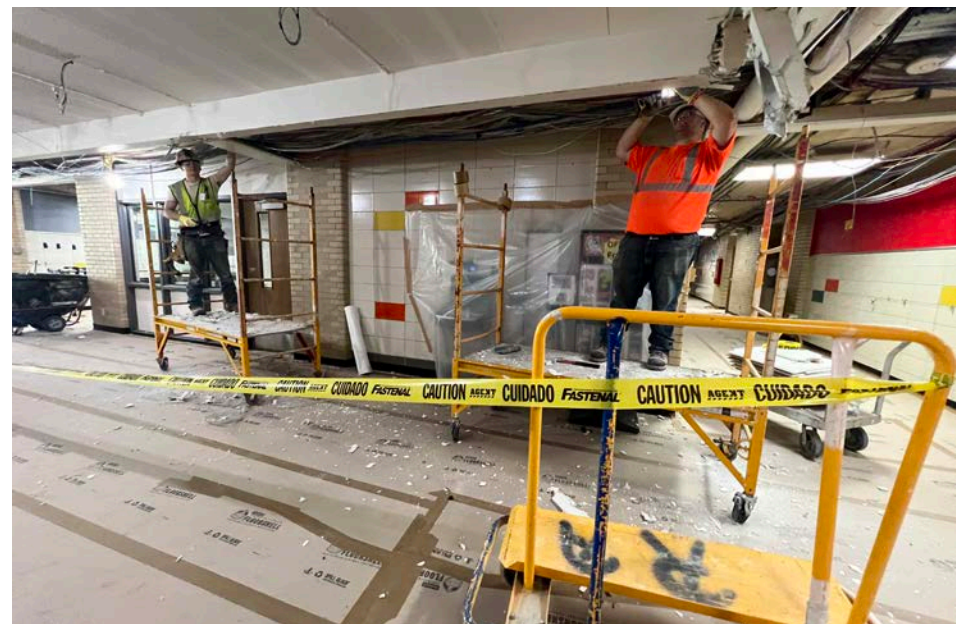
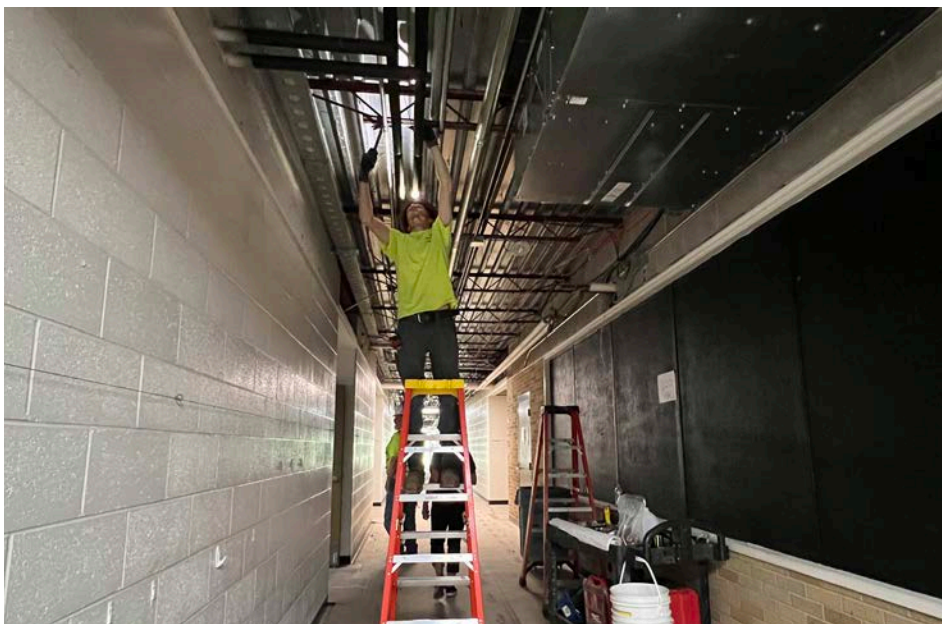
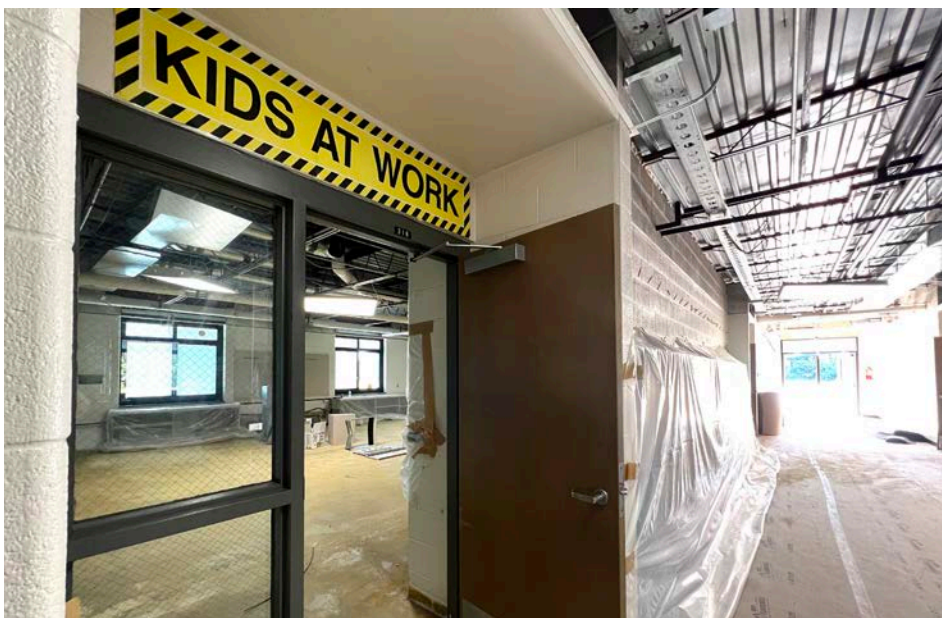
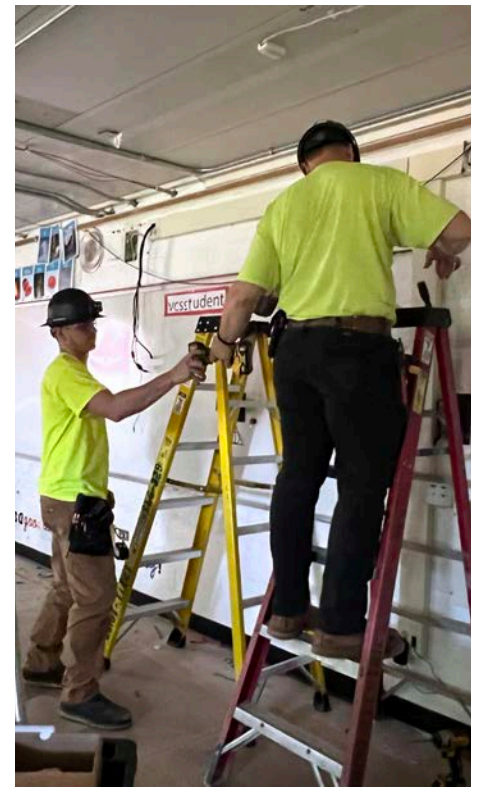
Frederick Construction
Tower Pinkster
Kasten Insulation
Hoekstra Roofing
OIK Industries
Control Net
ADS Abatement Removal

Architectural Metal and Glass
Bracy and Jahr
Buist
Early and Associates
HiTech Electrical
Kalamazoo Mechanical Inc.
Modern Tile and Carpet
Ritsema and Associates
RWLaPine
Stanton Interiors
West Michigan Painting

With improvements completed at all three of our elementary schools, construction is scheduled to begin next summer at Vicksburg Middle School.



The completed football field with the new bulldog in the center.



Apply for Free or Reduced Price Meals

As we prepare for the 2022-2023 school year, please fill out a new free and reduced price meal application.

By filling out the new application, this will help ensure a smooth transition for the new school year. It's a brief application that is needed every new school year.

Scan the QR code in the image on the right using your phone camera to fill out the survey. You can also find the survey by visiting the Food Service tab of our website using your computer

at vicksburgschools.org.

First time users will have to create an account. You will need the following information handy in order to access information about your student: Student ID Number and Student Birth Date.

Note: Free and reduced meal applications are used to determine funding for several VCS programs.

PLEASE FILL OUT OUR
FREE AND REDUCED MEAL
APPLICATION FOR THE
2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR



Clay Target Team Scores Big at Championships



Congratulations to the Bulldog Clay Target Team, which had great representation at the state tournament and national championships to end their 2021-2022 season this summer.

The Bulldog Clay Target team competed in the Novice, JV, and Varsity divisions at the Michigan State Tournament at the Michigan Trap Shooting Grounds in Mason in June.

In the Varsity team competition, Vicksburg placed 27th out of 61

teams with the top five shooters scoring 443/500 for the team.

The overall team squad was led by David Standish (12th grader - 92/100), Bryce Sherwood (7th grader - 89/100), Anthony Knowles (11th grader - 89/100), Brady Young (9th grader - 88/100), and Jackson Bowles (11th grader - 85/100). Both Standish and Young recorded one perfect 25 straight round each on the day.

The highlight of the day was the Bulldog Novice team placing 3rd and making the podium. The top 5 novice shooters shot 359/500 on the day. The Novice squad was led by Drake Reitenour with an 8th place Novice overall finish (7th grader - 79/100), Brayden Dugray (9th grader - 75/100), Kevin Francisco (6th grader - 73/100), Xavier Cleveland (9th grader - 69/100), and Chance Breen (7th grader - 63/100).

In July, the Bulldog Clay Target Team competed in the USA Clay Target National Championships held in Mason, MI. Student athletes competed in both the individual and team events.

The Nationals included both Sherwood and Standish shooting perfect 25 straight rounds and a 50 straight round each! David dropped a target late in the third round of the individual event just missing a 75 straight.

The 2022 team event included 231 teams from across the U.S. The five member Bulldog Clay

Target Team was represented by Greyson Young (9th grader), Bryce Sherwood (7th grader), Tyler Richardson (10th grader), David Standish (12th grader), and Blake Sutherland (9th grader). In the prelims on Friday, Vicksburg's squad shot a 421/500 for a 205 out of 231 teams finish. The top 80 teams moved on to Sunday's Nationals team final.

The 2022 individual event included 1,716 Student athletes shooting for the title of National Champion. Vicksburg was represented in the individual prelims by David Standish, Greyson Young, and Tyler Richardson. David Standish was the lone finals qualifier for the Bulldogs with a 192nd place finish prelims score of 96/100. David finished the individual event in 278/1,716 with a final score of 189/200.

In prelims, Young finished at 1,203 with a 85/100 and Richardson finished at 1,598 with a 75/100. The top 401 student athletes advanced to Sunday's Nationals individual final.

Bulldog Bag Chairs Are On Sale Now

On sale while supplies last! Bulldog Bag Chairs! They cost \$25 each.

Show your Bulldog Pride at your next game, campout, or tailgate!

Drop by the Community Education Office in the Vicksburg Administration Building anytime between 8 am and 3 pm Monday through Thursday to get yours!

You can purchase the Bulldog Bag Chairs from the Vicksburg High School office from 9am to 1pm Monday through Thursday.

Cash or checks are accepted.



BULLDOG
BAG CHAIRS

\$25



ON SALE NOW!

Call (269) 321-1022 or visit the VAB to get yours today!

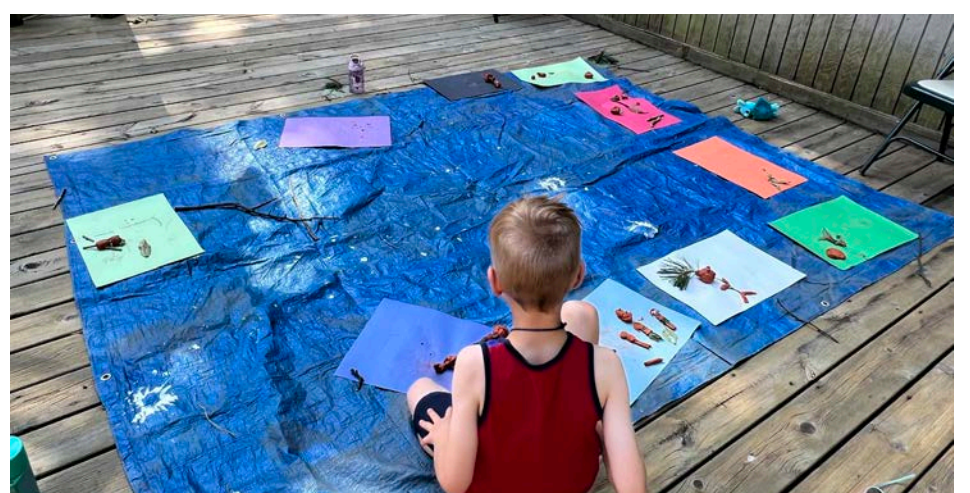
OEC Arts Camp Creates More Than Memories

The Outdoor Education Center was busy this summer playing host to Arts in the 'Burg.

The camps, hosted by The Vicksburg Cultural Arts Center, used our awesome outdoor space to create works of art.

Students made art with items found in nature. They created their own paint brushes with leaves, flowers and sticks. They also made scrapbooks with items they discovered while walking the grounds of the OEC. The campers also painted murals and covered the walkways in chalk drawings.

It was the perfect setting to combine art and nature!



Wildlife and Natural Resources Class at the Mill



If you've been to the Mill property this summer you may have seen the work of some of the Volunteers from the Wildlife and Natural Resources class took time out from their studying for final exams to plant American chestnut trees at the Mill site.

This is the beginning of a collaboration with MSU forestry PhD candidate Evan Farinosi to develop blight-resistant American Chestnut trees.

These trees were once the predominant tree in the eastern third of the U.S., and almost all succumbed to chestnut blight.

With climate change, the American chestnut will be ideally suited to grow in Michigan, so the development of blight-resistant stock is vital.

Thanks to the work of our students those trees are beginning to grow again on the Mill property.

Practicing Reading Skills During Summer School



Elementary summer school once again focused on the importance of reading!

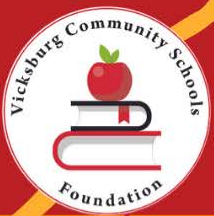
Students taking part got visits from special guest readers and had reading nooks so they could curl up with books.

The students had a chance to brush up and improve their reading and math skills before heading off to the next grade level.

Summer school was held at Tobey Elementary, where the HVAC system was completely upgraded last summer, so staff, teachers and students stayed cool in the air conditioning.



The Big Read Machine Rolls Through August

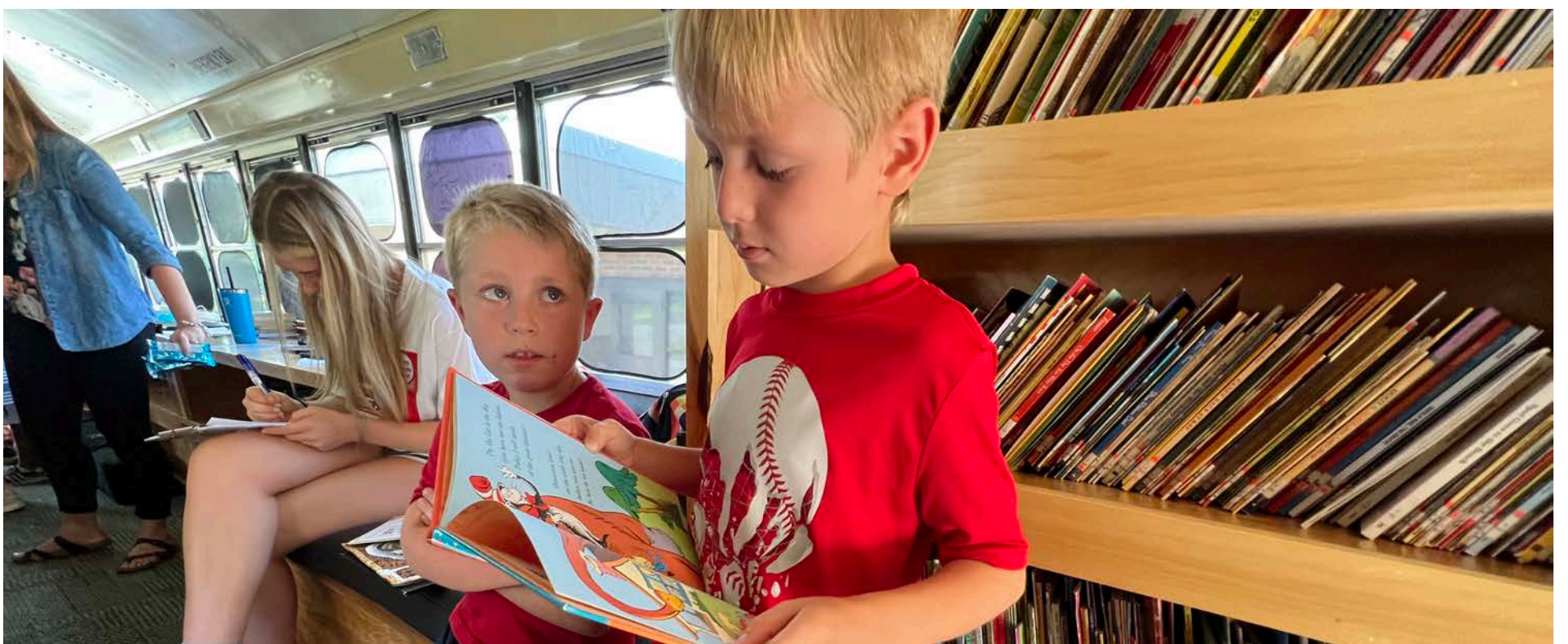


Big Read Machine August 2022 Schedule



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
August Stops 	Aug 8: 6-8:30pm Portage Terrace 11247 Portage Road	Aug 2: 9:30am- 12pm Sunset Lake Elem 12786 S Sprinkle Rd Aug 9: 5-7:30pm The Mill/Food truck 300 W Hwy	Aug 3: 9:30am -12pm Tobey Elem 8551 E Long Lake Dr Aug 10: 6-7pm Sunset Lake Elem 7:15-8:15pm Centennial Allen Edwin Homes 1530 Harper Grove Ln	Aug 4: 9:45-10:45am Lakeland Creative Beginnings 10442 S Sprinkle Rd 11am-12pm Kids Court, 12786 S Sprinkle Aug 12: 6-7pm Tobey Elem 8551 E Long Lake Dr 7:30-8:30pm Indian Lake 11901 S 30th St	Aug 12: 2-6pm Farmers Market 300 N Richardson St

Please check out the schedule and come grab some great summer reading materials from the mobile library brought to our community thanks to the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation. It has more stops this summer than ever before. We hope to see you at the various stops!



The kids have had a great time on the Big Read Machine this summer.

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
2022-2023 STUDENT/VEA CALENDAR

School Days = 180 Teacher Days = 188.5

JULY, 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

AUGUST, 2022 (3 Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

- 23 ½ day work in room/1/2 day bldg. PD
- 24 Full day district PD
- 25 ½ day district PD (a.m.)
- 29 First day of school

SEPTEMBER, 2022 (20 Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

- 2 Labor Day Holiday
- 5 Labor Day
- 23 ½ day students (a.m.)
½ day PLC/curriculum work (p.m.)

OCTOBER, 2022 (20 Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

- 28 Records Day – no students

NOVEMBER, 2022 (19 Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

- 23-25 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER, 2022 (17 Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

- 9 ½ day students (a.m.) ½ day PD
- 26-30 Winter Break

JANUARY, 2023 (16 Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

- 2-6 Winter Break
- 16-19 Exams
- 20 Records Day – no students
- 23 1st Day of 2nd Semester

FEBRUARY, 2023 (19 Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

- 3 ½ day students (a.m.)
½ day PLC/curriculum work (p.m.)
- 24 Mid-Winter Break

MARCH, 2023 (17 Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

- 10 ½ day students (a.m.)
½ day PD (p.m.)
- 23 ½ day students (a.m.)
½ day Records (p.m.)
- 24-31 Spring Break

APRIL, 2023 (20 Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

MAY, 2023 (22 Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

- 5 ½ day students (a.m.)
½ day PLC/curriculum work (p.m.)
- 29 Memorial Day Holiday

JUNE, 2023 (7 Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

- 9 Last Day of School
½ day for students

Student Half Day

No students or VEA Staff

VEA Staff/no students

1st Semester Days 88
2nd Semester Days 92

Tobey Elementary Receives National Honor



Character.org, a national advocate and leader for character in schools and communities, certified 152 Promising Practices in schools and organizations on June 1, 2022.

In a huge honor, Vicksburg's Tobey Elementary was the only school in Michigan named a Promising Practices school!

"We are extremely proud to recognize the schools and organizations that have developed and implemented a Promising Practice" said Dr. Arthur Schwartz, President of Character.org. "Each of these programs and initiatives have demonstrated significant impact and strongly align with the principles that help schools and organizations cultivate a culture

of character."

This year's character development practices and initiatives included peer mentoring, service-learning, and conflict resolution approaches. Many of the Promising Practices also involve parents and the local community.

Character.org will honor each 2022 Promising Practice recipient

at its National Forum to be held October 19-20, 2022.

Congratulations to the Tobey Tigers on successfully implementing the Promising Practices into the Tobey Way!

Pictured are just a few of the many ways students at Tobey gave back to their community this past year.

Upcoming Vicksburg Community Schools Events

As we prepare to head back to school at the end of the month there are two big events to welcome our students and families back for the new school year.

For our elementary school students, the Transportation Safety Carnival is scheduled for Thursday, August 18th. From 5:30 to 7:30pm.

Families are invited to ride our school buses, learn about bus safety and enjoy free hotdogs, games and prizes. The safety carnival is designed to be a fun refresher of school bus safety to get kids ready to board school

buses on the first day of school.

And football season is just around the corner, which means our Community Tailgate is kicking off soon!

The community is invited to attend this free event on September 9th from 4:30 to 6:30pm.

Dozens of local businesses and community organizations will be there. It also features free games, prizes and hotdogs for the community.

We hope to see you at these 2 great community events to kick off the new school year!

Vicksburg Community Schools Presents:

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY TAILGATE 2022!

Please join us in welcoming VCS families and students to a new school year

September 9, 2022

4:30pm to 6:30pm

Contact Vicksburg Community Education
for booth availability: 269-321-1022



**JOIN US FOR THE
TRANSPORTATION
SAFETY CARNIVAL!!**



**Thursday, August 18, 2022
VAB parking lot & side yard
5:30pm to 7:30pm**

**LEARN SCHOOL BUS
AND FIRE SAFETY!**



- Free hot dog & water for each child
- Visit the Big Read Machine
- Get a free book

Free Games, Prizes and More!

All elementary school students are invited!