



THE

RED & WHITE

FEBRUARY 2023

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Schools Families,

Our second semester has started with much excitement as we look at ways to move the district forward and build on the traditions of success Vicksburg Community Schools has established over many years.

The newly formed five year strategic planning committee has been meeting to look over the data gathered from our parent, staff and student surveys. We are in the process of setting new goals to make sure our students have access to the best educational experiences here in Vicksburg Community Schools.

Our committee is made up of teachers, parents, school board members and administrators and we will be working with Hulings and Associates to lay the groundwork for the future of VCS. I look forward to our continued meetings and the next step in the process, which will include interviews with key stakeholders as well as students to update and improve our mission here in Vicksburg.

Our plan is to share our five year strategic plan by late spring and put it into motion for the 2023-2024 school year. I look

forward to providing the community with updates as progress continues.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Red and White. It showcases many of the ways our students are already looking to their futures beyond VCS and ways they are preparing for the workforce and college. It's a joy to bring you these wonderful glimpses into our school buildings each month.



Regards,

Kevin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT

2023 VCSF Scholarship Program Starts Up

The Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation has launched the 2023 scholarship program.

Vicksburg High School seniors who are considering a 2 or 4-year college or a trade school are eligible to apply for up to 38 different scholarships by completing one application.

The program launched on January 30th and applications must be submitted no later than March 18th.

Scholarship winners will share nearly \$60,000 of award money this year. Winners will be announced at the Senior Honors Banquet on May 18th.



VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLICATIONS NOW
OPEN, DEADLINE IS
MARCH 18TH.

38 DIFFERENT
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

AVAILABLE TO
VICKSBURG STUDENTS
APPLYING TO A 2 OR 4
YEAR COLLEGE OR
TRADE SCHOOL

REGISTRATION LINK

<https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarships/VCSS2023>



Our Office: 301 S. Kalamazoo St. Vicksburg MI 49097

269-321-1006

Booster Bounce Fundraiser Coming Feb. 18th

The annual Booster Bounce fundraiser is being held Saturday, February 18th from 7 to 11pm at Indian Run Clubhouse.

The Booster Bounce is one of 2 fundraising events held by the VHS Athletic Boosters.

They hope to raise about \$6,000 with the fun event that includes a DJ, cash bar, raffle prizes and much more.

Each year, the Boosters help to cover the annual needs of the 29 sports offered at VHS.

They cover the cost of safety gear, pay for tournament fees and sponsor the free summer speed agility camps for all athletes, among other things.



2023 BOOSTER BOUNCE!

**The VHS Athletic Boosters
Winter Fundraiser**



Saturday, February 18th

7:00 - 11:00pm

Indian Run Clubhouse

\$30 per person or \$50 a couple | Adults only

Joins us for a fun filled evening including:

A DJ | Cash Bar | Raffle Prizes & Auction | Hors d'oeuvres



For tickets contact any booster rep or text:

Lucas Hillard 269-760-3139 or

Erin Johnson 269-599-0090

Or pay via the Vicksburg Athletic Boosters

PayPal by scanning the QR code:



Planting the Seeds for May's Plant Sale

Plant sale seeds have been delivered!

It was like Christmas for the KRESA - Vicksburg FFA Horticulture students. They have been working hard to plan for their annual sale.

It's much more than growing and selling plants. Students have to determine the available space in the greenhouse, when to plant them, germination lighting, seed depth, amount of water, calculate prices and much more.

More details about their plant sale in May will be coming soon!



DECA Earns Rare Achievement

Vicksburg High School DECA members have won a huge honor!

The VHS DECA chapter was awarded the Thrive Achievement Level Award and is eligible to compete at the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida this spring.

They are one of only 1,300 chapters internationally to earn achievement!

DECA's mission is to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. The program focuses on college and career readiness.

The VHS DECA members are working to fundraise so they can attend the International Career Development Conference and further their skills.

If you are interested in donating, you can scan the QR code for a link to the donation page.



VHS DECA Chapter awarded Thrive Achievement Award!

**Now fundraising to attend International Career
Development Conference**



Student Art Displayed Around Vicksburg

Student artists from Indian Lake and Tobey have their work displayed all around our community.

Art teacher Jake Biernacki works with the Vicksburg Fine Arts Boosters to show off the student art work.

Right now you can view art-

work from approximately 50 kindergarten through 5th grade students from Indian Lake and Tobey Elementary schools.

Current works of art on hanging at Daily Grind Cafe, Oopsy Daisy, Aaron Guitar shop, Erbelli's, Wooden Stitch, Jaspare's, La Finca and Rise N Dine. New pieces are delivered every 8 weeks.



VCS Celebrates School Board Recognition Month



Vicksburg Community Schools joined hundreds of school districts across Michigan to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month!

School board members represent the views and priorities of their community and their main goal is to support student achievement. Our board members do that in so many ways.

We thank our VCS School Board Members for all they do for our students!



VMS Joins Wolverine Conference

Vicksburg Middle School athletics is joining the Wolverine Conference!

This move from the KAMSL to the Wolverine Conference will open up more opportunities for all VMS athletes, especially our 6th grade students. With this change coming for the 2023-2024 school year, 6th graders will be able to join boys and girls basketball and track and 6th through 8th grade boys and girls will have the opportunity to join tennis. These sports are in addition to the ones currently offered at VMS.

It will also allow our middle school athletes a chance to start building friendly rivalries with players, teams and schools they will face in high school.

Parents and students can expect to see information about the new conference and the sports offered next school year in the coming weeks.



**VICKSBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL
ATHLETICS IS MOVING TO THE
WOLVERINE CONFERENCE!**

**This means more athletic
opportunities for all students,
especially our 6th graders
and the ability to start forming
friendly rivalries with teams
they will play in high school!**



VCS Transportation Department Honored with Certificate of Excellence

More than 20 years! That's how long Allen "Bubba" Reynolds has been keeping our VCS school buses in top shape to make sure our students are transported to and from school safely.

Our Transportation Department once again was honored with a Certificate of Excellence from the Michigan State Police for achieving a pass rate of 95% or higher in our Bus Safety Inspections.

Thanks Bubba and VCS bus drivers for all you do!

February 22nd is National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day, so be sure to say thank you to your bus driver!



Kindergarten Celebrates Reading at Indian Lake



Mrs. Boudrie’s class at Indian Lake Elementary celebrated reaching their reading goals

having a pajama and stuffie day! Every time they read a book to an adult or practiced sight words

with an adult, they recorded their reading on a log sheet. They met and exceeded their first

semester goals and got to have a special day to celebrate.

Sunset Lake Elementary Holds Taste Test

Sunset Lake Elementary is one of 210 schools across the state to receive a Building Healthy Communities program grant.

The program's goals are to make health-focused improvements in Michigan schools.

Sunset Lake is using theirs to focus on building healthy eating habits. They held a taste test

for students in BK through 5th grade, allowing them to try some foods they might not have previously been exposed to.

The exercise was a fun way to try new foods! Many discovered something they might want to add to their lunches in the future.



Truck Full of Books Comes to Tobey Elementary

Kindergarteners in Carole Boal's class at Tobey Elementary got a surprise delivery of new books thanks to Consumers Concrete and Michigan Construction.

Jeff Sommerfeld, from Consumers Concrete delivered the Tonka Truck full of construction themed books and stayed to read to the students.

Mrs. Boal was one of just two West Michigan teachers to win the raffle.

The contest is held every year to help raise awareness of and interest in the skilled trades.

The students had a great time asking questions about construction and learning about all the possible future jobs they could pursue.



CTE Students Take WMU Engineering Field Trip



Our Career and Technical Education students recently had a successful trip to the WMU College of Engineering and Applied Sciences annual Innovation Expo.

The students got to pitch their innovative products and services to judges and the community.

A panel of judges select the top three teams from each age group. And a Popular Vote award is given to the team that receives the most Innovation Dollars.

VHS students Autumn Molnar Houts and Reed Tassell took first place. The team of Skyler Eyre, Lane Leach, Justin Plankenhorn, Tyler Fenwick and Patrick Russon took second place.

David vanAlmelo and Skyler Eyre were each awarded \$2,000 scholarships for their work.



The Science of Board Games at VMS

Board games and science? elimination as a technique to solve problems.

It's a fun combination that VHS teacher Jennifer Heeres used to help teach her 6th grade science students that scientists sometimes use the process of

They played various games to practice the process of elimination.



Basketball and the Tobey Way

Members of the boys and girls varsity basketball teams stopped by a Tobey Elementary community assembly to talk about teamwork, focus, perseverance, humility and how the Tobey Way has helped them in high school.

Team members who are former Tobey Tigers got to visit their old school and gym where many began playing basketball.

The visit was a great treat for the students and a way to hype up the players for their game that evening.

As of February 1st, the Lady Bulldogs Basketball team was undefeated with a 15-0 record.



JP Culver Achieves 100 Wrestling Wins



Congratulations to VHS wrestler JP Culver on his 100th career win!

Way to go JP!!

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