



THE

RED & WHITE

JUNE 2023



VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: TRADITIONS IN EXCELLENCE



VHS CLASS OF 2023

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Schools Families,

I am finding it hard to believe that we have already reached the end of the school year. To say this year went quickly would be an understatement. It has been a school year filled with so many positive things to celebrate.

I want to say congratulations to the class of 2023. I am hopeful and excited for what lies ahead as they head off to college and out into the world. I know with the foundation they gained here at Vicksburg Community Schools they will do great things.

Because of our supportive community, we are continuing our bond improvements once again this summer. Construction

will take place in parts of the middle and high schools this year.

Also this summer, we hope to wrap up our five year strategic planning process. Our committee has been meeting for the last 6 months to review community, staff and student survey data, analyze our current goals to find ways to take them to the next level and lay out the steps to improve our schools for all students and staff. We are in the process of creating the new plan to make sure our students have access to the best educational experiences here in Vicksburg Community Schools. We hope to

finalize it this summer and put it into motion for the 2023-2024 school year.

While we do that work, my hope for our families, students and staff is to have a relaxing summer full of time with family and friends.

I am very much looking forward to what the 2023-2024 school year will bring for all our students, but first I hope you enjoy your summer break.



Regards,

Kevin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT

Senior Walk for the Class of 2023

The VHS Class of 2023 continued the long-standing tradition of the Senior Walk!

They visited each of the VCS elementary schools and the middle school. New this year, they also walked through the Vicksburg Admin Building, the original and historic school for our district.

It's always both a bittersweet and rewarding feeling watching the graduating class walk through the halls of each building one last time as VCS students.



Students Awarded at Senior Honors Reception

Dozens of members of the graduating class of 2023 were honored for their academic and athletic achievements at the annual Senior Honors Reception.

More than \$70,000 in scholarships were given out to the group of seniors.

Thank you to the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation and other organizations who always support our students!



Girls Tennis Team Qualifies for State



The VHS girls varsity tennis team took second place at regionals and qualified for the MHSAA State Finals at the University of Michigan on June 2nd and 3rd.

Congrats to our team and our Regional Champions and Runner Ups.

Heading to state are:

- 1S: Gracie Breitenbach (Runner Up)
- 2S: Scarlett Hosner (Regional Champion)
- 4S: Maya Grossman (Regional Champion)
- 3D: Emma Vallier/ Olivia Penney (Runner Ups)
- 4D: Stella Reitenour/ Isabelle Hahn (Runner Ups)

VHS Track Stars Headed to State Finals



Congratulations to the VHS boys and girls track State qualifiers!

The teams did great at Regionals!

The girls set 3 new school records in the process of qualifying for state! The boy team was also named Wolverine conference champions.

Heading to state are:

Boys

- 100- Micheal Wright
- 200- Micheal Wright
- 400- Tucker Radgens
- 300 Hurdles- Avery Snook and Kenny Youngs
- 4x1- RJ Vallier, Lucas Johnson, Alex VanSweden, and Micheal Wright

4x2- RJ Vallier, Brycen Town, Alex VanSweden, and Micheal Wright

4x4- Brycen Town, RJ Vallier, Lucas Johnson, and Tucker Radgens

Girls

- 400- Emma Steele (New school record!! 1:00.08)
- 800- Emma Steele (New school record!! 2:21.33)
- 100 Hurdles- Megan Zahnow (New school record!! 15.39)
- 300 Hurdles- Megan Zahnow
- 4x4- Sidney Jones, Molly Young, Megan Zahnow, and Emma Steele



Middle School Track Wins Big at Regional Meet

Congratulations to the Vicksburg Middle School track team! They had a great showing at the first ever middle school regional track meet!

This was added by the MHSAA this year as part of their expansion of track and field.

The boys team won the region, while the girls team came in 6th.

They had several regional champions as well!

Kendra Zahnow won the pole vault.

Travis Hostetler won long jump, 200m hurdles and the 400m dash!

Hunter Smith won the pole vault.

They also set several Middle School records and had amazing personal records from the entire team.



VHS Softball Shares Wolverine Conference Title

Congratulations to the VHS girls softball team!

They are Conference Co-Champions!

The Lady Bulldogs shared the Wolverine conference title with rival Edwardsburg.

The team is setting school records with 52 home runs heading into Districts! They are ranked 6th in Division 2.



VHS Golf Team Racks Up the Awards

Some huge honors for the Vicksburg High School golf team!

They claimed the Wolverine Conference Golf Championship and several top awards!

Riley Briggs was medalist at the Wolverine Conference tournament.

Josiah McClelland received the 2023 Outstanding Golfer Award.

And Coach Meyer received the Coach of the Year Award for the second in a row!



AP Spanish Students Set New Record



AP Spanish students once again had the opportunity this year to earn the Global and Michigan Seals of Biliteracy. And VHS saw the largest group ever to achieve that honor!

Students must demonstrate fluency by completing a proficiency test that assesses

their speaking, writing, reading, and listening abilities in Spanish.

15 VHS students earned their Seal of Biliteracy this year.

Pictured with their medals and certificates are: (seated) Faith Smith, Nevaeh Hemmes-Palms, Abby Bush, (middle row) Avery Barker, Renee Weesner,

Molly Young, Olivia Beyer, Ally Bontrager, Daxton Rugg, (back row) Cody Hatridge, Carson Holmes, Charlie Wester, Jackson Bowles, and Josiah McClelland, Not pictured: Filippo Panzeri

In addition, five of these students also earned their Michigan Seal of Biliteracy which indicates a

higher proficiency level than the Global Seal.

Pictured with their Michigan Seal of Biliteracy certificates are: Filippo Panzeri, Abby Bush, Ally Bontrager, Nevaeh Hemmes-Palms, and Faith Smith.

Congratulations to you all!

Sunset Lake Economics Sale Returns

Second graders at Sunset Lake Elementary held their Economics Sale for the first time since 2019.

Students set up their own shops across 4 different classrooms and sold small items of their choosing. Other classrooms were able to come to their mini mall and shop from the stores. It was a great way to put their recent economic lessons into action!



STRIVE Program Awards Breakfast



Our Vicksburg High School Strive Students were celebrated at an awards breakfast in their honor.

Strive is a partnership with the Rotary Club of Vicksburg to help make sure our students have the support they need to graduate. Students receive a mentor who meets with them and provides encouragement. The goal is to improve their GPAs, attendance and attitudes.

The top students get scholarships to help them continue their education.

Congratulations to all 6 Strive Students: Phoenix Campbell, Ainsley Gray, Christopher Gonzales, Grace Hughes, Hannah Jenkins, David Kreitlow and Maggie Southwick.

This year's scholarship winners are:

4th place: Maggie Southwick

3rd place: David Kreitlow

2nd place: Phoenix Campbell

1st place: Ainsley Gray, who is receiving a full scholarship to Glen Oaks Community College!

Great work, Bulldogs! And thanks to the Rotary for helping this program be so successful!

CTE Students Recognized by School Board



Outstanding members of the VHS class of 2023 were once again honored at the May school board meeting.

3 students who received various awards were introduced while all of the Outstanding Seniors in the CTE programs were also introduced and honored.

The CTE programs allow students to get hands-on work in career fields they are interested in. Many go on to finish degrees

or certifications in those fields, which lead to future careers.

Congratulations to the following outstanding seniors:

Tristin Abnet, DAR "Good Citizen of the Year Award"

Avery Barker, Principal's Leadership Award

Abigail Bush, YWCA Women of Achievement Award

Skylar Eyre, CTE Computerized

Manufacturing

Gabriel Fuller, EFA Film & Video

Cohen Johnson, CTE Work

Waylon Knowlton, CTE Horticulture

Linkoln Kowalski, CTE Horticulture

Carter Mann, CTE Dental Assisting

Autumn Molnar Houts, CTE

Computerized Manufacturing

Lily Puckett, CTE Culinary Arts

Jonah Schmidt, CTE Information Technology

David Standish, CTE Computerized Manufacturing

Kyle Szydlowski, CTE Culinary Arts

Emma VanWoert, CTE Accounting

Morgan Wood, CTE Agriscience

VHS Excels at MITES Competitions

The Vicksburg High School CTE Computerized Manufacturing and Mechatronic Engineering classes had a very busy and successful spring!

They have been involved with MITES (Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society) for the regional and state competition. MITES has been around since 1928, with the founding principle of promoting and maintaining Michigan's strong and long history of industrial education of various types

First through fourth place Regional winners were eligible for the 2023 State competition that was held this year at the Wings Event Center on May 10-13.

51 student projects placed at the regional competition to move on to state competition.

21 of the student projects placed at state competition, with many first place winners! (See the list below)

VHS graduating senior, Autumn Molnar Houts, also received the top award of Best in Show for her plastics design!

The week after MITES, 12 students took the Society of manufacturing Engineers (SME) Certified Manufacturing Associate (CMfgA) Exam.

These students passed the exam and earned their CMfgA digital badge:

Braeden Boer

Lexi Chapman

Skyler Eyre

Tyler Hurtt (PC)

Autumn Molnar Houts

Deryck Smith

Haley Wharton

Congratulations to them all!

Autumn Molnar Houts received first place and Best of Show in plastics. She used a CNC (Computerized Numerical Control) machine to create her mold and used resin for the actual molding of the dog paw coaster.



Students Try to Safely Ship a Chip



VMS 6th graders were given a new science challenge this year. They had to act as teams of manufacturing engineers and design the smallest, lightest package to ship a single potato chip from one school to another without breaking the chip.

Each team was provided with limited supplies to create their box. They had to think about the package strength, size, and weight as well as how the package would survive if it ended up at the bottom of a stack of heavy boxes during shipping.

Once all the chips were secure in their packages, the boxes were delivered to Indian Lake Elementary where students tested them for strength before shipping them back to VMS.

Impressively, many of the chips survived their treks around Vicksburg!



Tobey Sale Raises Big Money for Charity



The annual 4th grade market to market sales at Tobey Elementary School were a huge success! The students raised \$2,258 for Generous Hands.

The sales are the culmination of their economics lessons over 7 weeks.


All the students are invited to create their own shops and

sell items they have created themselves. Items are sold for between 25 cents and 2 dollars each.


The students decided to donate all money raised to help others. They blew away last year's total of \$1,600 donated! Great job to all those who took part!



Mark Your Calendars for These Summer Events!



Big Read Machine Summer 2023 Schedule



	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
June	June 13: 5-7:30pm The Mill/Food trucks June 20: 9:30am- 12pm Sunset Lake Elem June 27: 6-8pm Centennial	June 21: 9:30am-12pm Tobey Elem June 14: 5-8pm Burg Days of Summer	June 15 & 29: 6-7pm Portage Terrace 7:30-8:30pm Tobey June 22: 9:45-10:45am Lakeland CB 11am-12pm Kids Court	June 16 & 30: 2-6pm Farmers Market
July	July 11: 5-7:30pm The Mill/Food trucks July 18: 9:30am- 12pm Sunset Lake Elem July 25: 6-8pm Centennial	July 12: 5-8pm Burg Days of Summer July 19: 9:30am-12pm Tobey Elem	July 13 & 27: 6-7pm Portage Terrace 7:30-8:30pm Tobey July 20: 9:45-10:45am Lakeland CB 11am-12pm Kids Court	July 14 & 28: 2-6pm Farmers Market
August	Aug 1: 9:30am- 12pm Sunset Lake Elem Aug 8: 5-7:30pm The Mill/Food trucks	Aug 2: 9:30am-12pm Tobey Elem Aug 9: 5-8pm Burg Days of Summer	Aug 3: 9:45-10:45am Lakeland CB 11am-12pm Kids Court Aug 10: 6-7pm Portage Terrace 7:30-8:30pm Tobey	Aug 11: 2-6pm Farmers Market

AUGUST

17

THURSDAY

**Transportation
Safety Carnival**
Thursday, August 17th,
5:30 to 7:30pm

AUGUST

28

MONDAY

**First Day of School
for 2023-2024**
Monday, August 28th

SEPT.

8

FRIDAY

Community Tailgate
Friday, September 8th,
4:30 to 6:30pm

—THE
BRADLEY JACOB DOW
FOUNDATION—

presents



JULY 15,
12:00-4:00PM

\$5 admission
Free for EBT/WIC*
*must show proof

MENTAL HEALTH FAIR

FEATURING

Mental health resources, vendor show, silent auction,
food trucks, face painting, horse back riding,
superheroes and princesses, and MORE!



Vicksburg Pavilion
200 N Richardson St
Vicksburg MI 49097

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