



THE

RED & WHITE

OCTOBER 2022

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Schools Families,

I've really enjoyed seeing all of you in our schools and at our games and events we have hosted so far this school year. Seeing the support our community provides year after year makes me very proud to be a Vicksburg Bulldog.

With that said, we are always looking for ways to improve our district. And I'm happy to talk about what we are doing to take VCS into the future. Right now, our Board of Education and management team are in the process of developing a 5-year strategic plan to help us guide the district. An important component of the plan is capturing input from all of our

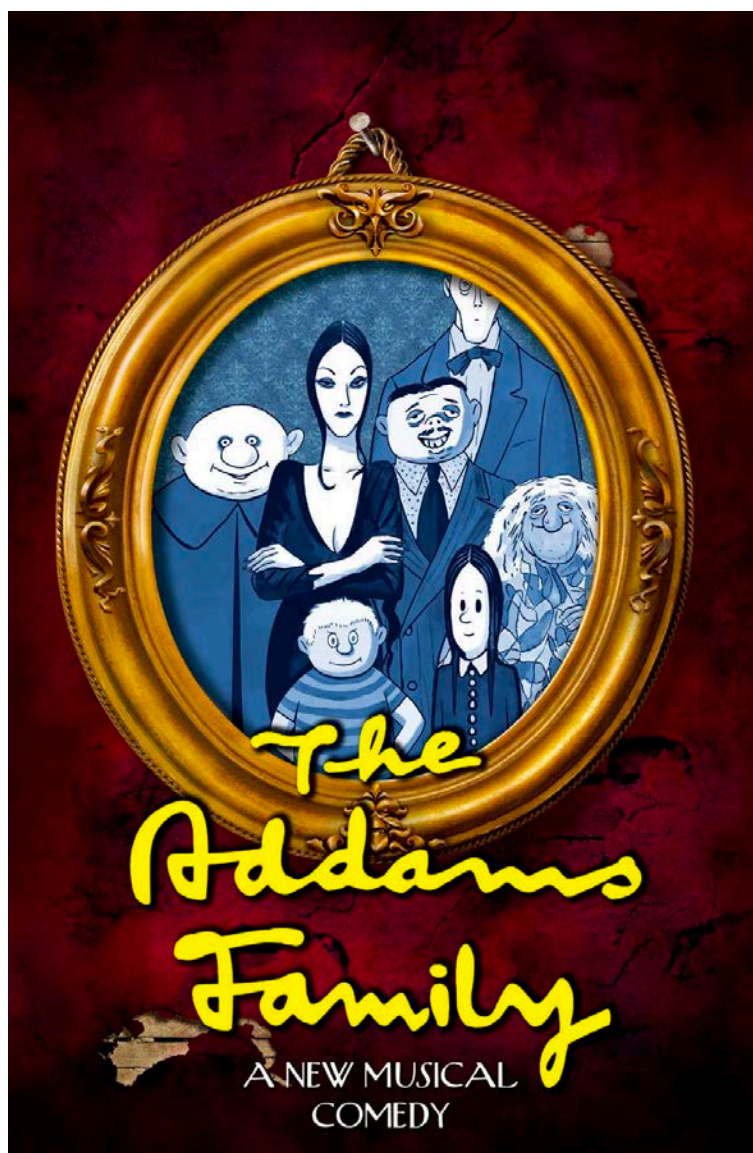
stakeholders, including parents, guardians, students, and staff. To that end, we have coordinated with Emicity, a market research firm, to conduct and analyze related web surveys among all three groups. The results of this survey will be analyzed only in aggregate, meaning individual responses will be anonymous. The more people who participate, the more accurate the data will be.

I am excited to receive feedback and learn what is important to all of our stakeholders and learn where they would like to see the district focus its energy moving forward. Work on our 5-year strategic plan is expected

to continue through the rest of this school year. I will keep our community updated along the way.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the October issue of the Red and White, where you can find some of the awesome things happening inside of our classrooms as well as ways our community has supported our students.

Keevin O'Neill,
Superintendent



You're Invited to
The Addams Family
at the Vicksburg Performing Arts Center!

Our 4th through 8th graders are putting on this
haunting show.

Fri & Sat Oct 21 & 22 @ 7 pm

Sunday, Oct 23 @ 2 pm

**Celebrate the Wackiness
in Every Family!**

Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family whom her parents have never met.

Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.



GET YOUR TICKETS
vicksburgschools.org

Our 2022 Vicksburg Community Tailgate Was One Of The Most Successful VCS Tailgates Yet

Thousands of people packed in to celebrate our students and our community. We can't thank our sponsors enough. This year's event featured more than 40 booths full of giveaways, food and fun!

A special thanks to those who supported the event, including our Athletic Booster that served up hot dogs and water and the

dozens of community partners who had booths at the event.

Top Bulldog sponsors: Fredrick Construction, the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation, and Connections Community Church.

Red Sponsors: Jaspare's, Stewart Sutherland, Freeland Insurance and Vicksburg Family Home Care.

White Sponsors: Kalamazoo State Bank, Chapman Memorial Nazarene, Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce, The Mill, Gilbert & Ivy, Fred's Pharmacy, Mackenzies Bakery, Trust Shield, Vicksburg Farmers Market, Vicksburg Optometry, Michael Albrecht at Raymond James, and the Committee to Elect Justin Mendoza.

Your generosity helped make our event a success and supports our Community Education Department.

We are already looking forward to next year!





Sweet Success in the Classroom

Students in Dr. Noreen Heikes' AgriScience class had their first ever honey harvest in September and it was very successful.

They report their honeybee colonies look healthy, and they harvested almost 40 pounds of luscious honey!

Students inspected hives, selected frames, and uncapped the frames, then extracted the honey, filtered, bottled, and labeled it. They are currently working with a local marketing mentor to decide if they will sell their products.

The hives and honey harvest were made possible thanks to Bardeen Grants from the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation.

Lights, Camera, Action! VHS Video Students Go Pro

VHS students in the video department had a chance to work on a commercial shoot that showed off our village.

Troy Smith and three of his advanced film students worked with a professional video crew to help shoot a commercial for Lippert Components, based out of Elkhart, IN. The E-Bike commercial worked with the village of Vicksburg and The Mill.

The professionals taught the students how to use the gear and work with the technical aspects of shot movement, exposure, and composition as well as the use of light. Many of their shots are in the finished video!



Middle School Spanish Explore Food and Culture

Teachers Mary Zemlick and Jenna Kahn taught them how to make elote, which is the Mexican version of corn on the cob.

The 8th graders boiled their own corn, shucked it themselves and then prepared it with traditional ingredients. Many were able to taste the dish for the very first time and learned just how delicious it is.



Lady Bulldogs Girls Golf Champs Win 2022 Wolverine Conference

Brooklyn Ringler, Olivia Byers, and Sidney Jones each earned All-Conference Honors, and Coach Meyer was voted Coach of the Year. Way to go team!

Boys Varsity Tennis Hosts a "Greenout" Tournament

The varsity tennis team hosted a "Greenout" Tournament for mental health awareness. They sold and wore green shirts to promote the need to talk about mental health and why it matters.

The team took 2nd, falling just one point shy from state-ranked #7 Grand Rapids South Christian.

We are proud of both how they played and their work to promote mental health.



Eight VHS Students Receive AP Capstone Diplomas for Fall of 2022



Capstone Students (left to right). Front row: Patrick Fowler, Kenny Dark, Makenzie Freund, Olivia Cannizzaro; Back row: Jackson Bowles, Harrison Barton, Carter Mann, Casey Zinsmaster, Tucker Radgens, Allison Bontrager, Gage Stenger



Capstone Students (left to right). Amanda Laughery, Drew Geiger, Hannah Laughery, Charlie Emmerich, Alyvia Bailey (Not pictured: Grace Cherette)

Congratulations to our Capstone seniors Alyvia Bailey, Allison Bongrager, Jackson Bowles, Olivia Cannizzaro, Grace Johnson,

Paige Mohny, Gage Stenger, and Clare Wilson. AP Capstone is a diploma program created by the College Board. It's based on two year long AP courses: AP Seminar

and AP Research. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and pass on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive an AP Capstone Diploma. Many of the students receiving their Capstone Diplomas this fall were

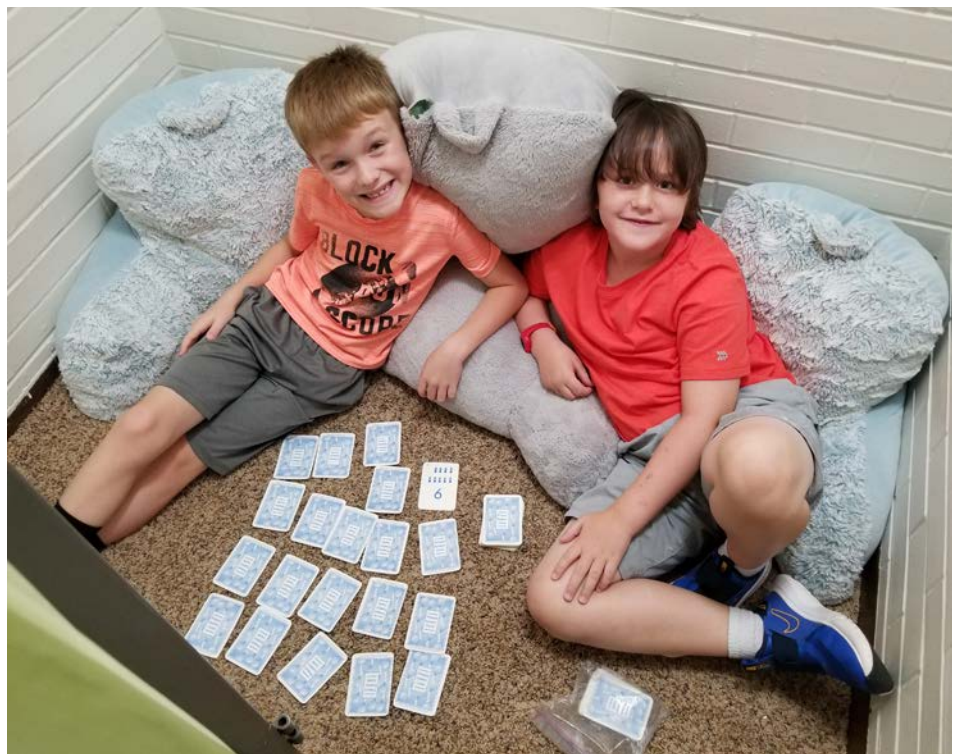
able to complete the program by the beginning of their senior year, a truly impressive feat. VHS was selected to be an AP Capstone High School and graduated its first AP Capstone students in the Spring of 2021.

Math Made Fun

Wendy Martens' second grade class at Indian Lake uses special playing cards to learn math facts.

Working in small groups, they play various games using the cards.

The cards contain written numbers as well as items corresponding to the numbers, making adding and subtracting easier. The out of the box way of thinking about math makes it fun and memorable.



Giddy-Up, Cowboy Kiddos!

Vicksburg Community Schools partnered with **Bike Friendly Kalamazoo** and the **Fall Bike Celebration** to highlight the importance of bike safety for kids.

We hosted our first Bike Rodeo where elementary school aged children got their bikes and helmets checked for safety and had a chance to ride on a special bike course.

There were also helmet and bike lock giveaways and lots of fun.





Flashlight Fridays

Kim Parson's first grade class at Sunset Lake Elementary has been celebrating reading with Flashlight Friday.

Students use flashlights for independent reading time to help highlight the fun they can have when opening a book.

It's made reading on their own new and exciting.



Vicksburg Community Schools Welcomes a New Librarian

VCS is excited to welcome our new elementary school librarian to all three of our elementary buildings!

Kristen Shook has been working with all the teachers to integrate the library into their curriculum. She helped students learn about the Constitution as part of Constitution Day. They read books together about it to learn some of the history.

We are so happy to have Mrs. Shook on our team!

We Are So Fortunate To Have a Great Team!

When school started, DJ from Frederick Construction (pictured) was bothered by how much "extra stuff" had ended up in the maintenance room, in part due to the construction.

When Brenda, our custodian from Indian Lake Elementary (pictured), arrived at work one day she found he had organized the space to make it usable again!

For the last few months, Brenda has been helping in multiple buildings and working extremely hard to make sure Indian Lake was ready for students. She was moved to tears.

Vicksburg Schools is incredibly fortunate to have dedicated folks like DJ and Brenda!





Download our "Vicksburg Bulldogs" app today!

- ★ Get all your notifications in one place, the way you prefer to receive them, and only what is relevant to you.
- ★ Stay organized with a unified, personalized calendar and reminders.
- ★ Quick and easy access to school information on your phone, always up-to-date.



"Vicksburg Bulldogs"



Search the App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android) for the free "Vicksburg Bulldogs" app, or visit vicksburgschools.appazur.com/go.

-OR-

If you don't wish to use an iOS or Android device, sign up for email or SMS text notifications at:

vicksburgschools.appazur.com

-OR-

Text @vicksburgschools to
616-816-1777.

-OR-



Use your phone's camera to follow this QR Code.



Congratulations to the Vicksburg Big Red Machine Marching Band



They attended their first two invationals—**taking second place at Otsego** and taking first place and being named **Grand Champion at Portage Central!**

They also received caption awards for Best Color Guard, Best Drum Line, Best Marching, and Best Music. Way to go, Big Red Machine!

See the bands in the VHS Band Fall Frenzy Thursday, October 27 at 7:00 pm in the Performing Arts Center.