



THE

RED & WHITE

SEPTEMBER 2022

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Schools Families,

Dear Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

Our new school year has officially kicked off and I couldn't be happier with how it started.

It's been wonderful to see the smiling faces of our students as they return to our buildings.

I want to thank our families for sharing their children with us. We take great pride in helping them grow into successful students and young adults. This year you will have the opportunity to help shape the future of Vicksburg Community Schools. We will be calling on parents, teachers, students, staff and community members to work with us to design our future goals and plans as a school community. You can look for more on that in

the coming weeks and months.

Meanwhile, It has once again been a very busy summer here at all of our schools, with many upgrades happening as a result of our generous community supporting our bond in 2020. Some of the highlights include:

- HVAC upgrades, including hydronic piping for boiler water distribution, air conditioning, and control systems at Indian Lake and the second half of Sunset Lake Elementary Schools.
- Electrical upgrades, including LED lighting at Indian Lake and the second half of Sunset Lake Elementary Schools.
- Interior renovations at Indian Lake and a portion of Sunset Lake Elementary

Schools, including new ceilings, some flooring and painting

More projects at the other buildings are on tap for next summer. I look forward to keeping you updated on the great improvements that are being made, all thanks to your support.

In this issue of the Red and White you can see pictures of some of our updated classrooms as a result of the construction, as well as meet the new staff members at VCS and see some highlights from the first day of school.



Looking forward to a wonderful school year. Thanks for continuing to be #BulldogsUnited with us!

Keevin O'Neill, *Superintendent*

New Assistant Principal Comes to VMS



We have a new face in the office at Vicksburg Middle School this year.

Joe Werkema is the new Assistant Principal. He joins Principal Allison Dygert in leading the middle school.

Last year Mr. Werkema was the principal at Colon Jr/Sr

High School and before that he taught middle school math at Schoolcraft and High School math in Three Rivers. He has two sons and a stepdaughter.

Mr. Werkema is looking forward to getting to know all our middle school students and with his help we know it'll be a great year!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS



Transportation: (269) 321-1070
Food Service: (269) 321-1033

Indian Lake Office & Attendance: (269) 321-1400
Sunset Lake Office & Attendance: (269) 321-1500
Tobey Office & Attendance: (269) 321-1600

VMS Office & Attendance: (269) 321-1300
Vicksburg High School Office: (269) 321-1100
VHS Attendance: (269) 321-1150
Vicksburg Pathways HS Office: (269) 321-1024

Vicksburg Administration Building: (269) 321-1000

The First Day of School at VCS

We had a great first day of school at all our Vicksburg schools!

Here's a few pictures of our students as they headed back to class for the 2022-2023 year.

We are so happy you're back with us!



Construction Complete

As Superintendent O'Neill mentioned in his letter on the first page, two of our schools were very busy this summer with construction.

Sunset Lake elementary schools returned to renovated classrooms and hallways. All three elementary schools now have air conditioning along with other improvements.

Students at Indian Lake and



LISA COE UNsung HERO AWARD WINNER



Each year at our kick off for teachers and staff VCS honors one person or group that went above and beyond during the previous school year.

We are very proud to announce that the 2021-2022 Vicksburg Community Schools Unsung Hero Award Winner is Lisa Coe!

Lisa is a parapro at Vicksburg high school, but her dedication and love for the entire district is felt in everything she does.

Lisa is the first one to step up and help with an event or help solve a problem, and she is a champion for our schools, teachers and community.

We thank you, Lisa, for your hard work, dedication, and the pride you take in your job. Our district is a brighter place because of you.

Vicksburg Welcomes New Teachers and Staff

WELCOME NEW VCS TEACHERS!



VCS wants to welcome all our new teachers and staff! We have another large group of new teachers kicking off the school year with us. We are so happy they joined the Vicksburg Family.



Top Row: Bailey Hawkins - Indian Lake Third Grade Teacher, Alex Schmidtendorff - Sunset Lake Second Grade Teacher, Alexa Neumann - Middle School English Teacher, Becky Wing - Sunset Lake Fourth Grade Teacher, Brenda Warner - Sunset Lake First Grade Teacher, Cristina Ebert - Sunset Lake Third Grade Teacher, Jenna Khan - High School/Middle School World Language Teacher, Jill Braman - Sunset Lake First Grade Teacher

Middle Row: Joe Wing - Middle School/High School Media Specialist, Kelly Sanchez - Sunset Lake Third Grade Teacher, Kelsey Rothermel - Tobey/Indian Lake School Psychologist, Kristen Shook - Elementary Media Specialist, Kristin Kite - Sunset Lake Fourth Grade Teacher, Lauri Gordon - High School SEL/Student Services Coordinator, Matt Brussee - Middle School Social Studies Teacher, Megan Schlabach - High School CTE Agriscience Teacher

Bottom Row: Michelle Wistinghausen - Middle School Science Teacher, Joe Werkema - Middle School Assistant Principal, Nicole Bruggema - High School Math Teacher, Patty Veeder - Middle School Building Interventionist, Rasma Gertners - Sunset Lake Special Education Teacher, Ryan Vallier - Middle School Special Education/ELA Teacher, Samantha Witters - Sunset Lake Fifth Grade Teacher, Tabby Sears - Tobey Kindergarten Teacher

Athletic Schedules

Tuesday	10/11/2022	MSBOA Marching Band Festival	Home	Vicksburg High School	2:00 PM
Thursday	10/13/2022	Parent/Teacher Conferences	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Saturday	10/15/2022	Vicksburg Marching Band Festival	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 AM
Cross Country - Boys Varsity					
Saturday	9/10/2022	West Ottawa HS (Bredeweg Invite)	Away	West Ottawa HS	TBA
Friday	9/16/2022	MSU Auto Owners Spartan Inv.	Away		TBA
Tuesday	9/20/2022	* Vicksburg Triangular	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/24/2022	Bangor Inv.	Away		9:00 AM
Tuesday	9/27/2022	* Paw Paw High School (Paw Paw Triangular)	Away	Paw Paw High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/1/2022	Otsego HS (Otsego Inv.)	Away	Otsego HS	8:00 AM
Tuesday	10/4/2022	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/11/2022	* Sturgis High School (Sturgis Triangular)	Away	Sturgis High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/18/2022	Wolverine Conference Championship	Away		4:30 PM
Saturday	10/29/2022	OPEN (MHSAA Regional Meet hosted by Bangor HS)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Cross Country - Girls Varsity					
Saturday	9/10/2022	West Ottawa HS (Bredeweg Invite)	Away	West Ottawa HS	TBA
Friday	9/16/2022	MSU Auto Owners Spartan Inv.	Away		TBA
Tuesday	9/20/2022	* Vicksburg Triangular	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/24/2022	Bangor Inv.	Away		10:00 AM
Tuesday	9/27/2022	* Paw Paw Triangular	Away		5:00 PM
Saturday	10/1/2022	Otsego HS (Otsego Inv.)	Away	Otsego HS	8:00 AM
Tuesday	10/4/2022	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/11/2022	* Sturgis Triangular	Away		5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/18/2022	Wolverine Conference Championship	Away		4:30 PM
Saturday	10/29/2022	OPEN (MHSAA Regional Meet hosted by Bangor HS)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Football - Varsity					
Friday	9/9/2022	Gull Lake Schools (Community Tailgate Celebration)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	9/16/2022	* Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	9/23/2022	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	7:00 PM
Friday	9/30/2022	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	7:00 PM
Friday	10/7/2022	* Plainwell Schools (Homecoming)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	10/14/2022	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	7:00 PM
Friday	10/21/2022	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Football - Junior Varsity					
Thursday	9/8/2022	Gull Lake Schools	Away	Gull Lake Schools	6:15 PM
Thursday	9/15/2022	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	9/22/2022	* Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	9/29/2022	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	10/6/2022	* Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	6:15 PM
Thursday	10/13/2022	* Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	10/20/2022	* Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	6:15 PM
Football - Freshmen					
Thursday	9/8/2022	Cancelled- Gull Lake Schools	Away	Gull Lake Schools	4:30 PM
Thursday	9/15/2022	* Cancelled- Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	9/22/2022	* Cancelled- Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	9/29/2022	* Cancelled- Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/6/2022	* Cancelled- Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/13/2022	* Cancelled- Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/20/2022	* Cancelled- Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	4:30 PM
Golf - Girls Varsity					
Wednesday	9/7/2022	Otsego Jamboree	Away		9:00 AM
Wednesday	9/7/2022	Plainwell Jamboree	Away		12:00 PM
Monday	9/12/2022	Paw Paw Jamboree	Away		2:00 PM
Thursday	9/15/2022	Comstock High School (Comstock Inv./Eastern Hills GC)	Away	Comstock High School	10:00 AM
Thursday	9/15/2022	* Three Rivers Jamboree	Away		4:00PM
Monday	9/19/2022	* Niles Jamboree	Away		4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/21/2022	* Vicksburg Jamboree	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/27/2022	Sturgis Inv./Island Hills G.C.	Away		9:00 AM
Wednesday	9/28/2022	* WC Championship- Pineview GC Hemlock Course	Away		9:00 AM
Golf - Girls Junior Varsity					
Friday	9/9/2022	Hastings HS (Hastings Inv.)	Away	Hastings HS	9:00 AM
Friday	9/9/2022	Comstock Inv./Hickory Ridge	Away		1:00 PM
Thursday	9/22/2022	Cancelled- Parma Western	Away	Parma Western	3:30 PM
Tuesday	9/27/2022	Cancelled- Parma Western	Away	Parma Western	3:30 PM
Soccer - Boys Varsity					
Tuesday	9/6/2022	Coldwater High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Thursday	9/8/2022	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Wednesday	9/14/2022	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	6:30 PM
Monday	9/19/2022	Hartford Public Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Wednesday	9/21/2022	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Saturday	9/24/2022	Lakeview-Battle Creek	Home	Vicksburg High School	11:30 AM
Monday	9/26/2022	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	6:30 PM

Athletic Schedules

Soccer - Boys Varsity					
Wednesday	9/28/2022	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Monday	10/3/2022	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	5:30 PM
Wednesday	10/5/2022	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Thursday	10/6/2022	Brandywine High School	Away	Brandywine High School	5:00 PM
Monday	10/10/2022	St. Joseph H.S.	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Wednesday	10/12/2022	Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	6:00 PM
Tuesday	10/25/2022	OPEN (MHSAA Regional)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/25/2022	OPEN (MHSAA Regional)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Thursday	10/27/2022	OPEN (MHSAA Regional)	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Tennis - Boys Varsity					
Wednesday	9/7/2022	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/12/2022	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/14/2022	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/19/2022	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/21/2022	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Saturday	9/24/2022	Bulldog Green Out Inv.	Home	Vicksburg High School	9:00 AM
Monday	9/26/2022	Portage Northern High School	Away	Portage Northern High School	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/27/2022	St. Joseph H.S.	Away	St. Joseph H.S.	4:00 PM
Saturday	10/1/2022	* Wolverine Conference Championship	Away		8:30 AM
Wednesday	10/5/2022	MHSAA Regional Tournament	Home	Vicksburg High School	9:00 AM
Tennis - Boys Junior Varsity					
Wednesday	9/7/2022	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	9/8/2022	Lakeview-Battle Creek	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Saturday	9/10/2022	Cancelled- Sturgis High School (Sturgis Inv.)	Away	Sturgis High School	9:00 AM
Monday	9/12/2022	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/14/2022	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	9/15/2022	Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/19/2022	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/20/2022	Parma Western	Away	Parma Western	4:30 PM
Wednesday	9/21/2022	* Cancelled- Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/21/2022	Kalamazoo Christian High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Saturday	9/24/2022	* Wolverine Conference JV Tennis Tournament	Away		9:00 AM
Tuesday	9/27/2022	St. Joseph H.S.	Away	St. Joseph H.S.	4:00 PM
Volleyball - Girls Varsity					
Tuesday	9/6/2022	Dowagiac High School	Away	Dowagiac High School	6:00 PM
Thursday	9/8/2022	Gull Lake Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/10/2022	Lakeview Inv.	Away		8:30 AM
Thursday	9/15/2022	Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/17/2022	Portage Northern High School (Portage Northern Inv.)	Away	Portage Northern High School	8:30 AM
Thursday	9/22/2022	Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	6:00 PM
Thursday	9/29/2022	Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	6:00 PM
Thursday	10/6/2022	Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	10/8/2022	Falcon Inv./East Kentwood	Away		8:00 AM
Thursday	10/13/2022	Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	6:00 PM
Tuesday	10/18/2022	Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Tuesday	10/25/2022	Vicksburg Mini-Tournament	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Volleyball - Girls Junior Varsity					
Tuesday	9/6/2022	Dowagiac High School	Away	Dowagiac High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/8/2022	Gull Lake Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/15/2022	* Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/17/2022	Lawton Community Schools (Lawton JV Inv.)	Away	Lawton Community Schools	8:30 PM
Thursday	9/22/2022	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/29/2022	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/6/2022	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/13/2022	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	5:00 PM
Monday	10/17/2022	Gull Lake Schools (Gull Lake Mini Tournament)	Away	Gull Lake Schools	4:00 PM
Tuesday	10/18/2022	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Volleyball - Girls Freshman					
Tuesday	9/6/2022	Dowagiac High School	Away	Dowagiac High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/8/2022	Gull Lake Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/10/2022	Coldwater High School (Coldwater Inv.)	Away	Coldwater High School	TBA
Thursday	9/15/2022	* Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/22/2022	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	5:00 PM
Monday	9/26/2022	Portage Central HS (Portage Central Mini)	Away	Portage Central HS	4:00 PM
Thursday	9/29/2022	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/6/2022	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/8/2022	Portage Northern High School (Portage Northern Inv.)	Away	Portage Northern High School	9:00 AM
Thursday	10/13/2022	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/18/2022	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Monday	10/24/2022	Gull Lake Schools (Gull Lake Mini Tournament)	Away	Gull Lake Schools	4:00 PM

How to Buy Athletic Tickets

Buying tickets at Vicksburg Community Schools sporting events just got easier!

VCS is still using the Hometown Ticketing Site for digital tickets. And new this year, credit cards will be accepted for payment at athletic events. NO cash will be accepted at the ticket gate.

While we would prefer spectators use our Hometown Ticketing site, we also want to make sure our student athletes are supported and that everyone is able to cheer them on.

Going forward, tickets purchased via credit card at the gate will be \$7, which includes a processing fee. If you purchase individual game tickets via our Hometown Ticketing site, they are \$5 per game, plus processing fees.

These ticketing procedures apply to Vicksburg home games only. Away games and any MHSAA playoff games require a different ticketing system.

We also want to encourage our

senior citizens to take advantage of our free passes. Those 65 and up get into all VCS sporting events for free. Please come to the High School Guidance Office with your driver's license to obtain your free season pass. If you are unable to make it during school hours, please call the office at (269) 321-1165 for assistance.

On the ticketing app, adults are also able to purchase season passes for \$40 for 10 games and \$70 for 20 games each pass. This is the best value option for VCS sporting events. These passes can be shared by members of the same family by scanning them for each person attending the game.

Student season passes are \$23, plus processing fees. To purchase a student pass: Click 'Get Passes' on the Season Passes section. Click 'Have a passcode?' at the very bottom left hand corner of the page and input your child's school ID number. Enter Quantity of 1 under the Student Pass Type.

Click 'Check out' to make your purchase. Students will no longer be able to purchase tickets from school offices.

Our goal is to get as many fans in the stands at our VCS home games as possible, and we are hopeful we can work with the community to make

digital ticketing as easy as possible. Thank you for being #BulldogsUnited with us.

To purchase tickets students, parents and community members can visit vicksburgschools.hometownticketing.com/embed/all

VICKSBURG ATHLETIC EVENT TICKETS



The best way to purchase tickets is via our Hometown Ticketing site!



- **Individual game tickets through the site are \$5**
 - Buying via Hometown Ticketing is the fastest and easiest way to attend a game!
- **Tickets can be purchased at the gate via credit card for \$7**
 - There will be no cash ticket sales. | Card lines might be long.
- **Students can get an all sports, year-long pass for \$23**
 - Use your student ID in the passcode section.
- **Multi-Game Passes are available via Hometown Ticketing**
 - \$40 for 10 games or \$70 for 20 | Can be shared by family members.
- **Senior Citizens 65+ are free**
 - Must bring ID to high school to receive pass.

Home games only. Away games & MHSAA playoff games require a different ticketing system

The Big Read Machine Rolled Through Summer

A big thanks to the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation and their volunteers for encouraging our students to read over the summer break.

Their Big Read Machine bus library made more stops than ever! From June through mid August, they had 35 stops, reaching 416 students for a total of 1,720 books checked out!

That's a lot of summer reading fun!



Transportation Carnival: Full of Safety and Fun

Our second annual Transportation Safety Carnival was a huge success!

Hundreds of students and their families learned school bus safety rules for riding and boarding the bus. They visited multiple stations, each with a different safety message.

The event also featured games, prizes and food, along with a visit from the Big Read Machine as well as the fire department for some additional safety information.

It was a great way to kick off the new school year with bus safety in mind.



Annual Notices 2022-2023

For a complete listing of annual notices, please check our website at www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org and click on Board of Education/ Public Notices.

Equal Educational/ Employment Opportunity – Policy 2260

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected characteristic, (collectively, “Protected Classes”) in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

District Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District’s “Compliance Officers” (also known as “Civil Rights Coordinators”) (hereinafter referred to as the “COs”).

Stephen Goss
Vicksburg Community Schools
269-321-1000
301 S. Kalamazoo St,
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Lourdes Puzevic
Vicksburg Community Schools
269-321-1000
301 S. Kalamazoo St,
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Students and parents and representatives of Vicksburg Community Schools may, at any time, contact the enforcement offices if you wish to file a complaint or need assistance on a problem or assistance to prevent civil rights problems. Contact the OCR headquarters office if you have a question on national policy, to make a Freedom of Information request for information that is national in scope, or to request publications or other assistance that is not available online.

The OCR office for Michigan is located at:

Office for Civil Rights
US Department of Education
600 Superior Avenue East
Suite 750
Cleveland, OH 44114
Telephone: 216-522-4970
FAX: 216-522-7573
TDD: 877-521-2172
Email: OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov

The OCR National Headquarters is located at:

US Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
Customer Service Team
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-1100
Telephone: 1-800-421-3481
FAX: 202-246-6840
TDD: 877-521-2172
Email: OCR@ed.gov

ANTI-HARASSMENT – Policy 5517

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as “Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers” for the District. They are hereinafter referred to as the “Compliance Officers”.

Gail Van Daff
Vicksburg Community Schools
269-321-1000
301 S. Kalamazoo St,
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Lourdes Puzevic
Vicksburg Community Schools
269-321-1000
301 S. Kalamazoo St,
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer – Policy 2260.01

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (“ADA”) and the implementing regulations (collectively “Section 504/ADA”), no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Board of Education does not discriminate in admission or access to, or participation or treatment in its programs or activities. As such, the Board’s policies and practices

will not discriminate against students with disabilities and will make accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities its facilities, programs, and activities. No discrimination will be knowingly permitted against any individual with a disability on the sole basis of that disability in any of the programs, activities, policies, and/or practices in the District.

Tobey Principal Mike Barwegen is the District’s Section 504 Compliance Officer. He can be reached at: 301 S. Kalamazoo, Vicksburg, MI 49097; 269-321-1000.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Policy 8330

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a **federal law that protects the privacy of student education records**. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children’s education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are “eligible students.”

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student’s education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools must honor your request to review your child’s education records within 45 days of receiving the request. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible students of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. They should write the School principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the

School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a formal hearing regarding the request for amendment. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student’s education record. However, **FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:**

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Disclosure of Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that the Vicksburg Community Schools (VCS), with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child’s education records. However, **VCS may disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary** in accordance with District procedures. **Directory information includes** student’s name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized school activities and sports, weight

Annual Notices 2022-2023 Continued

and height of athletic team members, dates of attendance and previous school(s) attended. It is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. The primary purpose of disclosing directory information is to allow VCS to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include a playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production; the annual yearbook; honor roll or other recognition lists; graduation programs; sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information can also be disclosed to organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks.

In addition, **two federal laws require us to provide military recruiters, upon request, with directory information** in three categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised VCS that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want VCS to disclose information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district before the second week of the school year by writing to:

Vicksburg Community Schools
301 S. Kalamazoo St.
Vicksburg, MI 49097
ATTN: Superintendent's Office

Weapons-Free School Zone

State law establishes a "Weapon-Free School Zone" that extends 1,000 feet from the boundary of any school property. The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type, including air, gas-powered, and spring guns (whether loaded or unloaded) that will expel a BB, pellet, or paint balls, knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts

weapons, ammunition, and explosives or any other weapon described in 18. U.S.C. 921.

Drug-Free School Zone

In accordance with Federal and State law, the Board hereby establishes a "Drug-Free School Zone" that extends 1000 feet from the boundary of any school property. The Board prohibits the use, possession, concealment, delivery, or distribution of any drug or any drug-related paraphernalia at any time on District property, within the Drug-Free School Zone, or at any District-related event. Furthermore, the Superintendent shall take the necessary steps to ensure that an individual eighteen (18) years of age or older who knowingly delivers or distributes controlled substances so designated and prohibited by Michigan statute within the Drug-Free School Zone to another person is prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

By law, citizens are allowed to request documents or records from the school district. The information must already exist in document form. FOIA does not cover the creation of information or summaries. Submit request in writing to:

FOIA Coordinator
Vicksburg Community Schools
301 S. Kalamazoo St.
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Homeless/Migrant Information

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle or campground
- On the streets
- In an abandoned building, trailer or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing

Then your preschool-aged and school-aged children have certain rights or protections.

For further information and assistance, please contact Stacy Lightfoot, Homeless Liaison, at 269-321-1017.

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Notification

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that each year, district worker and building occupants receive notification about asbestos activities such as response actions and inspections. The purpose of this correspondence is to meet those requirements and familiarize you with the asbestos related activities that have been conducted in Vicksburg Community Schools this past year.

Management Plans

In 2010 Vicksburg Schools contracted Nova Environmental to conduct inspections for asbestos containing material

(AM) with all district owned buildings. This information was then compiled into Asbestos Management Plans. A copy of each building management plan is also located in the Administration Building.

Surveillance Activities

The AHERA regulation require surveillance of the condition of ACM every six months and Re-inspections every three years. The periodic surveillance was conducted November 2020. The next Three-Year Re-inspection will be conducted in September of 2022. Both of these surveillance activities will be included as part of the buildings Management Plans.

Asbestos Abatement

It is anticipated that Vicksburg Community Schools will need to conduct only minor amounts of asbestos abatement within its facilities over the next year. And will continue to maintain all ACM under the Operations & Maintenance Program.

Any removal projects will be performed by a Michigan Licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractors and managed by Nova Environmental, Inc. the districts environmental consulting firm.

All asbestos documentation is available for your review in each building file and at the Administration Building.

For more information, contact Nancy Spicketts, Maintenance Supervisor, at 269-321-1027.

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**

