



THE

RED & WHITE

SEPTEMBER 2023

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I welcome back all of our teachers, students, staff and families, as we embark on another school year.

To our students, I encourage you to approach this school year with curiosity, enthusiasm, and a growth mindset. Each day presents an opportunity to expand your knowledge and build lasting friendships here at VCS.

Parents and guardians, your partnership with us is invaluable.

Your involvement and support make a difference in your child's education. Together, we can create an environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

To our amazing teachers and staff, I thank you for all you invest in our students each and every year. I am proud of what you help our students achieve.

Here at VCS, we are dedicated to providing a world-class education that equips our students with the skills, knowledge, and character

necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world. I am excited to be kicking off the new school year with a 5-year strategic plan to make sure all of our students reach their full potential.

Welcome back to school! Here's to another year of being **#BulldogsUnited** as we build a bright future for our students.



Regards,
Keevin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT

Meet Our New Teachers



VCS is excited to welcome our newest group of educators to the district!

We are happy they are part of the Bulldog family.

Please welcome: Allison Brussee, Elementary Behavior Specialist;

Josh Cardosa, Indian Lake Physical Education teacher; Emily Duncan, 5th grade teacher at Tobey Elementary; Catherine Fry, 3rd grade teacher at Indian Lake Elementary; Laura Hayman, high school Agriscience teacher, Michelle Krob, middle school English teacher; Triston Lee,

4th grade teacher at Sunset Lake; Maureen Mead, high school English teacher; Mathew Musialczyk, middle school English and science teacher; Michelle Turczyn, 5th grade teacher at Sunset Lake; Melissa Wilcox, 3rd grade teacher at Tobey Elementary; Jenny

Stubbs, middle school English ELO teacher; Bob Verduzco, high school math teacher; Rob Nolan, Pathways High School science teacher; Katie Webster, Educational Support and Intervention Supervisor.

The First Day of School – Fall 2023



Unsung Hero Award Winner

Each year at our kick-off event 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 2022-2023 Vicksburg Community Schools Unsung Hero Award Winner is Courtney Hammond Simcox!

Courtney has been with VCS as part of the Kids Klub program since 2001. During this time, she has worn many hats. Currently, she is our Indian Lake Kids Klub Coordinator during the school year and our whole program coordinator (all 3 elementary schools) during the summers.

Thank you, Courtney, for your hard work, dedication, and the pride you take in your job.



Courtney Hammond Simcox, Unsung Hero Award winner for the 2022-2023 school year.

Ticketing Info for Vicksburg Athletics

New for the 2023-2024 school year: Wolverine Conference ticket passes!

Visit the Wolverine Conference Box Office site to purchase ticket passes good for ALL Vicksburg Middle and High School regular season home games PLUS all away games at any Wolverine Conference school. Passes are \$50 plus fees.

These passes are only for students. Students need their school ID number to purchase. Click on the Vicksburg section and "Get Passes."

Schools included in the Wolverine Conference passes are: Edwardsburg, Niles, Otsego, Paw Paw, Plainwell, Sturgis, and Three Rivers.

Students also have the option to buy a HOME game ONLY pass for \$25 plus fees.

Those can be purchased from the Vicksburg Schools Hometown Ticket Box Office site. These passes only apply to regular season home games at VMS and VHS.

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.

For all other tickets, VCS uses the same Hometown Ticketing Site for digital tickets. Credit cards will also be accepted at the gate at athletic events. NO cash will be accepted at the ticket gate for any athletic events.

Going forward, tickets purchased via credit card at the gate will be \$9. If you purchase individual game tickets via our Hometown Ticketing site, they are \$7 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.

Free Senior Passes:

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. Senior passes rollover every year so if you have one from last season it is still valid. Senior Citizens need to have an email address and phone number as well as driver's license to create a pass. Passes can be created at the High School, Middle School, and Community Education office at the VAB.

For Adults and Other Non-VCS Students:

On the Hometown ticketing site, adults are also able to purchase season passes. The passes come in different packages, including a

5 Game Pass, 10 Game Pass and 20 Game Pass for \$30, \$50, and \$85 plus processing fees.

This is the best value option for VCS sporting events. These passes can be shared between

family members to make it easy to get the whole family into games at a discounted price.

NEW VCS STUDENT TICKET OPTIONS!





Wolverine Conference Passes

\$50

plus fees



Wolverine passes are good for ALL VMS & VHS regular season home games PLUS all away games at any Wolverine Conference school.



Vicksburg Game Passes

\$25

plus fees



Vicksburg passes only apply to regular season home games at VMS & VHS.

Students need their school ID # to purchase all passes

Athletic Schedules

Cross Country - Boys Varsity					
Wednesday	8/30/2023	South Haven High School (SW Mich. Rust Buster)	Away	South Haven High School	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/19/2023	* Plainwell Schools (Plainwell Triangular)	Away	Plainwell Schools	5:00 PM
Tuesday	9/26/2023	* Otsego HS (Otsego Triangular)	Away	Otsego HS	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/30/2023	Otsego HS (Otsego Inv.)	Away	Otsego HS	8:00 AM
Tuesday	10/3/2023	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/7/2023	Portage Central HS (Portage Inv.)	Away	Portage Central HS	TBA
Tuesday	10/10/2023	* (Vicksburg Triangular)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/17/2023	* Niles High School (Wolverine Conference Cross Country Championships)	Away	Niles High School	5:00 PM
Cross Country - Girls Varsity					
Wednesday	8/30/2023	South Haven High School (SW Mich. Rust Buster)	Away	South Haven High School	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/19/2023	* (Plainwell Triangular)	Away		5:00 PM
Tuesday	9/26/2023	* (Otsego Triangular)	Away		5:00 PM
Saturday	9/30/2023	Otsego HS (Otsego Inv.)	Away	Otsego HS	8:00 AM
Tuesday	10/3/2023	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/7/2023	Portage Central HS (Portage Inv.)	Away	Portage Central HS	TBA
Tuesday	10/10/2023	* (Vicksburg Triangular)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/17/2023	* (Wolverine Conference Cross Country Championships)	Away		4:30 PM
Football - Varsity					
Thursday	8/31/2023	Gull Lake Schools	Away	Gull Lake Schools	7:00 PM
Friday	9/8/2023	Otsego HS (Community Tailgate)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Saturday	9/9/2023	Schoolcraft Football (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	9/15/2023	Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	7:00 PM
Friday	9/22/2023	Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Saturday	9/23/2023	Schoolcraft Football (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	9/29/2023	Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	7:00 PM
Friday	9/29/2023	Schoolcraft Football (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	10/6/2023	Sturgis High School (Homecoming)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	10/13/2023	Schoolcraft Football (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	10/13/2023	Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	10/20/2023	Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Football - Junior Varsity					
Wednesday	8/30/2023	St. Joseph H.S.	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Thursday	9/7/2023	* Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	6:30 PM
Thursday	9/14/2023	Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Thursday	9/21/2023	Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	6:30 PM
Thursday	9/28/2023	Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Thursday	10/5/2023	Schoolcraft Football (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Thursday	10/5/2023	Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	6:30 PM
Thursday	10/12/2023	Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Thursday	10/19/2023	Schoolcraft Football (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Thursday	10/19/2023	* Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	6:30 PM
Football - Freshman					
Wednesday	8/30/2023	Gull Lake vs. St. Joe (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Golf - Girls Varsity					
Wednesday	9/6/2023	* Three Rivers (Three Rivers Jamboree)	Away	Three Rivers	4:00 PM
Monday	9/11/2023	* (Otsego HS , Paw Paw High School , Plainwell Schools , Sturgis High School , Three Rivers , Edwardsburg High School , Niles High School ,) (Plainwell Jamboree)	Away		11:30 AM
Wednesday	9/13/2023	* (Otsego HS , Paw Paw High School , Plainwell Schools , Sturgis High School , Three Rivers , Edwardsburg High School , Niles High School ,) (Otsego Jamboree)	Away		4:00PM
Thursday	9/14/2023	Comstock (Comstock Inv./Eastern Hills GC)	Away	Comstock	10:00 AM
Friday	9/15/2023	Coldwater High School (Coldwater Inv.)	Away	Coldwater High School	9:30 AM
Monday	9/18/2023	* (Otsego HS , Paw Paw High School , Plainwell Schools , Sturgis High School , Three Rivers , Edwardsburg High School , Niles High School ,) (Niles Jamboree)	Away		4:00 PM
Thursday	9/21/2023	* (Otsego HS , Paw Paw High School , Plainwell Schools , Sturgis High School , Three Rivers , Edwardsburg High School , Niles High School ,) (Vicksburg Jamboree)	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/25/2023	* Rescheduled from 2023-08-23 (Edwardsburg Jamboree)	Away		4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/26/2023	Sturgis High School (Sturgis Bank and Trust Inv.)	Away	Sturgis High School	TBA
Thursday	9/28/2023	* (WC Championship- Pineview GC Hemlock Course)	Away		9:00 AM
Monday	10/2/2023	Hastings HS (Pre-Regional Inv.)	Away	Hastings HS	TBA
Golf - Girls Junior Varsity					
Thursday	8/31/2023	Lakeview-Battle Creek (Cedar Creek GC)	Away	Lakeview-Battle Creek	2:00 PM
Wednesday	9/6/2023	(Comstock Inv./Hickory Ridge)	Away		1:00 PM
Friday	9/8/2023	Hastings HS (Saxon Dozen Inv.)	Away	Hastings HS	9:00 AM
Monday	9/11/2023	Harper Creek HS (Binder Park GC)	Away	Harper Creek HS	4:00 PM
Monday	9/18/2023	Lakeview-Battle Creek (Cedar Creek GC)	Away	Lakeview-Battle Creek	9:00 AM
Monday	9/25/2023	Sturgis High School (JV Championships/TBD)	Away	Sturgis High School	9:00 AM
Wednesday	9/27/2023	Coldwater High School (Coldwater CC)	Away	Coldwater High School	4:00 PM
Soccer - Boys Varsity					
Wednesday	8/30/2023	Marshall High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Tuesday	9/5/2023	* Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	6:30 PM
Thursday	9/7/2023	Coldwater High School	Away	Coldwater High School	6:30 PM
Monday	9/11/2023	Lumen Christi Catholic High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM

Athletic Schedules

Wednesday	9/13/2023	* Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/16/2023	Parma Western	Away	Parma Western	6:30 PM
Monday	9/18/2023	Harper Creek HS	Away	Harper Creek HS	6:00 PM
Wednesday	9/20/2023	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	6:00 PM
Thursday	9/21/2023	Rescheduled from 2023-08-23 Dowagiac High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Monday	9/25/2023	* Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Wednesday	9/27/2023	* Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	6:30 PM
Monday	10/2/2023	* Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Wednesday	10/4/2023	* Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	6:00 PM
Monday	10/9/2023	St. Joseph H.S.	Away	St. Joseph H.S.	6:30 PM

Tennis - Boys Varsity

Wednesday	8/30/2023	* Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	4:00 PM
Thursday	9/7/2023	Big Rapids High School (TCC Trip)	Away	Big Rapids High School	4:00 PM
Friday	9/8/2023	(Traverse City Quad)	Away		9:00 AM
Monday	9/11/2023	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/13/2023	* Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/18/2023	* Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/20/2023	* Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Saturday	9/23/2023	(Bulldog Green Out Inv.)	Home	Vicksburg High School	9:00 AM
Monday	9/25/2023	* Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/27/2023	* Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	10/2/2023	St. Joseph H.S.	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Saturday	10/7/2023	* (Otsego HS , Paw Paw High School , Plainwell Schools , Sturgis High School , Three Rivers , Edwardsburg High School , Niles High School ,) (Wolverine Conference Tennis Championships)	Away		8:30 AM
Thursday	10/12/2023	OPEN (MHSAA Regional)	Home	Vicksburg High School	9:00 AM

Tennis - Boys Junior Varsity

Wednesday	8/30/2023	* Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/5/2023	Portage Central HS	Away	Portage Central HS	4:00 PM
Monday	9/11/2023	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/12/2023	Kalamazoo Christian	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:15 PM
Wednesday	9/13/2023	* Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Saturday	9/16/2023	(Paw Paw JV Inv.)	Away		9:00 AM
Monday	9/18/2023	* Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/20/2023	* Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	9/21/2023	Portage Central HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/25/2023	* Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/26/2023	Rescheduled from 2023-08-23 Mattawan High School	Away	Mattawan High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/27/2023	* Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	9/28/2023	* (Otsego HS , Paw Paw High School , Plainwell Schools , Sturgis High School , Three Rivers , Edwardsburg High School , Niles High School ,) (Wolverine Conference JV Tennis Tournament)	Away		9:30 AM
Monday	10/2/2023	St. Joseph H.S.	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM

Volleyball - Varsity

Wednesday	8/30/2023	Gull Lake Schools	Away	Gull Lake Schools	6:30 PM
Tuesday	9/5/2023	Dowagiac High School (Quad)	Away	Dowagiac High School	6:00 PM
Thursday	9/7/2023	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/9/2023	(Lakeview Inv.)	Away		8:30 AM
Thursday	9/14/2023	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/16/2023	Portage Northern High School (Portage Northern Inv.)	Away	Portage Northern High School	8:30 AM
Thursday	9/21/2023	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Thursday	9/28/2023	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/30/2023	Portage Central HS (Portage Central Inv.)	Away	Portage Central HS	TBA
Thursday	10/5/2023	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	10/7/2023	(Falcon Inv./East Kentwood)	Away		8:00 AM
Thursday	10/12/2023	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	6:00 PM
Thursday	10/19/2023	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Tuesday	10/24/2023	(Vicksburg Mini-Tournament)	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	10/26/2023	Dexter High School (Tri-Meet)	Away	Dexter High School	5:00 PM

Volleyball - Junior Varsity

Wednesday	8/30/2023	Gull Lake Schools	Away	Gull Lake Schools	5:30 PM
Tuesday	9/5/2023	Edwardsburg High School (Quad)	Away	Edwardsburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/7/2023	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/14/2023	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/16/2023	Lawton High School (Lawton JV Inv.)	Away	Lawton High School	8:30 AM
Thursday	9/21/2023	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Monday	9/25/2023	Parma Western	Away	Parma Western	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/28/2023	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/30/2023	(Wolverine Conf. Championship)	Away		9:00 AM
Thursday	10/5/2023	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/12/2023	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	5:00 PM
Monday	10/16/2023	Gull Lake Schools (Gull Lake Mini Tournament)	Away	Gull Lake Schools	4:00 PM
Thursday	10/19/2023	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM

Athletic Schedules

Volleyball - Freshman					
Wednesday	8/30/2023	Gull Lake Schools	Away	Gull Lake Schools	5:30 PM
Thursday	9/7/2023	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/9/2023	Coldwater High School (Coldwater Inv.)	Away	Coldwater High School	8:30 AM
Thursday	9/14/2023	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/21/2023	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Monday	9/25/2023	Parma Western	Away	Parma Western	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/28/2023	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/30/2023	(Wolverine Conf. Championship)	Away		9:00 AM
Thursday	10/5/2023	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/7/2023	Portage Northern High School (Portage Northern Inv.)	Away	Portage Northern High School	9:00 AM
Thursday	10/12/2023	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/19/2023	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Monday	10/23/2023	Gull Lake Schools (Gull Lake Mini Tournament)	Away	Gull Lake Schools	4:00 PM

Having a Great Time at the Bus Safety Carnival

The third annual Bus Safety Carnival was another huge success!

Students and families learned important bus safety lessons while having a great time riding our school buses and interacting with the drivers.

Thank you to our transportation department and dedicated bus drivers, our community partners, school PTOs and local vendors who made the event fun and informational for our families.

What a great way to get ready for the new school year!



Annual Notices 2023-2024

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 2023-2024 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 Adam Wallace, 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 requires surveillance of the condition of ACM every six months and re-inspections every three years. The three-year re-inspection was conducted in September of 2022. Both of these surveillance activities will be included as part of the building's 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 Dewey Waterman, Maintenance Supervisor, at 269-321-1027.

Vicksburg Community Schools Presents:

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY TAILGATE!

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

September 8, 2023

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

