

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TRADITIONS IN EXCELLENCE



Selected as one of the **Top 100 High Schools** in Michigan and in the **Top 15% in the nation** by US News and World Report.



One of only 23 High Schools In Michigan to earn the **AP Honor Roll Award.**



One of 54 high schools in Michigan designated an **Academic State Champion** by Bridge Magazine.



Thank you to our staff, students and community members
for helping keep our numbers strong through

TRADITIONS IN EXCELLENCE

VCS

Vicksburg Community Schools

Traditions In Excellence

301 South Kalamazoo Ave., Vicksburg,
MI 49097 • (269) 321-1000

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Vicksburg Community Schools news online!



Vicksburgcommunityschools.org



[@Vicksburgcommunityschools](https://www.facebook.com/Vicksburgcommunityschools)

Vicksburg Community Schools

Renowned for bringing together the benefits of a caring small-town community with the academic resources of suburban districts, Vicksburg Schools has been serving students since 1846. The system serves over 2,600 students with three elementary schools, a middle school, a high school, and an online high school. Vicksburg High School earned the title of Academic State Champion in 2017 and has been in the prestigious AP Honor Roll three times in the award's eight year history, being selected most recently in 2017 and 2018. The High school has also been ranked in the top 100 schools and amongst the top 10% of high schools in the nation in Michigan by *U.S. News and World Report* in 2017 and again in 2018.

From elementary school on, technology and STEM learning are integrated into the curriculum that culminates in many options in career technical fields as well as traditional fields for high school students. All of this is seasoned with the sense of caring and community that our closely-knit staff can provide. **To learn more, visit www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org**

Location

The Vicksburg Community School District is located in south central Kalamazoo County. VCS encompasses over 110 square miles of rural, suburban, and small town geography including the villages of Vicksburg and Fulton, and all or portions of eight townships. The District boasts 14 lakes that create a unique style of suburban living. Our residents enjoy all of the advantages of a small town with a major metropolitan area just a few minutes north. Vicksburg has easy access to two major highways – Interstates 131 and 94.



Housing opportunities within the district offer a blend of unique and affordable choices to fit varying lifestyles and economic circumstances. A historic downtown and state-of-the-art school facilities reflect the spirit of Vicksburg's rich history, community involvement, and family values. Our community members enjoy excellent schools, convenient shopping, beautiful lakes and green space, safe neighborhoods, civic services, and a friendly, family atmosphere. Vicksburg has a strong sense of place and purpose. This is reflected throughout the community, and especially in the commitment to providing excellent schools for our children. Vicksburg has all the amenities of a large suburb, but the heart and community spirit of a small town. It is a place where children can thrive and grow into successful, contributing adults.

What can I find in Vicksburg Community Schools?



Vicksburg Community Schools provide education to pre-school through twelfth grade students in three elementary schools, one middle school, and one comprehensive high school. In addition to traditional academic programs, we offer summer school, an alternative education program, and numerous athletic and fine arts opportunities.

The Vicksburg Community Schools is proud to operate in a manner that adheres to our collective Vision, Mission, and Beliefs.

Vision Statement

All students will graduate college and career ready.

Mission Statement

Maximize the success and potential of each student.

Belief Statements

- All students can learn at high levels, regardless of poverty, social status, and/or family circumstances.
- Students learn in different ways and within different timeframes.
- Mistakes are expected, inspected and respected.
- When students don't learn the way we teach, we will find ways to teach the way they learn.
- Assessments provide feedback that influences teaching and learning.
- Students can and will take responsibility for their learning.
- Students have ownership and vision for their education.



Vicksburg Community Schools provide:

- ☐ Strong core academics
- ☐ Multiple advanced placement courses
- ☐ Highly-trained and dedicated staff
- ☐ Stellar music and fine arts programs
- ☐ Strong behavioral standards
- ☐ A commitment to innovation
- ☐ A safe and nurturing environment
- ☐ Attention to individual needs
- ☐ Well-maintained facilities
- ☐ Cutting-edge technology
- ☐ Parent and community involvement
- ☐ Bountiful extracurricular activities

OUR SCHOOLS

Vicksburg High School

501 East Highway Street
Vicksburg, MI 49097
(269) 321-1100
Grades 9-12
804 students
Adam Brush - Principal

Graduation Rate
Vicksburg HS 96%
Michigan 79%

Vicksburg High School has a strong tradition of success in both academics and extra-curricular activities. Our entire high school staff is committed to providing rigorous academic opportunities to our students while providing a variety of academic supports to insure success for all of our students. With outstanding support from our parents and community, Vicksburg High School takes pride in developing high character in all of our students. We have a large slate of Advanced Placement options, vocational training courses, outstanding fine arts program, and early college opportunities.

Vicksburg Middle School

348 East Prairie Street
Vicksburg, MI 49097
(269) 321-1300
Grades 6-8
597 students
Principal - Matt VanDussen

The 2015-2016 school year brought new academic opportunities for sixth and seventh grade students. Two new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) classes were implemented - Design & Modeling and Automation and Robotics. In the Design & Modeling class students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions. In the Automation & Robotics class students trace the development of robotics and learn about mechanical systems by designing, building, and programming real-world objects. We are excited about these new opportunities for students to develop problem-solving skills.

Indian Lake Elementary School

11901 South 30th Street
Vicksburg, MI 49097
(269) 321-1400
Grades PK-5
358 students
Principal - Ruth Hook

The school family of Indian Lake Elementary - staff, parents, and students - believes in the worth and dignity of every individual. We believe that all students can learn. The mission of our school is to provide a positive learning environment that promotes pride, self-esteem, and academic success. In promoting this excellence in education, we, the staff, ensure that high expectations are set, enabling students to live up to their greatest potential.

Sunset Lake Elementary School

201 North Blvd Street

Vicksburg, MI 49097

(269) 321-1500

Grades PK-5

513 students

Principal – Amie McCaw

Our staff believes that ALL students have unique talents and we need to support the different learning styles and different interests of our students. We welcome family partnerships and believe through collaboration and teamwork we can unleash the greatness in every Sunset Lake student.

Our students, staff, and parents work to celebrate the joy and the importance of learning. As partners, we pledge to develop and nurture the unique abilities and interests of each member of our school family and to foster a life-long love of learning. We are committed to developing knowledgeable, self-confident, contributing members of a global society.

Tobey Elementary School

8551 Long Lake Dr. East

Scotts, MI 49088

(269) 321-1600

Grades PK-5

314 students

Principal– Mike Barwegen

Here at Tobey Elementary School we are committed to helping every child reach his or her fullest potential. Our staff is also committed to providing our students with instruction and opportunities that help them develop beyond the 3 R's, a curriculum supportive and inclusive of the arts, including the visual arts and performing arts, as well as the language arts. We give students the resources they need to succeed in Middle and High School.

Working cooperatively, the staff, students, and parents of the Tobey Community will create an environment where all children develop as responsible citizens, achieve academic excellence, and become life-long learners. The Tobey community believes that we should:

Treat others with respect

Offer a helping hand

Be responsible

Expect Excellence

Yearn to learn

Vicksburg Pathways High School (formerly the W-A-Y program)

301 S Kalamazoo Street

Vicksburg MI 49097

(269) 321-1024

Email: rplace@vicksburgschools.org

82 students

Director – Ric Place

Pathways High School is an alternative high school program. The school is designed to help each student find their own unique pathway to life after High School.

- ☐ Lab staffed with certified teachers to provide face-to-face assistance.
- ☐ Online Learning 24/7/365
- ☐ Learn from Home
- ☐ Flexible to your schedule with weekly lab visits
 - Career Training
 - College Classes
- ☐ Pathways High School offers two diploma options.
 - 24 credit traditional diploma
 - 20 credit alternative diploma

Virtual Academy

(248) 209-2071

If a traditional classroom isn't best for your child, Kalamazoo RESA has an alternative: This virtual school program for grades 6–8 offers a flexible program customized for your child. Your child will learn at his/her own pace, using a curriculum from the world-renowned Calvert School (grade 6-8).

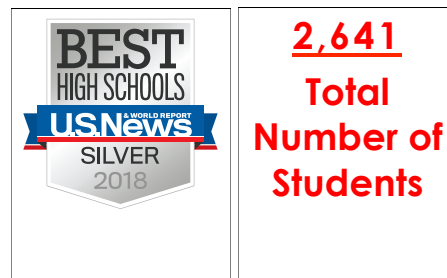
VLAC- Kalamazoo RESA can help you give your child a great education:

- Flexible program customized for your child
- Self-paced curriculum that moves at your child's speed
- Outstanding support from Michigan-certified teachers, as well as experienced teachers from Calvert
- Well-rounded, classic education that uses a blend of print and online materials
- Step-by-step lesson plans so the planning is done for you
- VLAC supplies all necessary equipment and supplies

To learn more go to www.virtuallearningacademyconsortium.org

SCHOOL DATA

To learn more about Vicksburg Community Schools test scores and other statistics please go to www.mischooldata.org



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Vicksburg Bulldog Beginnings Preschool

Get your child on board for an exciting preschool experience! Vicksburg Community Schools is offering a unique program specifically designed for children who will be four years old before September 1st of this school year. Bulldog Beginnings preschool focuses on school readiness skills in a fun, play-based format. Bulldog Beginnings is entirely FREE to families who *meet the qualifications*. This includes transportation, meals, snacks, parent education programs, and field trips.

The Bulldog Beginnings preschool utilizes a joint application with all other Kalamazoo County preschool programs to help cut down on duplication and enable us to appropriately place children. You can pick up applications at each of our elementary buildings, the Vicksburg Public Library, or the Vicksburg Administration Building. We will be collecting applications for the next school year starting in January and will begin accepting students and notifying families AFTER JUNE 30th of their application status. *Questions?* Call us at (269) 321-1022.

Before and After School Childcare - Kids Klub

The Kids Klub before and after school child care program is in full swing at all three elementary schools. The cost for this program is only \$5.50 per session or \$55.00 per week for full time care. Program times are from 6:30 to 9:00 a.m. and 3:35 to 6:00 p.m. each day. The program emphasizes a warm, safe, and comfortable atmosphere with lots of quality activity choices for participants. Space is limited. To enroll, please call us at (269) 321-1022.

Continuing Education and Recreation Classes

Whether you are looking to improve your athletic skills, try something new and exciting or just hang with friends, Vicksburg Community Education has something for you. We offer a wide variety of activities and services. To learn more go to:

http://www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org/community_education.shtml

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIME

Indian Lake Elementary	9:00 AM - 3:40 PM
Sunset Lake Elementary	8:55 AM - 3:35 PM
Tobey Elementary School	8:55 AM - 3:35 PM
Vicksburg Middle School	7:41 AM - 2:29 PM
Vicksburg High School	7:38 AM - 2:32 PM

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Students in Vicksburg Community Schools may receive special education services for various disabilities or impairments when determined to be eligible according to the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE). Necessary services and supports are established at an Individualized Educational Planning Team meeting and may be delivered in our general education and/or special education classrooms.

SECTION 504

Vicksburg Community Schools shall not discriminate against any student having a disability, a record of having had a disability, or who is otherwise regarded as having a disability. The District shall also, as required by law, attempt to locate and identify each student within the District's jurisdiction who may be an eligible student under Section 504. The District shall evaluate each student identified under Section 504 and provide each eligible student with a FAPE as defined by law.

The District also shall not discriminate against persons based upon any other legally-protected characteristic. Other District publications and policy documents should be consulted to obtain details of those prohibitions, and the means by which an internal complaint or grievance concerning any type of discrimination may be filed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education, which consists of seven members, is the elected policy-making body for the Vicksburg Community Schools District. Their primary responsibility, among others, is to provide the Vicksburg Community with a system of free, public education for students in grades K-12.

Operating under the authority of Michigan Law the Board is responsible for:

- Acquiring, constructing, maintaining, repairing, renovating, disposing of, or conveying school property, facilities and equipment.
- Hiring and contracting for scheduling, supervision or terminating employees or independent contractors.
- Receiving, accounting for, investing, or expending District money.

Through its role of long-range policy development and other critical functions, the Board not only provides for the basic education of students in a safe environment, they work with administration and staff to offer the most effective education programs and district support services to achieve excellence in education. This provides an opportunity to develop each student's potential, to develop the unique capabilities of all students, and to instill knowledge and skills necessary for each student to be productive and adaptive in our changing world.



Vicksburg Board of Education: Left to Right Front Row: Carol Lohman, Virgil 'Skip' Knowles; Left to Right Back Row: Tina Forsyth, Rudy Callen, Dr. David Schriemer, Wil Emmert, Deborah Harsha.

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

CLASSIFICATION OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Freshman: Any student who has on record less than 6.0 units of credit

Sophomore: Any student who has on record at least 6.0 units of credit

Junior: Any student who has on record at least 12.0 units of credit

Senior: Any student who has on record at least 18.0 units of credit

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Vicksburg High School will issue a diploma upon the successful completion of the following:

English	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Mathematics (1 credit in senior year)	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Physical Education/Health	1 credit
Education or Practical Arts	1 credit
World Language	2 credits
Electives	6 credits
On-line Course/Experience	<u>20 hours</u>

24 credits, plus on-line hours

The graduation credits requirement is a minimum. Students are always encouraged to exceed the minimum requirements.

In addition, all Vicksburg High School students are required to take the M-STEP in the spring of their junior year in order to graduate. All juniors must give their best effort while taking the M-STEP. Students who do not give their best effort will be required to re-take the M-STEP the following school year

WEIGHTED COURSES 2016-2017

The following courses will be weighted using a 1.25 multiplier at Vicksburg High School for grade point average (GPA) purposes. Weighted grades will be calculated into the cumulative GPA for transcript purposes and will have an impact on future honors such as Top 20% of class and Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors.

AP English Language	AP Calculus AB	AP Biology
AP English Literature	AP Statistics	AP Chemistry
AP Government	AP Psychology	AP Physics
AP American History	AP World History	AP Art
AP Macroeconomics	AP Human Geography	ATYP Courses
All other AP courses taken online		

The following KAMSC courses will also be weighted using a 1.25 multiplier for GPA purposes:

AP Calculus BC	Bioethics	Advanced Calculus
AP Computer Science A	Discrete Mathematics	Astronomy
AP Environmental Science	Advanced Computer Science	Geology
AP Physics C Mechanics	Biochemistry	Biomedical Science
AP Physics C Elec / Magnetism	Cell Biology	Human Genetics
Microbiology	Organic Chemistry	

GUIDANCE SERVICES AT VICKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

HOW CAN THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT HELP ME?

The Guidance Department provides a setting in which you may discuss, in confidence, any problem that is important to you. Your counselor can provide you with information and appropriate resources so that you will have a more realistic basis upon which to make your decisions.

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT?

While you are in high school, you will be making many new and important decisions regarding courses, curricula, vocational plans, and more personal matters. Decision-making may be a lonely and unsettling experience. It often helps to talk things over with someone who can be objective while taking a personal interest in you.

It helps to have accurate information that is relevant to your situation. Sometimes tests provide more information about interests, academic abilities, personality characteristics, and special aptitudes.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

BAND

www.vicksburgbands.com

Vicksburg Bands exhibit a strong tradition of excellence and all students are welcome to be a part of the band program. As members of the band program students have enjoyed consistent superior ratings in local and state festivals as well as competitions locally, statewide, and nationally. Vicksburg Bands students have moved on to lifelong participation in music after graduating with some enjoying a career in music as well. The high school marching band, "The Big Red Machine," boasts approximately 25% of the high school enrollment and involves 200 students annually.

The marching band also utilizes a student leadership mentor program that is built on peer-to-peer mentorship. The band program offers 11 different ensembles to be a part of from sixth grade beginning band, three jazz bands, and up through the symphonic band which performs collegiate level music. The Vicksburg Bands and its students have performed all over the nation and the world and have proven that upon graduation, students are college and career ready in the field of music performance.



CHOIR

The Vicksburg Middle and High School Choir Program consists of seven choirs; the sixth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade, two mixed high school choirs, a men's choir and a treble choir. Middle school and high school choirs consistently earn Excellent and Superior ratings at district and state choral festivals. The High School choirs have travelled to New York City to perform in Carnegie Hall. Both middle school and high school choirs have been invited to perform with the Kalamazoo Symphony, Battle Creek Symphony and the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony.

THEATER

The Vicksburg Middle School and High School Theater Program offers three performances per school year. 4th through 8th graders are invited to audition for a musical production every fall. The high school offers a fall play and a spring musical. All of these productions are fully staged on our performing arts center stage with professional level scenery, costuming, lighting and sound engineering.





SEASONAL ATHLETICS

Boys

FALL SPORTS

Cross Country (Var, JV)
Football (Var, JV, Frosh)
Tennis (Var, JV)
Soccer (Var, JV)

WINTER SPORTS

Basketball (Var, JV, Frosh)
Wrestling (Var, JV)
Bowling (Var, JV)

SPRING SPORTS

Baseball (Var, JV)
Golf (Var, JV)
Track (Var, JV)
Lacrosse (Var, JV)
Clay Target (Var, JV)

Girls

Volleyball (Var, JV, Frosh)
Cheerleading (Var, JV)
Cross Country (Var, JV)
Golf (Var, JV)
Equestrian (Var)

Basketball (Var, JV, Frosh)
Competitive Cheerleading (Var, JV)
Bowling (Var, JV)

Soccer (Var, JV)
Softball (Var, JV)
Track (Var, JV)
Tennis (Var, JV)
Lacrosse (Var)
Clay Target (Var, JV)

