



THE

RED & WHITE

JUNE 2025



VHS CLASS OF 2025



A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

As we reach the final days of school, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your continued partnership and support. June is a time of celebration and reflection and we have so much to be proud of this school year. I want to acknowledge the hard work of our students, staff, and families. None of the great things we achieve at VCS would be possible without them.

We are especially proud of our graduating students and wish them every success in the future.

I am confident they will go on to do great things because of the foundation they have built here in Vicksburg.

As summer approaches, I encourage you to take time as a family to rest, read, and recharge.

While many of us take much needed breaks, our construction crews have another busy summer planned. Thanks to the support of our wonderful community, more bond work will once again be happening

in every one of our school buildings. We are thankful our community values strong schools that support our outstanding programs.

I hope you have a wonderful and restful summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the fall, ready for another year of growth and achievement.



Kind regards,
Keevin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT

Senior CTE Students Honored

Congratulations to the members of the class of 2025 who were honored for their work in the Kalamazoo RESA Career Connect programs.

The students were celebrated at the May VCS School Board meeting as well as at the annual Outstanding Achievement Awards breakfast.

Congratulations to:

Kailynn Brown - Cosmetology

Asant Ivens - Computerized Manufacturing

Lyla Kling - Professional Health Science

Victoria Langdon - Marketing and Film and Video Arts

Joslyn Stephenson - Horticulture

Lucas Triemstra - Mechatronics

Emma Vallier - Cosmetology

Corinne Willson - KRESA Foundation Scholarship from the Teacher Academy Program



Brady Young - Accounting

Adalia Zoeller- Culinary Arts

Pathways High School:

Ellie Martin - Veterinary Science

We also celebrated the following seniors:

Lyla Kling - Principal's Leadership Award

Hannah DeVries - DAR Good

Citizen of the Year

Allie Spencer - YWCA Women of Achievement Award

Great job to you all!

VHS Golf Team Headed to State Competition



Vicksburg High School Boys Golf is heading to State!!

They won first place at Regionals with a team score of 304.

They also had two players tie for first place with individual winning scores of 72. Congratulations to Riley Briggs and Judah McClelland.

Vicksburg also had 4 all-conference players: Riley Briggs, Lincoln Taylor, Judah McClelland and Malachi McClelland.

Good luck at State!

Gail VanDaff Gets Special Recognition

A huge congratulations to VCS Curriculum Director Gail VanDaff who recently received a state-wide honor.

She was given the 2025 MASFPS Annual Educator Award!

Each year, the Michigan Association of State and Federal Program Specialists (MASFPS) recognizes a K-12 educator or administrator for their valuable contributions and leadership in support of high standards for all Michigan educators and students.

Gail is a great leader who works every day to provide quality education for our students and support for our teachers and staff.



Strive Mentorship Program



Our Vicksburg High School Strive students had a very successful school year!

Strive is a partnership with the Rotary Club of Vicksburg to help make sure our students have the support they need to graduate. Each Strive student receives a mentor who meets with them and provides encouragement to get through their senior year and opportunities to explore their futures after high school. The

goal is to improve their GPAs, attendance and attitudes.

This year, there were 18 Strive students attending VHS and Pathways High School. Together they all improved their grade point averages by more than half a point, with many improving by a point or more!

Each of the 18 students also has a plan for the future. Some have been accepted to colleges or

trade schools while others have jobs lined up already.

Congratulations to our 2025 Strive students: Cameron Dalga, Gavin Shubnell, Lily Tyler, Gabe Branham, Ivy Gray, Randy Prewett, Caleb Thompson, Tobe Spicketts, Lauro Hernandez, Shyanne Ruhl, Asant (Ace) Ivens, Caleb Culberston, Jonathon Finch, Gabrielle LeMarbe, Kailynn Brown, Donovan Perkins, Aidyn Garza, Jacklynn Salisbury.

Thank you so much to our incredible mentors who help make sure our students are successful. This year's Rotary mentors were: Dave Schriemer, Dave Aubry, Chris Laaksonon, Dennis Forsythe, Chris Kosiba, Kate Wunderlin, Sheryl Oswalt, Jim Bird, Syd Bastos, Nancy Simmons, Danna Downing, Mike Wunderlin, Larry Forsyth, Leanne Seaver, Kimm Mayer, Marti Moore, Brian Penny, and Krista Ragotzy.

Sunset Lake Elementary Goes Downtown

Thank you to all the Vicksburg businesses who invited our 4th graders from Sunset Lake Elementary in for their annual business walk!

Students got to tour 12 local businesses and speak with the owners. They were able to ask questions about business ownership and how they market their products and goods as well as any other questions they might have.

It's a great day to bring their recent lessons to life and show off all the wonderful businesses we have in Vicksburg!



Big Read Machine Rolls Through Summer

The Big Read Machine is coming to you again this summer!

Please check out the schedule and come grab some great summer



reading materials from the mobile library at stops 4 days a week throughout the summer.

New this year: bedtime stories

from 7 to 7:30pm at all Tuesday and Thursday night stops!

Thank you to the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation and all

their volunteers for providing this awesome service to our community!

	<div><div>Big Read Machine Summer 2025 Schedule</div></div>			
	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
June	June 24: 6-8:30pm Centennial	June 18: 9:30am to 12pm Tobey Elem June 25: 5:30 to 8:30pm Burg Days of Summer	June 19: 9:45am-10:45am Sunset Lake Elem 11am-12pm Kids Court June 26: 6 to 8:30pm Tobey Elem	June 27: 2-6pm Farmers Market
July	July 15 & 29: 6-8:30pm Centennial	July 23: 9:30am to 12pm Tobey Elem July 16 & 30: 5:30 to 8:30pm Burg Days of Summer	July 10 & 24: 9:45am-10:45am Sunset Lake Elem 11am-12pm Kids Court July 17 & 31: 6 to 8:30pm Tobey Elem	July 18: 2-6pm Farmers Market
August	Aug 12: 6-8:30pm Centennial	Aug 6: 9:30am to 12pm Tobey Elem Aug 13: 5:30 to 8:30pm Burg Days of Summer	Aug 7: 9:45am-10:45am Sunset Lake Elem 11am-12pm Kids Court Aug 14: 5 to 7:30pm Bus Carnival	Aug 1, 15 & 29: 2-6pm Farmers Market Saturday, Aug 2 9am- 12pm South County/ Generous Hands

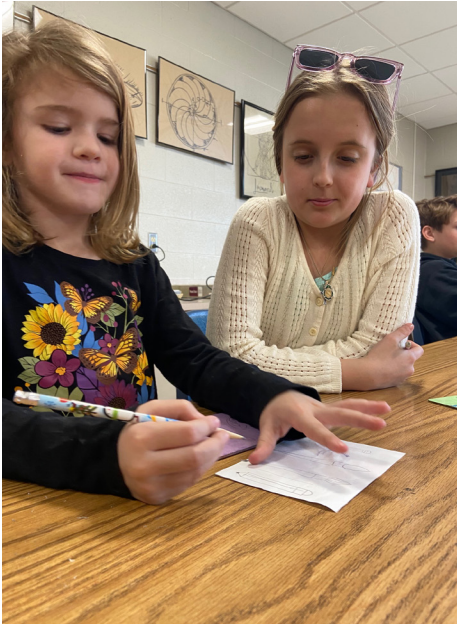
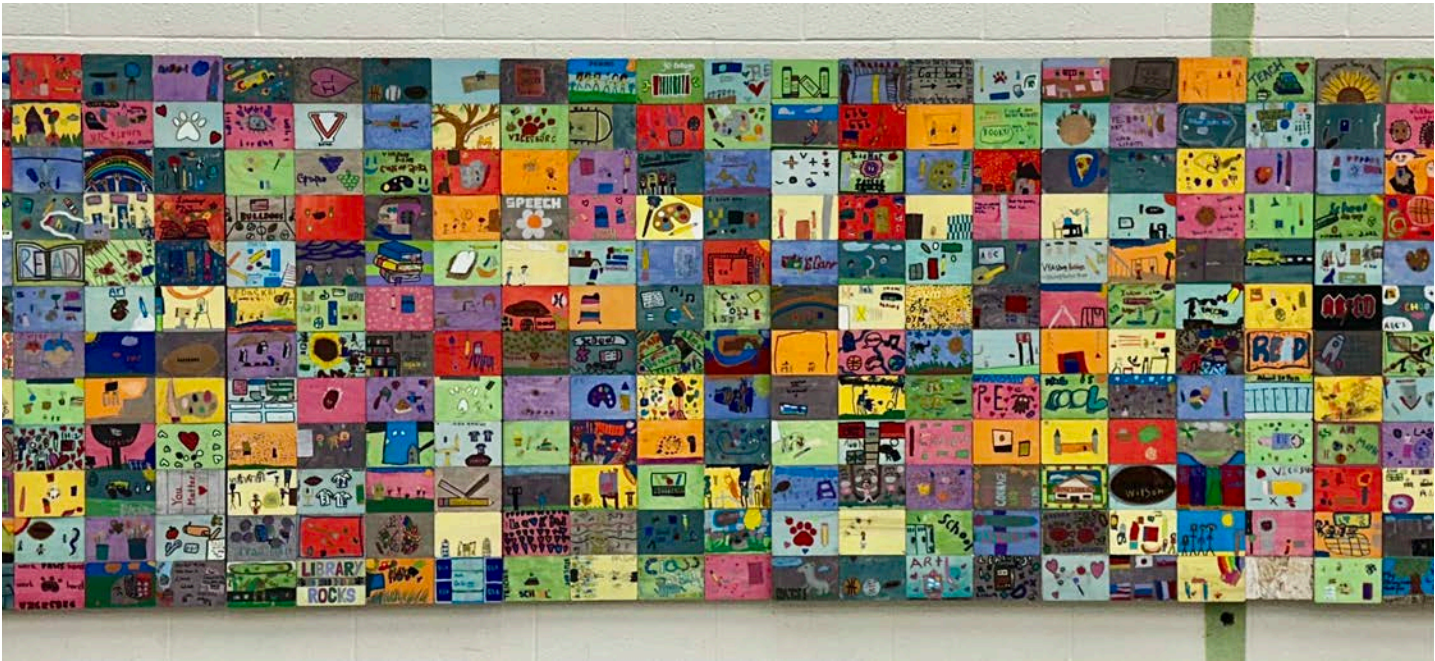
New Mural at Indian Lake Elementary

What represents your school?

Students at Indian Lake Elementary created a school wide mural with funds received from the Vicksburg Innovation Grant.

Students were asked the question: “What represents school to you?” They illustrated their ideas on a wooden tile and then Mr. Biernacki assembled their creativity!

Next time you’re at Indian Lake be sure to check it out in the cafeteria!



Cindy Kessler Wins Special Education Award

Sunset Lake Educational Supports and Intervention teacher Cindy Kessler received a big honor recently.

She won the Excellence in Special Education Award from the KRESA parent advisory committee.

She was one of 46 nominees from around the county and one of 16 winners!

Mrs. Kessler's mantra of "you can do hard things" is something that helps her students every day. We are thankful for all she does!



Pizza at Vicksburg Middle School

Vicksburg Middle School now has the same "Smart Mouth" pizza maker as VHS! It's been an exciting treat for students and staff.

The Bulldog Express area of the VMS cafeteria has been transformed into a pizza cafe.

The personal sized pizzas meet all the standards from the USDA for school meals. They are low in sodium, low in fat, and whole grain. Smart Mouth pizza has a formulation for their crust that is superior to other whole grain crusts on the market, making the usual whole grain taste

nonexistent.

Along with pizza, the school nutrition team can also make calzones and cheese bread using the same crust.

The pizzas count as an entrée item for free school lunch!

The pizzas have been flying off the shelf and we know they are going to continue to be a crowd pleaser.

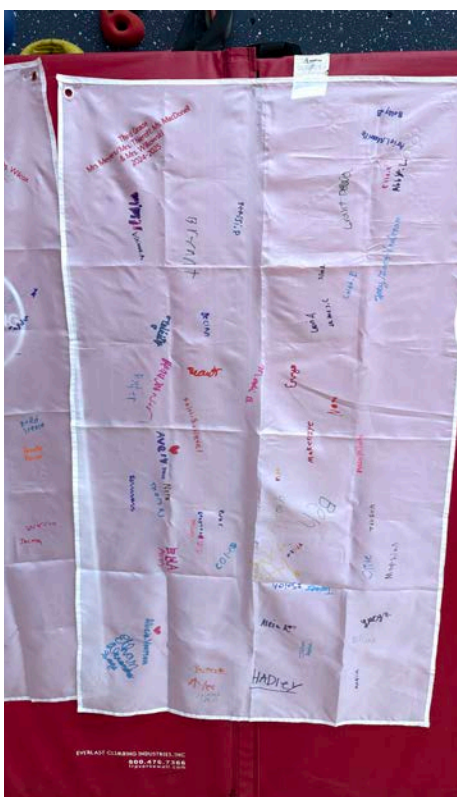
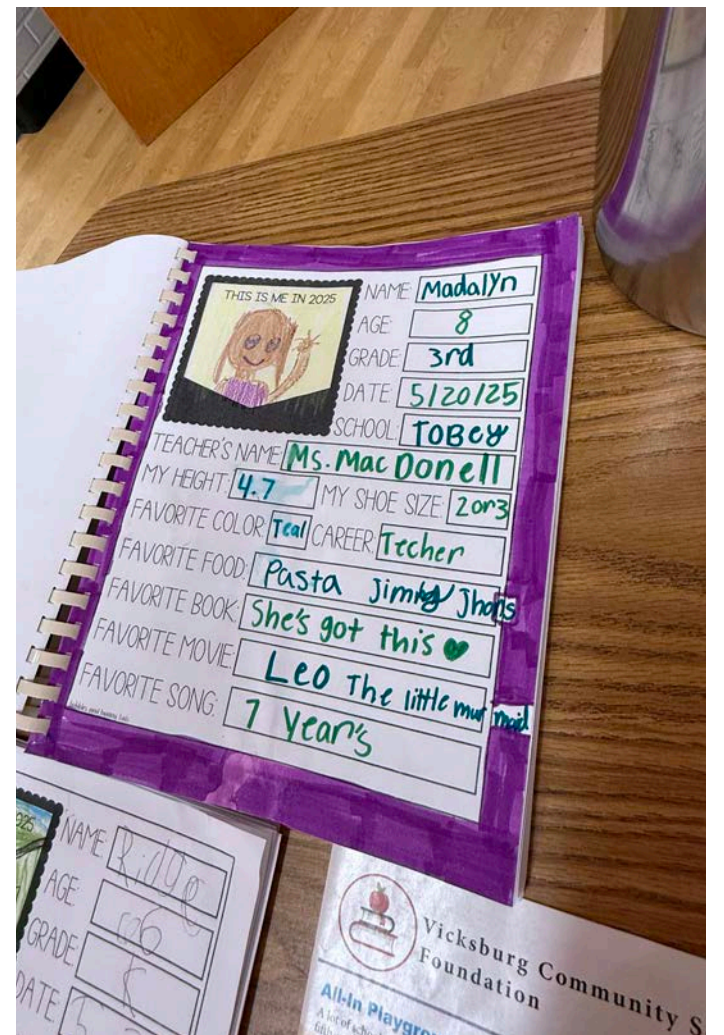
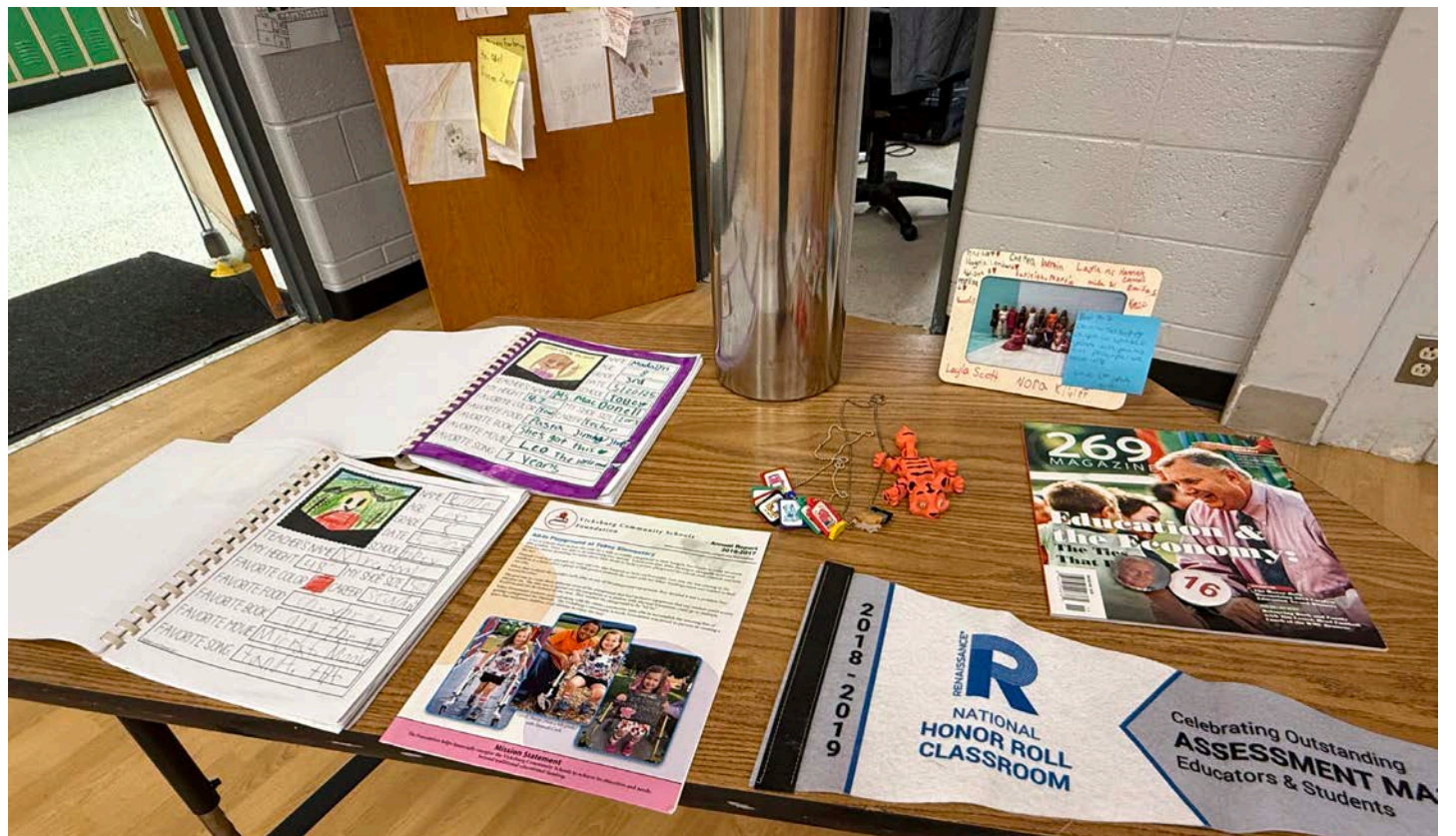


Tobey Elementary Time Capsule

Students at Tobey Elementary have been gathering items for a time capsule!

Each grade created books with pages designed by each student. They also each created a flag with signatures from every student in every grade, along with a staff member flag that teachers and staff signed. Other items and pictures to celebrate the great things happening at Tobey will also be added.

The new time capsule will replace one that was dug up earlier this year after 25 years in the ground outside of the school.



VCS Wins Big at School Bus Road-eo

Congratulations to our talented transportation team on a very successful School Bus Road-eo!

Over all, 6 of our VCS bus drivers ended up in the top 10 at the competition!

Congratulations to:

Haley Laffler- 1st place!

Allen Reynolds- 2nd place!

Alice Cronk- 4th

Michelle Ballard- 5th

Penny Carper- 6th

Kim Bruystens - 9th

The friendly competition welcomed more than 40 school

bus drivers representing over a dozen school districts from five West Michigan counties. VCS hosted the Road-eo along with Van Buren ISD. "This event not only celebrates the dedication of our drivers but also reinforces the high standards of safety and service we expect in school transportation," said VCS Transportation Director and school bus road-eo organizer, Karen McKinstry.

A School Bus Road-eo is a competitive event that showcases the skills, safety knowledge, and precision driving abilities of school transportation professionals. Drivers navigate a timed obstacle course that simulates real-life challenges, including tight turns, student loading zones, and emergency procedures.

The event emphasizes safety, professionalism, and continued excellence in student transportation.

Congratulations to all those who participated!



VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PRESENTS:

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY TAILGATE!

Thursday, August 28th, 2025

4:30pm to 6:30pm



Join us for free food, games, giveaways and more from dozens of Vicksburg area businesses!



VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FREE BUS SAFETY CARNIVAL



**August 14th
5:30 to 7:30pm
at the VAB Parking lot**

**ALL PRE-K & ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED!**



**Students & Parents Learn
School Bus Safety!**

Free Games, Prizes and More!

