



THE

RED & WHITE

MARCH 2025

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

After what has felt like a very long winter, we are beginning to see signs of Spring here in Vicksburg. This time of year is filled with energy. Whether it's the progress being made in our classrooms, the excitement of spring activities and sports, or the growth and dedication we see in our students as they prepare to move up grades, you can feel the excitement in the air.

March also marks an important time for planning. Our district is preparing for the final stretch of the school year, ensuring

that every student receives the support they need to succeed while also making plans for summer services and the next school year.

And it's the month we celebrate reading. We have kicked off our March is Reading Month activities across Vicksburg schools. You'll see, especially at our elementary schools, many fun activities planned to help our students, teachers and families celebrate the joy of books. I hope it continues to foster a lifelong love of books and learning for all

of our students.

In this month's Red and White, you'll find information about kindergarten kick-off and preschool enrollment as we work to reach our newest Bulldogs. Please help us spread the word so we can reach every family in our community.



Warm regards,
Kevvin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT

Tobey Elementary Declared School of Character

Congratulations to the students and staff at Tobey Elementary!

They were named a 2025 State School of Character by Character.org. One of only 7 schools in the state to get the award!

Tobey was honored for finding ways to create a caring community. Character.org says Tobey provides a meaningful and challenging curriculum to engage all students and the leadership team and staff have helped to ensure character is intentional and part of who they are at Tobey Elementary for now and in the years to come.

Great job, everyone!

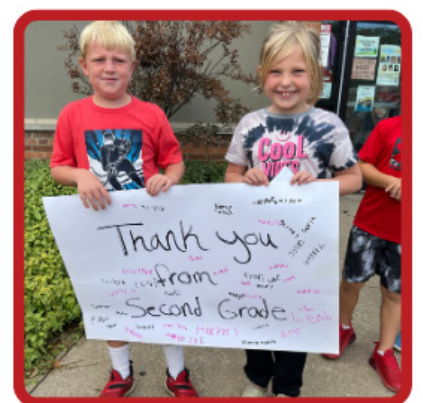


CONGRATULATIONS TOBEY ELEMENTARY 2025 State School of Character



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Jordon Butler Makes Bowling History for VHS

Congratulations to Vicksburg High School junior Jordon Butler who is the first ever bowler from VHS to qualify for the state finals! And that's not all, he's also the first VHS bowler to win! He outbowled every opponent at the finals on March 1st and was crowned champion after several very competitive matches against the other best student bowlers in Michigan.

Jordon had previously placed 3rd at regionals with a pin total of 1255. He also received the 2025 Wolverine Conference award.

Good job, Jordon! Way to represent the Bulldogs!



Sixth Graders Learn the Basics of Budgeting

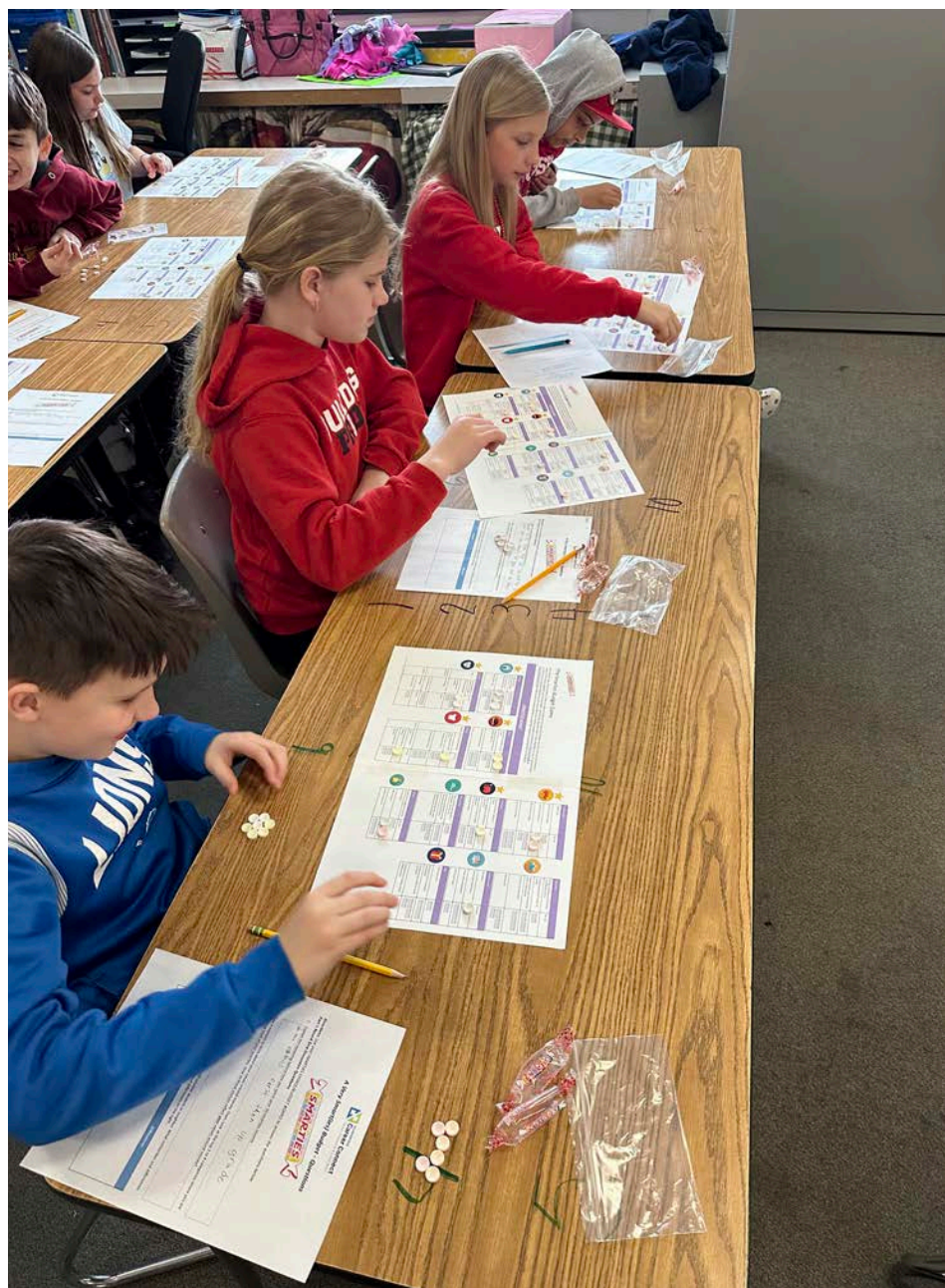
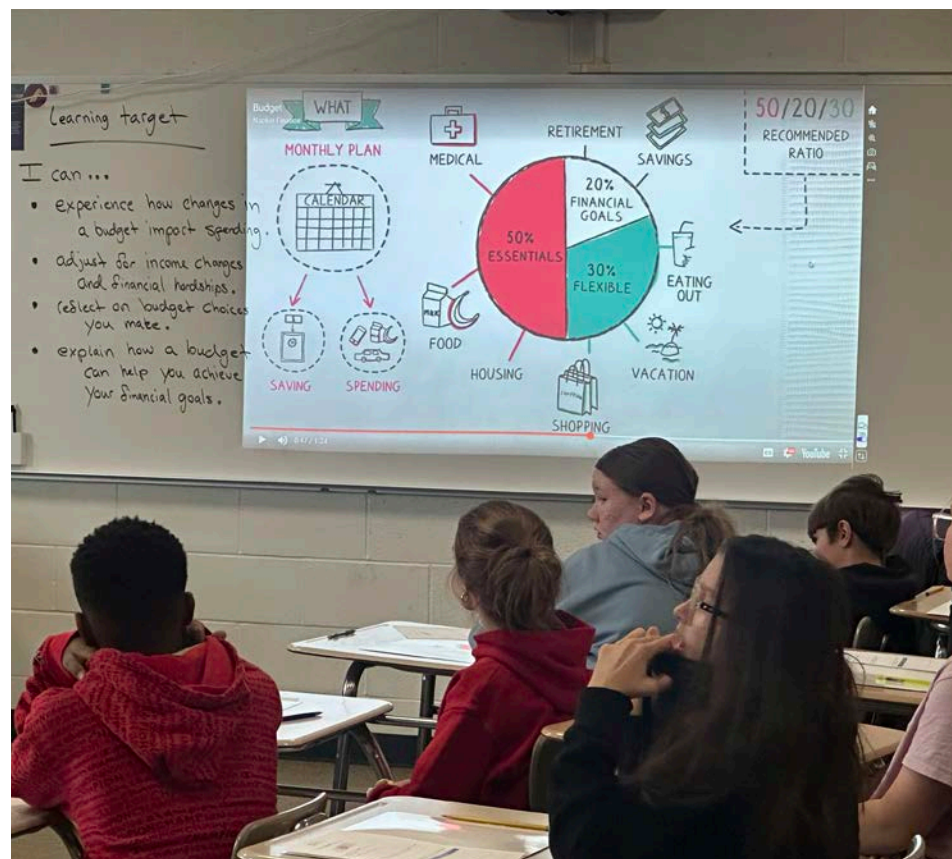
Sixth graders at Vicksburg Middle School recently got a fun lesson in budgeting.

VMS Counselor Tatiana Curtiss and KRESA Career Coaches Dawn Pincumbe and Jen Baldwin brought in the Smarties budget activity to teach them about finances.

They used Smarties candy as

currency and had to figure out what things were most important and plan how they would spend their money each month and what they would do if they didn't have enough smarties.

Big shoutout to 6th grade Social Studies teachers Ms. Tutt and Mr. Wolthuis for hosting this lesson!



Winter Homecoming Court Named

Vicksburg High School had a great spirit week in honor of Winter Homecoming!

Congratulations to our VHS Winter Homecoming court:

King- Grant Balazs, Queen- Kendra Cooley

Prince- Malachi McClelland, Princess- Avery Bosker

Here are all of the couples on this year's court:

Freshmen:

Wyatt Wolbrink and Ava Griffioen

Sophomores:

Caleb Bombich and Ava Gose
Bo Vallier and Jenna Schramer

Juniors:

Gabby Yost and Dillyn VanHeukelum
Avery Bosker and Malachi McClelland
Chase Manley and Madison Kanouse
Will Sabin and Layanna Shannon

Seniors:

Gabbi Balazs and Grant Balazs
Jordan Diekman and Kendra Cooley
Brandon Shoffner and Torrie Langdon
Brady Young and Olivia Penney



The Hearty Hustle Is Back, Register Now!

Registration for the 38th annual Hearty Hustle 5K Race is now open!

All the proceeds from the fun community event benefit the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation, which funds programs that would not otherwise be supported by tax revenues. Teachers and students directly benefit through educational, literary, scientific and extra-curricular activities.

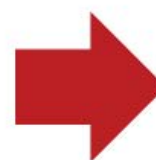
The Hearty Hustle is taking place Saturday May 10th at 9am. It's \$30 to register and that includes a 38th annual commemorative t-shirt. There is also a one mile fun run for the kids.

You can register on the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation tab on vicksburgschools.org or by scanning the QR code.

SATURDAY, MAY 10TH



Sign up for the Hearty Hustle today!



100th Day of School at VCS

All 3 elementary schools held big celebrations for the 100th day of school.

The kindergarten classes at Indian Lake Elementary celebrated by counting out 100 fruit loops out to make necklaces. Their 5th grade buddies came to celebrate the occasion with them and help make the necklaces.

Kindergarten and first graders at Sunset Lake Elementary completed lots of fun activities all around the number 100. Many students and teachers

also dressed up as 100 year olds or by wearing 100 of an item displayed on their shirts.

The kindergarten classes at Tobey Elementary also celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing up like 100 year olds. While the first graders at Tobey created their 100 museums!

Each student created a display showcasing 100 items of their choice. There was lots of creativity on display!



Tobey Kids Learn the Art of Speed Stacking

Students in Tatum Odell's Physical Education classes at Tobey Elementary got a special visit from an athlete in a unique sport- cup stacking.

Mr. Tim Bell is a retired PE teacher from Gull Lake and was recruited to work for a company called Speed Stacks to go around and introduce cup stacking to Michigan schools that are interested. He competes in the junior olympics at the senior cup stacking level and is the fastest in his age group!

Mr. Bell spent a day with all of the PE classes at Tobey as they played games and taught the kids cup stacking.



Sunset Lake Learns About Visual Impairment

Students in Chelsea Freund's second grade class at Sunset Lake Elementary recently got to learn what it's like to be visually impaired.

The second graders just learned about Helen Keller and they were very interested in her story and how she overcame the challenges in her life.

Elementary Multilingual Teacher and Interventionist, Angie Byrne invited her friend, Pam Crooks to speak to the class. Pam is a vocational rehabilitation teacher for the visually impaired. She works at the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) training center, and brought one of her students, Roger Gadawski, to

speak to the class.

Pam first talked about how each case of visual impairment is different: some people see more, less, or differently than others. Roger told the class he began losing his vision when he was 12 and shared about the tools and senses he uses to navigate daily life.

He demonstrated the different types of canes he uses and how they help him detect changes in his environment.

Roger also showed them kitchen tools like a double-sided spatula, an oven glove (used to prevent burns), a liquid level sensor (a tool that you put on the side

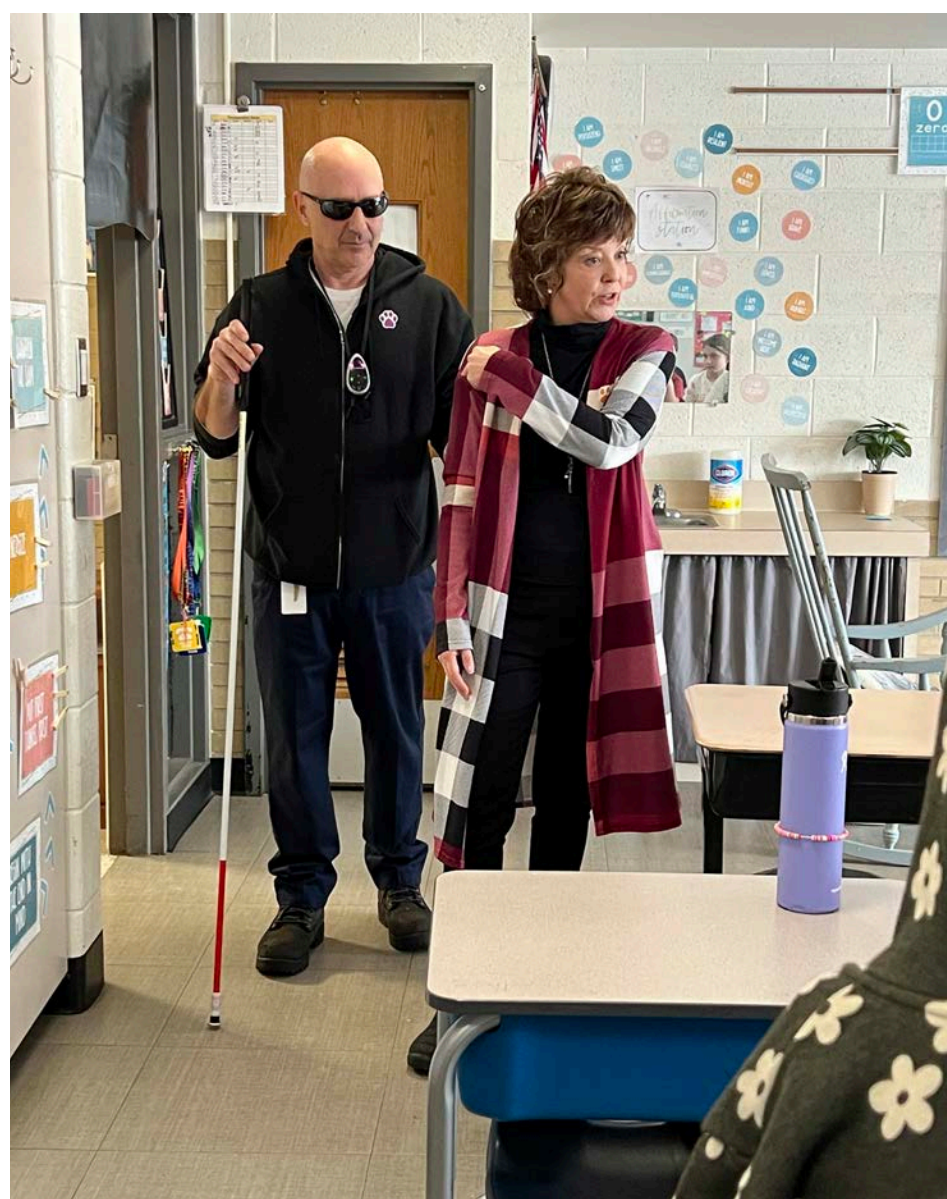
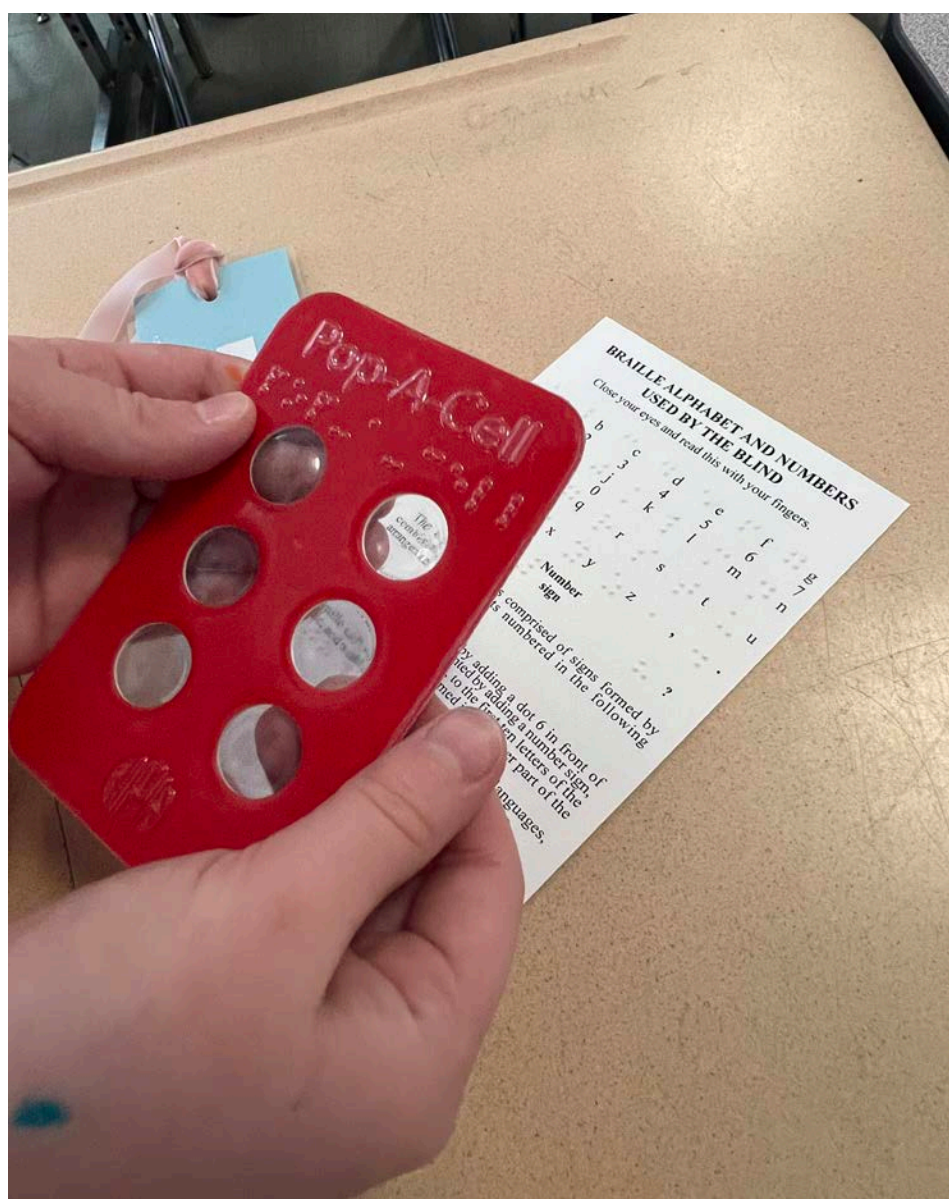
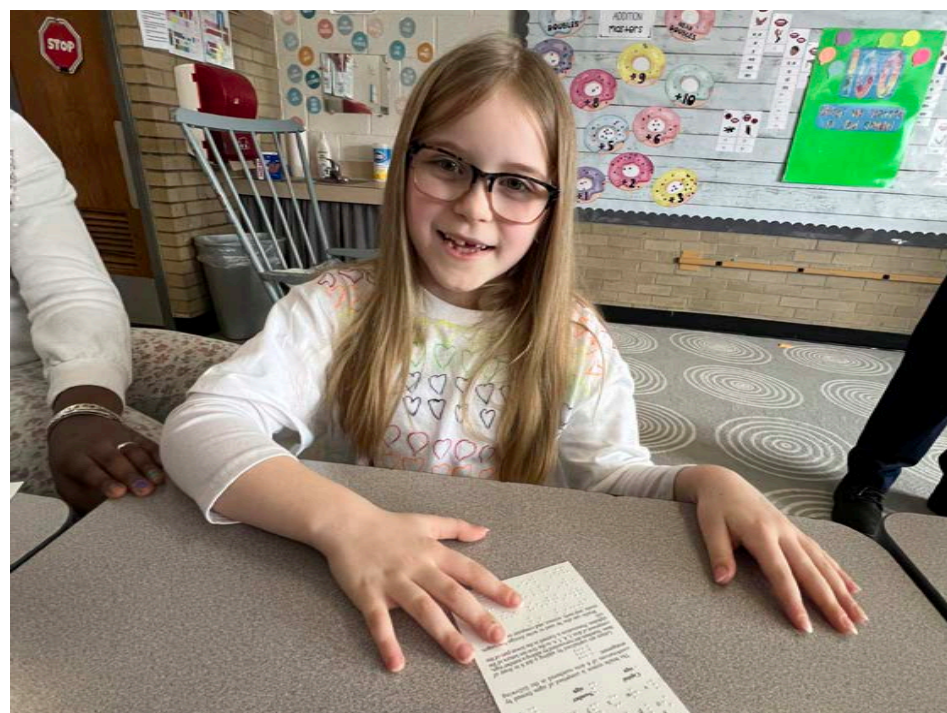
of a cup or pitcher that will tell you when the liquid is near the top), and a cutting glove (a glove made out of steel mesh that protects your hand so you don't accidentally cut yourself).

He also showed the kids different phone apps he uses to take pictures and read print.

Pam and Roger talked about how visually impaired people can use Braille to read and write. The students received alphabet cards in Braille and pop-it cards to practice using dots to make Braille letters and numbers. The students also received bookmarks with their names in Braille.

Pam and Roger then demonstrated games that visually impaired people can play and how they adapt games so they can participate (i.e. raised dots on dice). They also shared about the importance of letting a visually impaired person know you are there by speaking up and introducing yourself. They talked about how to offer assistance to a blind person who may be struggling to find a seat, locate a room, or navigate a busy street.

It was a very informative and engaging visit that let the students see what it's like to live in someone else's shoes.



VHS Basketball Teams Mentor Tobey Tigers

Thank you to the members of the Vicksburg High School boys and girls basketball teams for speaking to the Tobey Tigers at a recent assembly.

They talked about how they use the character traits of focus, humility, courage, perseverance and self discipline to help them on the court and how the Tobey Way has helped them in high school.

Seeing the former Tobey Tigers come back and mentor the younger students is always an exciting experience.



Middle School Math Students Face Off at WMU

Congratulations to the Vicksburg Middle School students who competed at WMU for Math Counts!

Owen Johnson, Madeline Trepanier, Arthur Jeanette and Matthew Verile represented VMS at the Southwestern MI Chapter Competition along with coach Saleem Ismail.

The group of 6th through 8th graders was one of 13 area teams to show off their math skills.



Building Structures at Indian Lake

Second graders at Indian Lake Elementary have been learning about the properties of matter.

In a recent lesson, students were given index cards, popsicle sticks and tape to create a structure that could withstand the weight of a crayon box.

Students really enjoyed the challenge and they learned to consider things like the shape and weight when building a structure.



REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!



BULLDOG BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

VCS is now accepting applications for the **2025-2026** school year for kids who will be 4 by September 1st.

Apply on the Community Education tab of our website today!
Or scan here to download the application:



KINDERGARTEN KICK-OFF 2025!



Kick-off your child's kindergarten education with Vicksburg Community Schools!

Kick-off Dates & Times:

Tobey:	April 8th from 6 to 7pm
Sunset Lake:	April 9th from 6 to 7pm
Indian Lake:	April 10th from 6 to 7pm

Parents/Guardians can meet the teachers, learn about the curriculum, transportation, food service, parent organizations & before/after school care

This event is for adults
A meet & greet for students will be scheduled at a later date

Contact your school for more information:

Indian Lake (269) 321-1400	Sunset Lake (269) 321-1500	Tobey (269) 321-1600
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Make sure to start the registration process by scanning here:

