



THE

RED & WHITE

NOVEMBER 2025

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

As we move into November, I want to share my appreciation for the hard work and positive energy throughout our schools. The first marking period has come to a close, and I am proud of the strong start our students and staff have made this year.

This is a month of thanks and I am thankful for the impact our teachers and staff have every day. Our students achieve great

things thanks to the work you do.

In this month's Red and White you will read about ways our students are excelling in the classroom and in sports. And also how we are working together as a district to feed those in need in our community, all thanks to a VCS-wide initiative spearheaded by our students at Vicksburg High School.

As we enter this season of

gratitude, I want to thank you all for your continued partnership with Vicksburg Community Schools. Together, we are creating an environment where students feel supported, challenged, and inspired.



Kind regards,

Keevin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT

Cross Country Runners Compete at State Meet

Two Vicksburg High School cross country runners qualified for the State Meet.

Congrats to our D2 Regional Runner-up, all-region, and state qualifier, Caiden Caswell!

Caiden placed 12th at the State Finals! Once again earning All-State Honors.

And also congratulations to Hunter Smith who earned all-region honors and qualified for the MHSAA State Meet at MIS. Hunter placed 146th out of nearly 260 runners.

Great job representing the Bulldogs!



Unity Day at Vicksburg Community Schools

On October 22nd, we traded in our red and white and wore orange for Unity Day!

As a district we came together to celebrate kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. Across all of our schools, students, teachers and staff wore orange to unite against bullying.

We hope that each year on Unity Day, and every day, you'll join us in sharing kindness, promoting acceptance and encouraging inclusion to prevent bullying.



See Student Artwork Around Vicksburg



First graders in Mrs. Wester's class at Tobey Elementary are celebrating fall with artwork you can see on display around the Village of Vicksburg.

You can see their artwork and dozens of others all around town right now!

The VCS Art department in Partnership with the Vicksburg Fine Arts Boosters have art on display at the following area businesses:

- Aaron's Music Service
- Cutting Edge Salon
- Erbelli's Pizza
- Gilbert & Ivy
- Jaspere's Pizza
- La Finca Mexican Rest
- Main St Pub
- Mezanmi Play Cafe

- Nick's Barber Shop
- Oopsy Daisy
- Rise N Dine
- Wooden Stitch

Approximately 80 Students from all VCS buildings will have their work up in these establishments through December! This is the 6th year for the art partnership. Thank you to everyone who supports our students and their artwork!

Meanwhile, the Fine Arts Boosters are looking for members to help support the arts in our community. Those interested in getting involved are invited to stop by one of their upcoming meetings to help support our amazing art programs in Vicksburg.

Vicksburg Fine Arts Boosters



We are looking for parents, alumni, alumni parents, and community members that would like to support the arts in Vicksburg Community Schools.

Mission: To support and encourage participation in fine arts programs and initiatives in the Vicksburg Community Schools District.

Vision: To make sure that everyone (with emphasis on children) in our community has the opportunity to experience the fine arts in Vicksburg Community Schools.

2025-2026 Meetings
7:00pm
Main Street Pub

October 21
November 18
January 20
February 17
March 17
April 21
May 19

Email:
Vicksburgfab@gmail.com

District-wide Food Drive Helps Local Families

Fill the Bus, Feed the Community!

This year, all Vicksburg Community Schools are working together to help those in need in our community. Our goal is to fill a school bus with food and personal care items.

Each school building will collect the donations the week of November 10th through the 14th. On November 18th we plan to deliver a bus full of goods to South County Services to help people right here in Vicksburg.

This is a new spin on the annual VHS National Honor Society food and personal care drive held each November. The hope is to impact the lives of even more people by teaming up district wide to make a difference.

South County Services gave us a list of their most needed items that have the biggest impact on local families. Please only donate the items that are listed below.

Non-perishable Foods:

- Potatoes (instant)
- Gravy
- Stuffing mix
- Soup/stew (can)
- Jello (box)

- Box of pasta
- Box of mac n cheese
- Cranberry sauce
- Maple Syrup
- Ground coffee/instant coffee (no Keurig cups/no whole beans)
- Box of cake mix
- Jar of frosting
- Pancake mix
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Muffin mix
- Biscuit Mix
- Cream of Mushroom soup

Personal Care Items:

- Bar of soap
- Dish Soap
- Shampoo (full size)
- Conditioner (full size)
- Deodorant (full size)
- Toothpaste (full size)
- Laundry Detergent (powdered only)
- Toilet Paper

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

FOOD DRIVE

FILL THE BUS, FEED THE COMMUNITY

PLEASE JOIN VICKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN SUPPORTING LOCAL FAMILIES.

NOVEMBER 10-14, 2025

VCS has partnered with South County Services to provide food and personal care items to local families in need. Each school building within VCS will collect items for one week before we fill a school bus and make one giant donation on behalf of VCS.

South County Services has provided us with a list of desired items. Please donate only those items that are on the requested items list.

Student Golfer Excels at State Competition

Congratulations to Vicksburg High School junior golfer Camryn Rosier!

After 2 days and 36 holes of competition, she placed 20th in the State for Girls Golf!

This is a huge accomplishment! Congratulations Camryn on a phenomenal season!

**GREAT
JOB!**



Model UN Debates Global Topics

The Vicksburg High School Model UN club recently held a mini conference where everyone represented a United Nations country and debated global issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the mental health crisis.

Students learned skills in teamwork, collaboration, and public speaking.

They were also honored to be joined by Representative Julie Rogers, who had a Q&A time with the club members. She told them about her journey into politics and answered questions about what her job looks like.



Bulldog Bash at Indian Lake Elementary

The annual Bulldog Bash at Indian Lake Elementary School was a big success!

Each class spent time pounding the pavement around the track to help raise money for the PTO.

Thank you to everyone who helped support the students and those who volunteered their time to make the walk a great time for everyone.

Great job Bulldogs!



Middle Schooler Breaks Cross Country Record

A big congratulations to Dexter Parsons who broke the Vicksburg Middle School cross country record!

He set the record of 11:22:4 at the Middle School Regional meet at Portage West.

Dexter also placed 10th over all for large schools and ran a great race!

The previous record was held by Skye Smith.

Great job, Dexter!



Leadership Assembly at Sunset Lake

A group of Vicksburg High School students attended the leadership assembly at Sunset Lake Elementary.

They talked to the students about what it means to be a leader and shared their own experiences as leaders at their school.

Thank you VHS students for helping to inspire our younger Bulldogs!



Pathways Students Visit Reality Fair

Students at Vicksburg Pathways High School got a taste of reality at the Reality Fair by Kalamazoo RESA Career Connect recently.

The event is designed to increase levels of financial literacy among high school students.

Choices, budgeting, surprises and more awaited students as they selected a profession, and then took a step by step

approach to balancing their personal finances.

They also had to spin the “wheel of fate” and pick one positive life event and one negative event and then budget for those expenses.

It gave students an eye-opening look at the real world and how budgets work.



Indian Lake Elementary Junior Play Coaches

Student led play!

Indian Lake Elementary is taking their Playworks training to the next level by involving Junior Coaches!

This fall, 18 students in 3rd through 5th grades had a training session to teach them the Playworks best practices. The students work in small teams to help lead recess time and assist the playground supervisors with using proactive techniques.

The goal is to create a safe and engaging space for all students during recess. And help the older students learn valuable leadership skills.

Thanks to Innovation Grants from the Vicksburg Community Foundation, Indian Lake brought the Playworks power of play model to the school, training dozens of their teachers and staff. Now the students get to help take it a step further!



VMS Raises More Than \$15,000 During Annual Walkin' the Dawgs Fundraiser

Vicksburg Middle School's annual Walkin' the Dawgs fundraiser was a resounding success, with 551 students, teachers, and staff taking to the VHS track to support school initiatives.

This year, the event raised an impressive \$15,963.57, thanks to the efforts of 140 student fundraisers and support from 24 business sponsors.

Congratulations to the top student earners:

6th Grade – Addison Somers

7th Grade – Nolan Skutnik

8th Grade – Sean Sedlak

Thank you to all who participated, sponsored, and supported this amazing annual event!

