



THE

RED & WHITE

NOVEMBER 2026

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

As we enter November, I want to express how thankful I am for the students, staff, families and community members who make Vicksburg Community Schools such a special place. Your support and Bulldog pride make a difference in the lives of our students every day.

With the first marking period behind us, we have much to celebrate and look forward to

as we continue working toward our mission of maximizing the success and potential of each student. As we look ahead, we're excited about the opportunities this school year continues to bring. We are having a great Fall sports season and our Winter sports are starting up. Our band and theater programs have put out some incredible performances and have more to come.

In this month's Red and White you'll learn about our new elementary science curriculum and how it's being implemented to give our students more hands-on experiences. You'll also learn about how our students across the district are working together to help others and how you can get involved too.



Kind regards,

Keevin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT

Vicksburg Homecoming Court



Congratulations to our 2026 Vicksburg High School Homecoming King and Queen!

King Easton Moughton and Queen Lily Schmid, who were

crowned during halftime of the homecoming football game.

We also want to recognize and congratulate the rest of our 2026 Homecoming Court: Allison

Truckey, Kendall Ettwein, Haley Hubin, Brynn Swetz, Moses Fisher, Billy Oxx, Colton Zuidema and Jayden Keiser

Congratulations to all of our



Homecoming Court members! Thank you for representing Vicksburg High School and making this year's Homecoming celebration extra special.

Celebrating Coach Travis Van

As he approaches retirement, Vicksburg Community Schools is honoring and celebrating Coach Travis Van.

Travis graduated from Vicksburg High School in 2010 and has been involved in Vicksburg athletics ever since.

From cheering on his little brother Hunter at baseball games, to helping his little sister Jessie coach JV girls basketball, and countless hours coaching Bulldog football alongside his dad, Roger Van, Travis has always found a way to support the athletes he loves.

For Trav, it has never been just about the game. He has cheered, encouraged, celebrated and supported generations of Bulldog athletes, becoming a familiar and special presence on the sidelines.

Trav is truly Vicksburg's biggest fan, and his enthusiasm, loyalty and love for the Bulldogs have made an impact on countless athletes, coaches, families and friends.

As he prepares to retire from coaching, we are grateful for all the heart he has given to Vicksburg athletics.

During half time of the Vicksburg - Three Rivers football game, Travis's family joined him wearing their "Coach Trav's Crew" shirts, and he was presented with his Vicksburg High School jersey, framed as a lasting reminder of his Bulldog legacy.

Thank you, Coach Trav, for everything you have given to Vicksburg athletics! We are so proud of you and so grateful for you.



Tobey Wins 5th Place in Kids Heart Challenge

Congrats to Tobey Elementary for earning 5th place in the state for the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge!

Physical Education teacher Tatum Odell was recently presented with an award recognizing the school's outstanding fundraising efforts and commitment to supporting heart health.

Over the last few years, the students, staff and families have raised more than \$25,000 a school year for the American Heart Association.

The funds raised go directly to the local American Heart Association to support its mission and make a difference right here in our community.

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported this great cause! We are so proud of the Tobey Elementary community and their continued dedication to helping others.



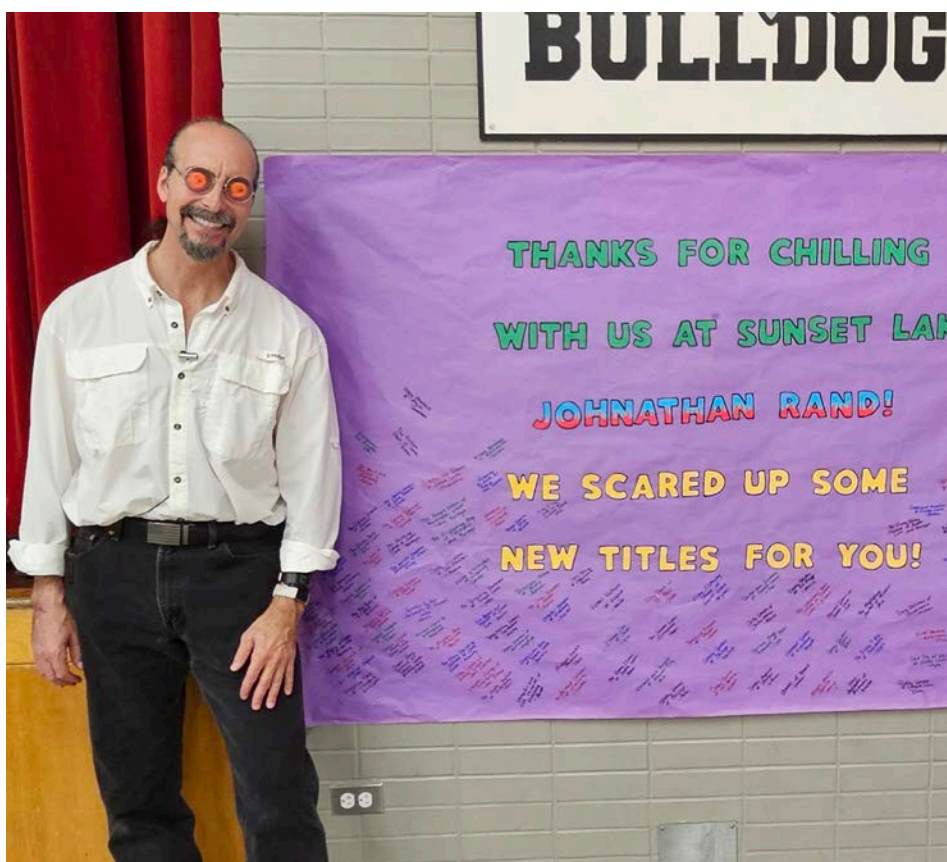
Michigan Chillers Author Visits

Author Johnathan Rand, creator of the Michigan Chillers and American Chillers series, visited all three of our elementary schools to inspire future writers.

He told the students that reading is not something you do, but it's a place that you go, saying books don't have covers, they have doors.

Before his visit, students in grades 3-5 put their imaginations to work, coming up with their own ideas for his next book titles. We loved seeing their creativity come to life!

Check out the photos from each school featuring Johnathan Rand and our students' creative title ideas. Who knows? Maybe one of these ideas will inspire his next book!



VHS SAT Scores 2nd Highest in County

Vicksburg High School Students Score Well Above State Average on SAT Measures, 2nd in the County

Vicksburg High School students scored well above state averages on SAT measures reported by MI School Data, ranking second among 17 area schools included in a local comparison of English language arts, math and college readiness.

VHS earned a total score of 1043.6, second only to Portage Central's 1085.9 among the schools compared. The state average total score was 945.1.

VHS students also outperformed the state average in every measure included in the comparison.

In Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW), Vicksburg High School earned an average score of 531.8, compared with the state average of 485.0. Its college-readiness measure for EBRW was 74.5%, well above the state figure of 52.1%.

In math, VHS earned an average score of 511.8, compared with the state average of 460.1. The



college-readiness measure for math was 44.1%, compared with 26.5% statewide.

Vicksburg High School's overall college-readiness figure was 43.5%, compared with the state average of 25.3%. On the SAT, a student is considered college-ready when their score indicates they have at least a 75% chance of earning a C or better in a first-semester, credit-bearing college course without needing remedial support, according to the College Board.

"These results reflect the hard work of our students and the dedication of our teachers and staff," said Superintendent

Vicksburg High School MI School Data – SAT Results Area Schools Ranked by Total Score (Highest to Lowest)					
Rank	School	EBRW	Math	Total	CR %
1	Portage Central	549.5	536.4	1085.9	53.2
2	Vicksburg	531.8	511.8	1043.6	43.5
3	Gull Lake	524.6	510.2	1034.9	42.2
4	Portage Northern	525.6	501.5	1027.0	36.5
5	Mattawan	525.8	499.2	1025.0	37.2
6	Edwardsburg	514.8	509.7	1024.5	40.1
7	Schoolcraft	510.7	510.9	1021.6	36.0
8	Otsego	520.0	485.8	1005.8	30.8
9	Plainwell	503.5	501.3	1004.8	37.5
10	Loy Norrix	489.2	464.2	953.4	25.9
11	Three Rivers	483.1	461.2	944.4	16.3
12	Paw Paw	476.9	453.7	930.7	18.7
13	Climax	486.5	439.4	925.9	20.6
14	Kalamazoo Central	472.9	431.6	904.6	17.9
15	Parchment	466.0	433.5	899.5	12.3
16	Galesburg	468.5	430.7	899.2	13.3
17	Comstock	435.1	390.6	825.7	7.9
State Average		485.0	460.1	945.1	25.3

Keevin O'Neill. "We are proud of our students' accomplishments and remain committed to preparing every student for success beyond high school."

Vicksburg Community Schools' vision is for all students to graduate college and career ready. The district continues to focus on

maximizing the success and potential of each student through learning opportunities that prepare them for their next steps after graduation.

Source: MI School Data. Figures reflect the data provided for this comparison.

Fill the Bus, Feed the Community!

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

Each school building will collect the donations the week of November 9th through the 13th. VHS National Honor Society students will then deliver the bus full of goods to South County Services to help people right here in Vicksburg.

South County Services gave us a list of their most needed items that have the biggest impact on local families. They can be dropped off at any school building during the week of November 9th. Please only donate the items that are listed.

Non-perishable Foods:

- Potatoes (instant)
- Gravy
- Stuffing mix
- Cans of soups/stews
- Box of jello
- Box of pasta
- Box of mac n cheese

- Biscuit mix
- Muffin mix
- Maple syrup
- Jar of frosting
- Pancake mix
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Cake mix Ketchup
- Ground coffee/instant coffee (no Keurig cups / no whole beans, please)

Personal Care Items:

- Dish Soap
- Shampoo (full size)
- Conditioner (full size)
- Deodorant (full size)
- Toothpaste (full size)
- Laundry detergent (powdered only)
- Toilet paper
- Bars of soap

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 9-13, 2026

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.

Walkin the Dogs Raises \$13,665!

Vicksburg Middle School's annual Walkin the Dawgs fundraiser was another big success!

With the help of local sponsors, students and staff raised a total of \$13,665!

They logged the miles pledged as part of the fundraiser by walking and running around the VHS track. Some new lap records were set in the process. In total, students walked 8,670 laps or 2167.5 miles!

Congratulations to the top fundraisers:

Paisley Goodson - Most Donated Overall

Hudson Shumate - Top 6th

Grade Donor

Paisley Goodson - Top 7th Grade Donor

Allison Montgomery and Maddison Montgomery - Top 8th Grade Donors

And for the top runners:

6th Grade: Callan Parsons - 40 laps (10miles) Tying previous record of laps!

7th Grade: Johnny Hambright - 50 laps (12.5 miles) A new Walkin the Dawgs record!

8th Grade: Hudson Wood - 34 laps (8.5 miles)

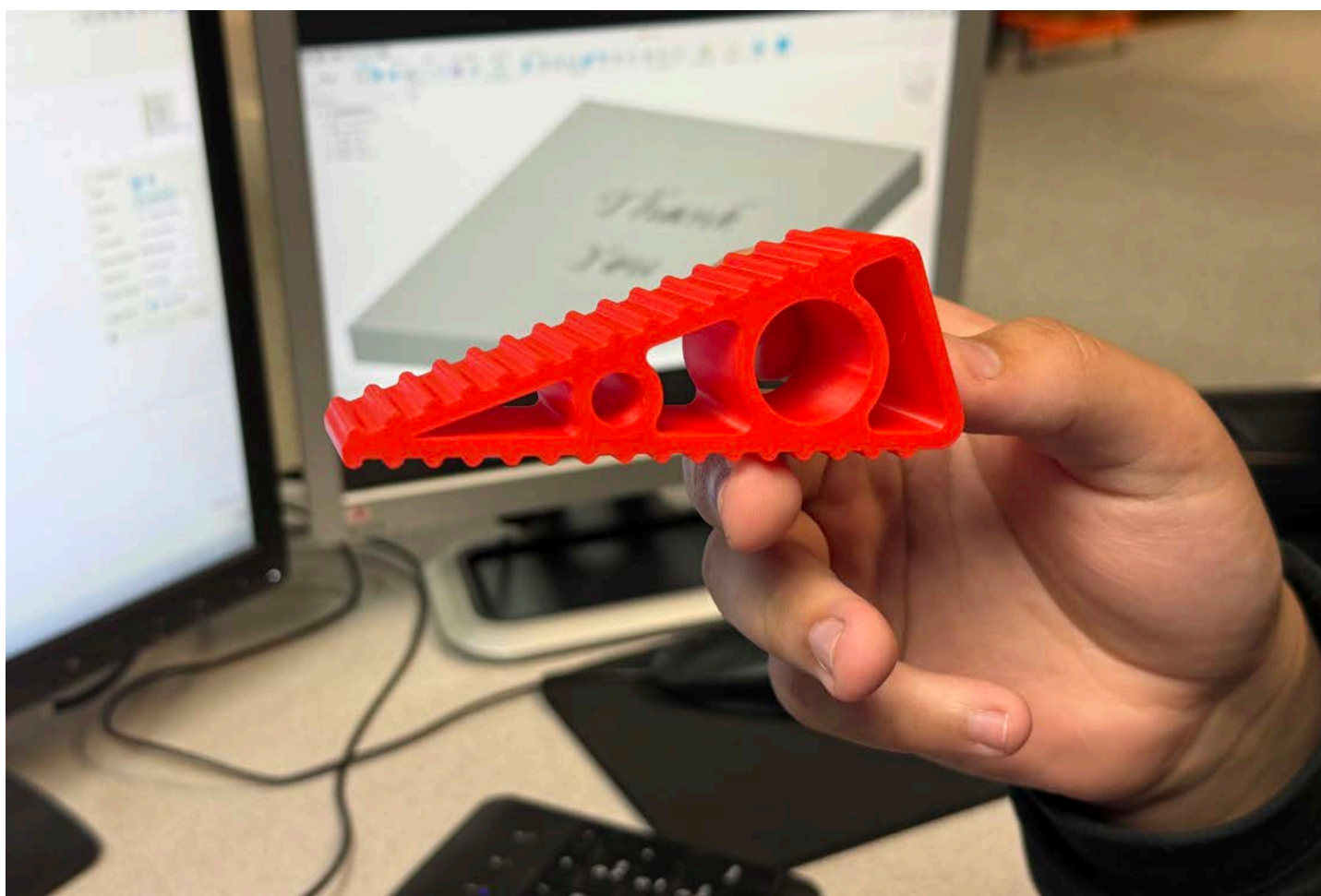
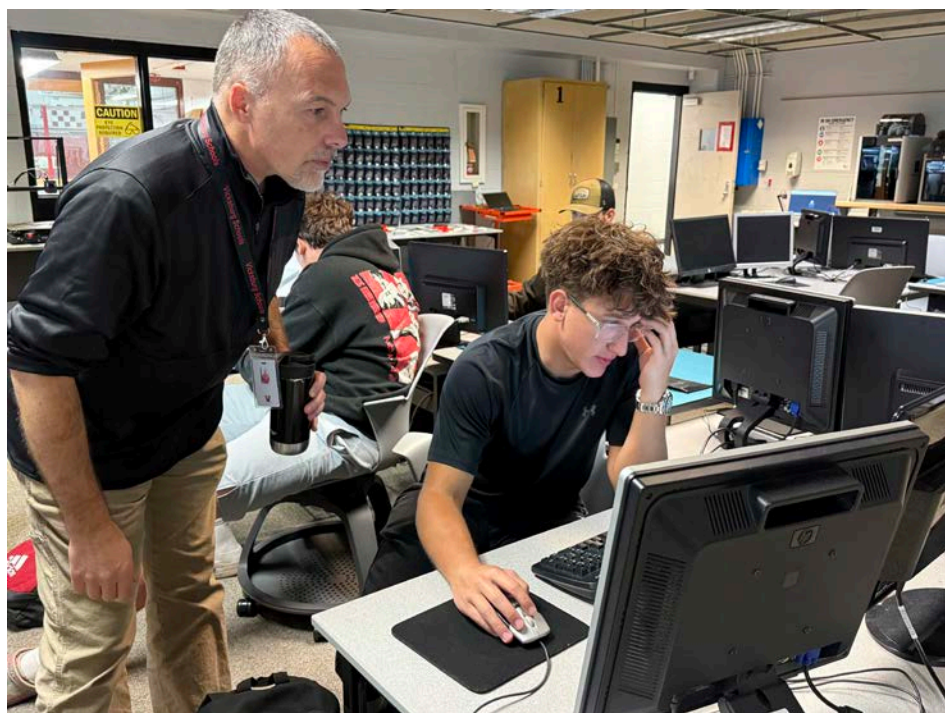


Designing Doorstops for VHS

Students in Matt Bombich's Design and Build Lab classes at Vicksburg High School are putting their problem-solving and design skills to work by creating custom doorstops for VHS staff members!

After identifying common problems with classroom doors and asking staff questions to better understand their needs, students designed and built doorstops to help keep doors open. They turned real-world feedback into practical solutions! And they customized the designs for each of the teachers.

This project is a great example of hands-on learning in action. They spent time identifying a real problem, listening to the people who experience it, and designing something that makes a difference.



Indian Lake Elementary Info Day

Donuts, coffee and lots of learning at Indian Lake!

Thank you to our Indian Lake families who joined us for Donuts & Coffee!

Families learned more about tiered systems of support, intervention, reading and math resources, and all the ways our schools partner with families to help students succeed.

While parents learned, students enjoyed a mystery reader, created a craft and built their own interactive math game!

We loved spending the morning learning and connecting with our families!



DAWGS at Sunset Lake Elementary

The DAWGS program is back this year at Sunset Lake Elementary with a fresh meaning behind each letter!

Students earn DAWGS tickets for demonstrating the positive behaviors that help make Sunset Lake a great place to learn and grow.

D – Do Your Best

A – Accountability

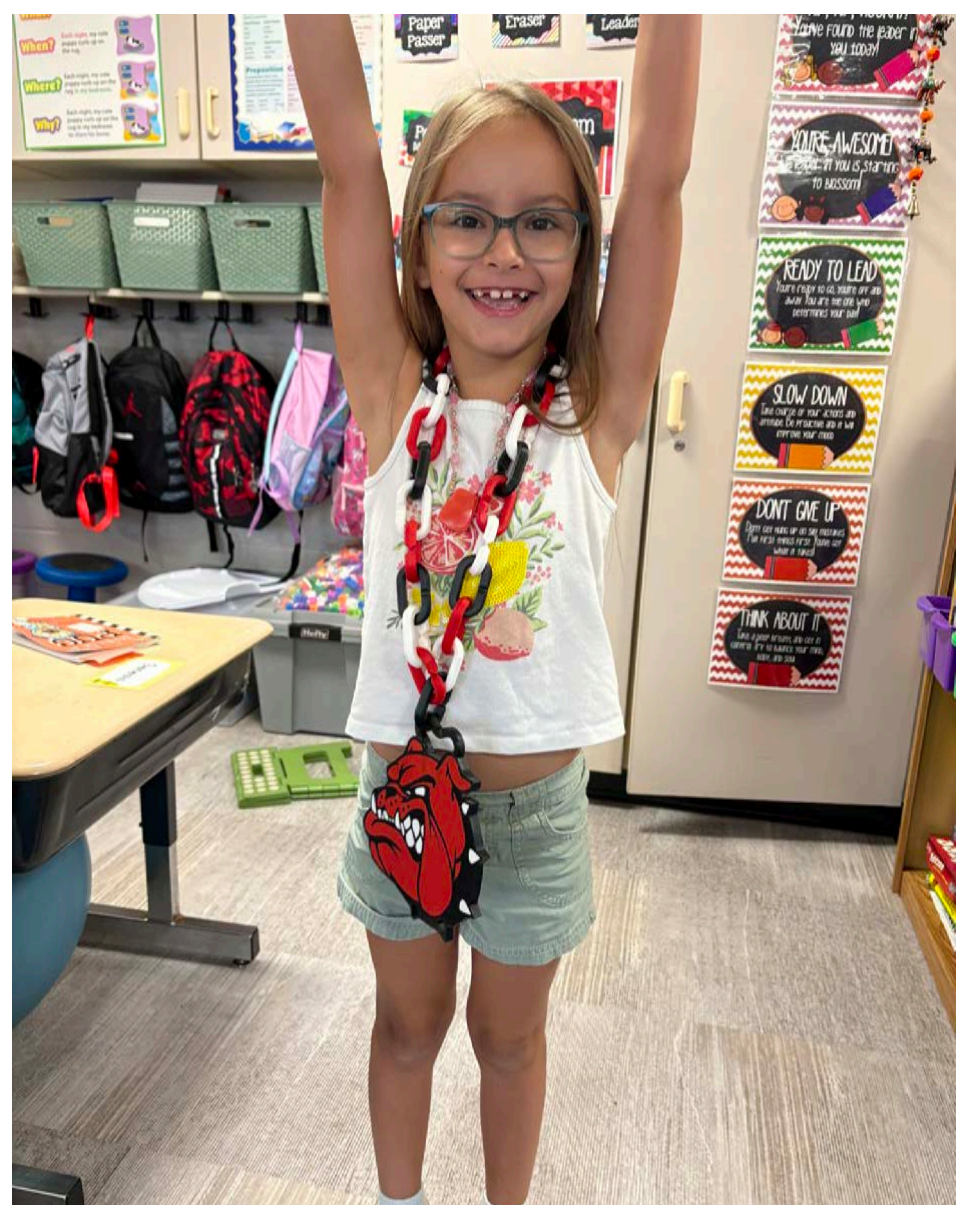
W – Work Together

G – Growth Mindset

S – Safety

Prizes include being named DAWG of the Day, snow-cones for their entire class, lunch with Mrs. Bolz, making announcements with Mrs. Sprinkle, shopping at the school store, and an extra 15 minutes of recess!

We love seeing our Bulldogs work hard, support one another, and show their DAWGS behaviors throughout the school day. Way to go, Sunset Lake!



Learning Comes to Life at Indian Lake!

Our elementary students are exploring, investigating and discovering via their new science curriculum. And at Indian Lake Elementary they are able to dive a little deeper using their newly created science lab.

From hands-on experiments to up-close observations, students across grade levels are putting their science skills to work:

1st Grade: Learning about Indian Lake's new school hermit crabs.

2nd Grade: Exploring the properties of liquids and solids.

3rd Grade: Investigating types of fossils to learn about extinct organisms.

4th Grade: Dissecting lilies to take a closer look at plant structures.

5th Grade: Dissecting owl pellets and identifying bones to learn more about animal diets.

The new science lab and curriculum give students exciting opportunities to ask questions, explore the world around them and learn by doing. We love seeing their curiosity in action!



Second grade learns about liquids and solids.



Fourth graders dissect lilies.



Hermit crabs in the first grade.



Fourth graders learning about fossils.



Fifth graders take a closer look at owl pellets.