



THE

RED & WHITE

SEPTEMBER 2025

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

The beginning of the school year is always one of my favorite times of the year. Walking through our buildings these first few weeks, I saw students settling into new routines, teachers creating welcoming classrooms, and lots of smiles as friendships picked back up right where they left off. The excitement and energy here in Vicksburg are contagious.

I want to thank our staff for their hard work in making sure students feel supported and ready to learn, and our families for the encouragement you give at home. It truly takes all of us

working together to make the start of the year so successful!

I hope you've had a chance to check out some of the construction and improvement projects as well as the new furniture added to our schools over the summer. This work was all done thanks to the support from our community and the 2020 bond.

In this month's Red and White, you'll read about how Vicksburg High School now ranks at the top in Kalamazoo County. This is an honor that comes from the hard work and dedication of all our teachers, students and

staff. The foundations our students receive in elementary and middle school and the continued support and push to succeed in high school and beyond set our students apart.

I'm looking forward to all that we will accomplish this year and the many opportunities ahead for our students. Thank you for making the start of the year such a positive one.



Kind regards,
Keevin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT

Meet the New Teachers at Vicksburg Schools

VCS is excited to welcome our newest group of educators to the district! We are happy they are part of the Bulldog family and know they are going to do great things.

Join us in welcoming:

Indian Lake: Erik Beal, Kaitlyn Savage

Sunset Lake: Sabrina Fall, Lucas Gilman, MacKenzie Stuck, Emma Sexton

Tobey: Bill Dygert, Abbie Frommann, Liz Visscher

Elementary: Liz Papalia

Vicksburg Middle School: Beckie Boltjes, Amber Harkness, Thom Outman, Christian Yoo

Vicksburg High School: Matt Bombich, Mia Hawley, Alaina Hecker, Mike McGuire, Karen Ridders

Pathways High School and VHS: Jason Luke

District wide: Natalie Resseguie, Kiana Troyer



Top Row Left to Right: Christian Yoo, Alaina Hecker, Matt Bombich, Mia Hawley, Thom Outman

3rd row from Bottom Left to Right: Karen Ridders, Amber Harkness, Lidia Ridinger, Abbie Frommann, Erik Beal

2nd row from Bottom Left to Right: Mike McGuire, MacKenzie Stuck, Liz Visscher, Liz Papalia, Natalie Resseguie

Bottom Left to Right: Beckie Boltjes, Sabrina Fall, Emma Sexton, Lucas Gilman, Kaitlyn Savage, Kiana Troyer

First Day of School Photos



Bus Safety Carnival Starts the Year Right

Our annual Bus Safety Carnival helped kick off the school year with safety in mind.

Students and families learned important bus safety lessons while having a great time riding our school buses and interacting with the drivers.

Thank you to our transportation department and dedicated bus drivers, our community partners, school PTOs and local vendors who made the event fun and informational for our families.

What a great way to get ready for the new school year!



Community Tailgate Brings in a Big Crowd



Athletic Schedules

Team Schedule - Vicksburg High School					
Wednesday	9/10/2025	Middle School Football Scrimmage (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Monday	9/15/2025	Powder Puff (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Wednesday	9/17/2025	MS Football vs. Otsego (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Wednesday	10/1/2025	MS Football vs. TR (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Wednesday	10/15/2025	MS Football vs. Plainwell (Other)	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Cross Country - Boys Varsity					
Saturday	9/6/2025	Lakeview-Battle Creek (Battle Creek Lakeview Inv.)	Away	Lakeview-Battle Creek	9:00 AM
Friday	9/12/2025	OPEN (MSU Spartan Invite)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Tuesday	9/16/2025	* (Wolverine Conference Jamboree)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	9/23/2025	* (Wolverine Conference Jamboree)	Away		5:00 PM
Saturday	9/27/2025	Otsego HS (Bulldog Inv.)	Away	Otsego HS	10:00 AM
Tuesday	9/30/2025	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/4/2025	OPEN (Portage Invite)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Tuesday	10/7/2025	* (Wolverine Conference Jamboree)	Away		5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/14/2025	* (Wolverine Conference Cross Country Championships)	Away		4:30 PM
Saturday	10/25/2025	Portage Central HS (MHSAA Regionals/Portage West MS)	Away	Portage Central HS	TBA
Saturday	11/1/2025	OPEN (MHSAA State Finals/ MIS)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Cross Country - Girls Varsity					
Saturday	9/6/2025	Lakeview-Battle Creek (Battle Creek Lakeview Inv.)	Away	Lakeview-Battle Creek	9:00 AM
Friday	9/12/2025	OPEN (MSU Spartan Invite)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Tuesday	9/16/2025	* (Wolverine Conference Jamboree)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	9/23/2025	* (Wolverine Conference Jamboree)	Away		5:00 PM
Saturday	9/27/2025	Otsego HS (Bulldog Inv.)	Away	Otsego HS	10:00 AM
Tuesday	9/30/2025	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/4/2025	OPEN (Portage Invite)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Tuesday	10/7/2025	* (Wolverine Conference Jamboree)	Away		5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/14/2025	* (Wolverine Conference Cross Country Championships)	Away		4:30 PM
Saturday	10/25/2025	Portage Central HS (MHSAA Regionals/Portage West MS)	Away	Portage Central HS	TBA
Saturday	11/1/2025	OPEN (MHSAA State Finals/ MIS)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Football - Varsity					
Friday	9/5/2025	Northview High School	Away	Northview High School	7:00 PM
Friday	9/12/2025	* Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	7:00 PM
Friday	9/19/2025	Sturgis High School (Homecoming)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	9/26/2025	Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	7:00 PM
Friday	10/3/2025	Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	7:00 PM
Friday	10/10/2025	Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	10/17/2025	Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	10/24/2025	Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	7:00 PM
Football - Junior Varsity					
Thursday	9/4/2025	Northview High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	9/11/2025	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	9/18/2025	* Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	9/25/2025	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	10/2/2025	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	10/9/2025	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	10/16/2025	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	10/23/2025	* Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Football - Freshman					
Thursday	9/4/2025	Northview High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	9/11/2025	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	9/18/2025	* Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	9/25/2025	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/2/2025	Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/9/2025	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/16/2025	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/23/2025	* Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Golf - Girls Varsity					
Wednesday	9/3/2025	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #2)	Away		4:00 PM
Monday	9/8/2025	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #3)	Away		4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/10/2025	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #4)	Away		4:00 PM
Thursday	9/11/2025	Comstock (Comstock Inv./Eastern Hills GC)	Away	Comstock	10:00 AM
Friday	9/12/2025	Marshall High School (Redhawk Inv.)	Away	Marshall High School	9:30 AM
Monday	9/15/2025	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #5)	Away		4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/17/2025	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #7)	Home	Vicksburg High School	8:30 AM
Wednesday	9/17/2025	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #6)	Away		12:30 PM
Friday	9/19/2025	Coldwater High School (Coldwater Invitational)	Away	Coldwater High School	10:00 AM
Tuesday	9/23/2025	Sturgis High School (Sturgis Inv./Island Hills G.C.)	Away	Sturgis High School	9:30 AM
Wednesday	9/24/2025	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #8)	Away		4:00 PM
Wednesday	10/1/2025	* (Wolverine Conf. Championship)	Home	Vicksburg High School	9:00 AM
Thursday	10/2/2025	Charlotte HS (2025 Pre-Regional Inv.)	Away	Charlotte HS	10:00 AM
Golf - Girls Junior Varsity					

Athletic Schedules

Wednesday	9/10/2025	(Comstock Inv./Hickory Ridge)	Away		1:00 PM
Tuesday	9/16/2025	Coldwater High School	Away	Coldwater High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/22/2025	TBA (States JV jamboree #1)	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/22/2025	Harper Creek HS	Away	Harper Creek HS	4:00 PM
Monday	9/29/2025	Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	10/2/2025	Coldwater High School (JV Championship)	Away	Coldwater High School	10:00 AM
Soccer - Boys Varsity					
Wednesday	9/3/2025	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Saturday	9/6/2025	South Haven High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	12:30 PM
Monday	9/8/2025	Dowagiac High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Wednesday	9/10/2025	* Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	6:30 PM
Saturday	9/13/2025	Parma Western	Away	Parma Western	11:00 AM
Monday	9/15/2025	Harper Creek HS	Away	Harper Creek HS	6:30 PM
Wednesday	9/17/2025	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Monday	9/22/2025	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Wednesday	9/24/2025	* Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Monday	9/29/2025	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	6:30 PM
Wednesday	10/1/2025	* Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Thursday	10/2/2025	Berrien Springs HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Monday	10/6/2025	St. Joseph H.S.	Away	St. Joseph H.S.	6:30 PM
Soccer - Boys Junior Varsity					
Wednesday	9/3/2025	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/6/2025	South Haven High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	11:00 AM
Wednesday	9/10/2025	* Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/13/2025	Parma Western	Away	Parma Western	9:30 AM
Monday	9/15/2025	Harper Creek HS	Away	Harper Creek HS	5:00 PM
Monday	9/22/2025	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Wednesday	9/24/2025	* Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Monday	9/29/2025	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	5:00 PM
Wednesday	10/1/2025	* Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Monday	10/6/2025	St. Joseph H.S.	Away	St. Joseph H.S.	5:00 PM
Tennis - Boys Varsity					
Wednesday	9/3/2025	Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/8/2025	Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/10/2025	Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Saturday	9/13/2025	(Sailor Inv.)	Away		9:00 AM
Monday	9/15/2025	Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/17/2025	Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	4:00 PM
Saturday	9/20/2025	(Military Appreciation Inv.)	Home	Vicksburg High School	9:00 AM
Monday	9/22/2025	Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/24/2025	Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/29/2025	Harper Creek HS	Away	Harper Creek HS	4:00 PM
Wednesday	10/1/2025	Otsego HS (Wolverine Conference at Sturgis)	Away	Otsego HS	8:30 AM
Saturday	10/4/2025	(Tri @ Unity Christian)	Away		9:00 AM
Wednesday	10/8/2025	(MHSAA Regionals/Marshall)	Away		9:00 AM
Tennis - Boys Junior Varsity					
Wednesday	9/3/2025	Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/8/2025	Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/9/2025	Portage Central HS	Away	Portage Central HS	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/10/2025	Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/15/2025	Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/17/2025	Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	9/18/2025	Portage Central HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/22/2025	Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/23/2025	Mattawan High School	Away	Mattawan High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/24/2025	Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	9/25/2025	Otsego HS (JV Conference at Vicksburg)	Home	Vicksburg High School	9:00 AM
Monday	9/29/2025	Harper Creek HS	Away	Harper Creek HS	4:00 PM
Volleyball - Varsity					
Thursday	9/4/2025	Kalamazoo Christian	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/6/2025	Bronson JR/SR HS (Bronson Inv.)	Away	Bronson JR/SR HS	10:00 AM
Thursday	9/11/2025	* Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/13/2025	Lakeview-Battle Creek (Lakeview Inv.)	Away	Lakeview-Battle Creek	8:30 AM
Tuesday	9/16/2025	East Grand Rapids High School	Away	East Grand Rapids High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/18/2025	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/20/2025	Portage Northern High School (Huskie Inivte)	Away	Portage Northern High School	8:30 AM
Thursday	9/25/2025	Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/27/2025	Hudsonville High School (Hudsonville Inv.)	Away	Hudsonville High School	TBA
Thursday	10/2/2025	* Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	6:00 PM
Thursday	10/9/2025	* Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	10/11/2025	Unity Christian High School (UC Volleyball Invite)	Away	Unity Christian High School	8:30 AM
Thursday	10/16/2025	* Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM

Athletic Schedules

Tuesday	10/21/2025	Three Rivers (TR Quad)	Away	Three Rivers	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/23/2025	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	6:00 PM
Monday	11/3/2025	OPEN (MHSAA District)	Home	Vicksburg High School	TBA
Volleyball - Junior Varsity					
Thursday	9/4/2025	Kalamazoo Christian	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/6/2025	Portage Northern High School (JV Huskie Invitational)	Away	Portage Northern High School	8:30 AM
Thursday	9/11/2025	* Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	5:00 PM
Tuesday	9/16/2025	East Grand Rapids High School	Away	East Grand Rapids High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/18/2025	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/20/2025	Coldwater High School (Coldwater Inv.)	Away	Coldwater High School	8:00 AM
Thursday	9/25/2025	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/2/2025	* Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/4/2025	(Wolverine Conf. Championship)	Away		9:00 AM
Thursday	10/9/2025	* Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Wednesday	10/15/2025	Thornapple-Kellogg HS (TK Quad)	Away	Thornapple-Kellogg HS	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/16/2025	* Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/21/2025	(TR Quad)	Away		5:00 PM
Thursday	10/23/2025	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	5:00 PM
Volleyball - Freshman					
Thursday	9/4/2025	Kalamazoo Christian	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/6/2025	Portage Northern High School (FR Huskie Invite)	Away	Portage Northern High School	8:30 AM
Thursday	9/11/2025	* Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/13/2025	Coldwater High School (Coldwater Invitational)	Away	Coldwater High School	8:30 AM
Tuesday	9/16/2025	East Grand Rapids High School	Away	East Grand Rapids High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/18/2025	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/25/2025	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/2/2025	* Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/4/2025	(Wolverine Conf. Championship)	Away		9:00 AM
Thursday	10/9/2025	* Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/11/2025	Cancelled- Portage Northern High School (FR Huskie Invite #2)	Away	Portage Northern High School	9:00 AM
Thursday	10/16/2025	* Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/21/2025	(Quad)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/23/2025	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	5:00 PM

Supplies Donated to Sunset Lake Elementary

A local business is helping to make sure students at Sunset Lake Elementary School have everything they need to succeed this school year.

The school was chosen to receive a variety of school supplies, including backpacks filled with notebooks, pencils, crayons and other essentials, thanks to a donation from Packagejet LLC, an Amazon Delivery Service partner that services all of Kalamazoo County and beyond.

“We are incredibly grateful for this thoughtful donation,” Amie

McCaw, principal of Sunset Lake Elementary, said. “Community partnerships like this help us go above and beyond for our students. It’s inspiring to see a local business step up in such a big way.”

All of the supplies were provided by Amazon. Packagejet LLC then completed the delivery of the boxes.

We are thankful for the partnerships from local businesses that help make sure our students have a great school experience!



Unsung Hero Award Given to Saleem Ismail

Each year, at our new school year kick off, we select an Unsung Hero from the previous school year.

If you’ve been to any sporting event or activity at Vicksburg High School or Middle School you’ve likely met Saleem Ismail.

He’s a staple at the ticket booth and always the loudest voice in the crowd cheering on our students.

Mr. I, as the students call him, is a VHS parapro in the Math Lab. He also coaches the VMS Math

Counts Team. But he goes above and beyond all that to support students across our district.

Thank you Saleem for all you do! Your positive energy is infectious and the support you provide our students is invaluable!



2024-2025
UNSUNG HERO
AWARD

Congratulations
Saleem Ismail!

Annual Notices 2025-2026

For a complete listing of annual notices, please check our website at www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org and click on Board of Education/ Public Notices.

Equal Educational/ Employment Opportunity – Policy 2260

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected characteristic, (collectively, “Protected Classes”) in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

District Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District’s “Compliance Officers” (also known as “Civil Rights Coordinators”) (hereinafter referred to as the “COs”).

Stephen Goss
Vicksburg Community Schools
269-321-1000
301 S. Kalamazoo St,
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Lourdes Puzevic
Vicksburg Community Schools
269-321-1000
301 S. Kalamazoo St,
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Students and parents and representatives of Vicksburg Community Schools may, at any time, contact the enforcement offices if you wish to file a complaint or need assistance on a problem or assistance to prevent civil rights problems. Contact the OCR headquarters office if you have a question on national policy, to make a Freedom of Information request for information that is national in scope, or to request publications or other assistance that is not available online.

The OCR office for Michigan is located at:

Office for Civil Rights
US Department of Education
600 Superior Avenue East
Suite 750
Cleveland, OH 44114
Telephone: 216-522-4970
FAX: 216-522-7573
TDD: 877-521-2172
Email: OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov

The OCR National Headquarters is located at:

US Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
Customer Service Team
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-1100
Telephone: 1-800-421-3481
FAX: 202-246-6840
TDD: 877-521-2172
Email: OCR@ed.gov

ANTI-HARASSMENT – Policy 5517

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as “Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers” for the District. They are hereinafter referred to as the “Compliance Officers.”

Jennifer Teall
Vicksburg Community Schools
269-321-1000
301 S. Kalamazoo St,
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Lourdes Puzevic
Vicksburg Community Schools
269-321-1000
301 S. Kalamazoo St,
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer – Policy 2260.01

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (“ADA”) and the implementing regulations (collectively “Section 504/ADA”), no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Board of Education does not discriminate in admission or access to, or participation or treatment in its programs or activities. As such, the Board’s policies and practices

will not discriminate against students with disabilities and will make accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities its facilities, programs, and activities. No discrimination will be knowingly permitted against any individual with a disability on the sole basis of that disability in any of the programs, activities, policies, and/or practices in the District.

Sunset Lake Principal Amie McCaw is the District’s Section 504 Compliance Officer. She can be reached at: 301 S. Kalamazoo, Vicksburg, MI 49097; 269-321-1000.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Policy 8330

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a **federal law that protects the privacy of student education records**. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children’s education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are “eligible students.”

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student’s education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools must honor your request to review your child’s education records within 45 days of receiving the request. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible students of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. They should write the School principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the

School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a formal hearing regarding the request for amendment. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student’s education record. However, **FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:**

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Disclosure of Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that the Vicksburg Community Schools (VCS), with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child’s education records. However, **VCS may disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary** in accordance with District procedures. **Directory information includes** student’s name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized school activities and sports, weight

Annual Notices 2025-2026

and height of athletic team members, dates of attendance and previous school(s) attended. It is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. The primary purpose of disclosing directory information is to allow VCS to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include a playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production; the annual yearbook; honor roll or other recognition lists; graduation programs; sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information can also be disclosed to organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks.

In addition, **two federal laws require us to provide military recruiters, upon request, with directory information** in three categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised VCS that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want VCS to disclose information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district before the second week of the school year by writing to:

Vicksburg Community Schools
301 S. Kalamazoo St.
Vicksburg, MI 49097
ATTN: Superintendent's Office

Weapons-Free School Zone

State law establishes a "Weapon-Free School Zone" that extends 1,000 feet from the boundary of any school property. The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type, including air, gas-powered, and spring guns (whether loaded or unloaded) that will expel a BB, pellet, or paint balls, knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives or any other weapon described in 18. U.S.C. 921.

Drug-Free School Zone

In accordance with Federal and State law, the Board hereby establishes a "Drug-Free School Zone" that extends 1000 feet from the boundary of any school property. The Board prohibits the use, possession, concealment, delivery, or distribution of any drug or any drug-related paraphernalia at any time on District property, within the Drug-Free School Zone, or at any District-related event. Furthermore, the Superintendent shall take the necessary steps to ensure that an individual eighteen (18) years of age or older who knowingly delivers or distributes controlled substances so designated and prohibited by Michigan statute within the Drug-Free School Zone to another person is prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

By law, citizens are allowed to request documents or records from the school district. The information must already exist in document form. FOIA does not cover the creation of information or summaries. Submit request in writing to:

FOIA Coordinator
Vicksburg Community Schools
301 S. Kalamazoo St.
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Homeless/Migrant Information

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle or campground
- On the streets
- In an abandoned building, trailer or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing

Then your preschool-aged and school-aged children have certain rights or protections.

For further information and assistance, please contact Adam Wallace, Homeless Liaison, at 269-321-1017.

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Notification

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that each year, district worker and building occupants receive notification about asbestos activities such as response actions and inspections. The purpose of this correspondence is to meet those requirements and familiarize you with the asbestos related activities that have been conducted in Vicksburg Community Schools this past

year.

Management Plans

In 2010 Vicksburg Schools contracted Nova Environmental to conduct inspections for asbestos containing material (AM) with all district owned buildings. This information was then compiled into Asbestos Management Plans. A copy of each building management plan is also located in the Administration Building.

Surveillance Activities

The AHERA regulation requires surveillance of the condition of ACM every six months and re-inspections every three years. The three-year re-inspection was conducted in September of 2022. Both of these surveillance activities will be included as part of the building's Management Plans.

Asbestos Abatement

It is anticipated that Vicksburg Community Schools will need to conduct only minor amounts of asbestos abatement within its facilities over the next year. And will continue to maintain all ACM under the Operations & Maintenance Program.

Any removal projects will be performed by a Michigan Licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractors and managed by Nova Environmental, Inc. the districts environmental consulting firm.

All asbestos documentation is available for your review in each building file and at the Administration Building.

For more information, contact Dewey Waterman, Maintenance Supervisor, at 269-321-1027.

Vicksburg High School Named #1

The U.S. News and World Report rankings are out and Vicksburg High School has been selected as the number one high school in Kalamazoo County!

VHS ranks 80th in the statewide listings. Individual schools are ranked based on their performance on state-required tests, graduation rates, and how well they prepare students for college.

45-percent of VHS students take advanced placement (AP) classes, and it's an experience we are committed to making sure all

students continue to have access to.

Congratulations to the students, teachers and staff at Vicksburg High School!

