



All-In Playground at Tobey Elementary

A lot of schools don't include the costs for a fully accessible playground in their budgets, but thanks to some awesome fifth-graders, Tobey was able to do something very special. School principal, Mike Barwegen, alongside motivated students, started spreading the news about their desire to build a proper playground for school-mate Hannah and kids like her.

Hannah Cook is an adorable six-year-old who also happens to have cerebral palsy. Last year she was playing in the sandbox at school, when a group of fifth graders realized she wasn't with her fellow kindergartners and wanted to find out why.

When they realized she couldn't really play on any of the playground equipment, they decided it was a problem they wanted to solve!

The goal was to create three different areas of the playground that had inclusive equipment that any student could access and play on. The idea was to spread out the equipment so a student with physical limitations could go to multiple locations and not be isolated to one area. They wanted the playground to be "All In!"

Tobey Elementary students and staff along with the entire community were able to accomplish the amazing feat of getting a playground for Hannah. The Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation was proud to partner in creating a space that welcomes children of all abilities to enjoy the fun!



*Carcel Tharge (Now a 6th grade)
with Hannah Cook*



Mission Statement

The Foundation helps financially energize the Vicksburg Community Schools to achieve its objectives and needs beyond traditional educational funding.

2017 Bardeen Teacher Incentive Grant Recipients



This Teacher Incentive Grant Program, named in honor of the late Max Bardeen, has been supporting special teacher training, high tech equipment and unique innovative programs at Vicksburg Community Schools since 1986. The Vicksburg Foundation donates \$10,000 each year to the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation to support this special program.

The following Teacher Incentive projects were awarded in the amount of \$12,650 earlier this spring:

Terri Negri and Margo Staunton-Attended the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Conference in Phoenix, AZ. The AASL Conference provides media specialists with up-to-date information on newly published children's and young adult literature, innovative educational technology, trends in coding, robotics, makerspaces, and lessons to promote critical thinking.

Laura Chang-Purchased the Rocket Wave Smart Notebook, Osmo Genius Kit, Osmo Coding, Osmo Creative Set Monster, and Osmo Pizza Company software, along with an Apple iPad Mini. The level of student engagement increases dramatically when technology is introduced into learning because it bridges physical, hands-on learning with digital learning.

April Zapata-Purchased and implemented the Rocket Math program as a classroom intervention for math fact automaticity. This is not a game, but rather, a method of sequential learning with embedded cumulative review.

Dustin Morris-Attended the Michigan School Vocal Music Association's summer workshop. This three day event included sessions presented by master teachers, university choral directors and other choral music experts. Sessions focused on practical topics and materials for use in the choral music classroom.

Adam Brush-Purchased a Varidesk. Research has shown that stand up desks can improve mood, energy levels and boost productivity. There are also health benefits to sitting less hours per day.

Michelle Simmons, Dawn Simpson, Zach Wierenga, Brendan McCaw-A technology package was purchased which included an Apple iPad with case, tripod, green screen kit, microphone and iMovie applications needed for students to create video projects related to their classroom curriculum.



Mrs. Chang's 3rd grade class enjoying the new technology.

Krista Wilson-Purchased assorted fiction and non-fiction audio books and an Apple iPad mini to download reading material. The goal is to have students use technology and high level audio books to improve their listening, comprehension and processing skills.

Nichole Wisinski-A team of Indian Lake Teachers attended the 2017 National PBIS Leadership Forum, Systems for Enhancing Climate and Culture. The benefits of implementing PBIS include the reduction of problem behaviors, increase in student engagement, improved academic performance and improved family involvement.

Michael Barwegen-The implementation of a Summer AR/IXL Program at Tobey Elementary to prevent "Summer Slide." Students were allowed to access books, electronic devices, and work with teachers/volunteers to complete their planned reading/science/social studies/math progression.

Scott Wills-The Vicksburg High School DECA Chapter attended the 2017 Michigan DECA State Conference. This conference allowed the students to network with other schools and businesses to form partnerships, and learn how other schools operate their DECA Chapters.

Jennifer Baldwin and Amy Dunn- Microsoft Surface Pros were purchased to assist the Behavior Specialist and School Psychologist in conducting observations, writing reports, collecting data, parent meetings, and support plans.



Mrs. Wilson's 5th grade students using their new iPad.

2016 - 2017 Curiosity Grants

In 1993, the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation Trustees developed a program that would allow students from any grade level, to apply for a special grant that would support innovation. Grants are generally granted up to \$250; however the committee does consider and has funded grants in larger amounts.

With support from the Vicksburg Foundation, the following grants were awarded this year:

Seamus Hyman - \$249 awarded in 2016 for After Effects special effects editing software and a USB drive to hold the software for use in the EFA film class. Adult Mentor: Troy Smith, Vicksburg High School Teacher.

Mr. Smith's Film & Video Class - \$1,000 awarded in 2017 for a class trip to Los Angeles, California to learn about the film industry. Mentor: Troy Smith, Vicksburg High School Teacher.



VCSF's unofficial mascot, Simon.



Film and Video students on a studio tour with Mr. Smith.

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(L. to R.) Carol Lohman, Marci Bailey and Pat W. O'leary at the Community Tailgate. The VCSF donates \$500 each year to help provide hot dogs for the event.

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\$100 per year for 5 Years

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 Ralph Hayward Insurance
 RDMG Life Story Funeral Home
 Simmons Ford
 TowerPinkster
 TH Plastics, Inc.
 Vicksburg Laundry
 Vicksburg Family Dentistry
 Wolverine Power Systems
 Wiser Financial Group
 Yogi's Restaurant

Operating Grants & Contributions:

Annual fund drive	\$ 14,816
Student Curiosity Grant	\$3,000
Bardeen Teacher Incentive Grant.	\$10,000
Fundraisers-net.	\$9,214
Other Grants & Contributions.	\$20,817
Scholarships	\$11,021
Total	\$68,868

Grants Awarded:

Bardeen teacher incentive grants.	\$10,000
Student curiosity grants.	\$3,000
Student scholarships	\$42,500
Other grants	\$32,191
Total	\$87,691

Total Operating Expenses: .. \$11,384

General Endowment Funds:

Vicksburg Community Schools Endowment

Legacy Fund
 Ellen & Joseph Cashion Memorial Fund
 Reisterer Family Fund

Designated Purpose Funds:

Bardeen Teacher Incentive Fund
 Lewis M. Maher Memorial Fund
 Patricia Reeves Exemplars of Service Fund

Endowed Scholarship Funds:

VCSF Scholarship Fund
 Patrick and Lynn Vallier Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Louise Reed Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Stanley Weinberg Farms Scholarship Fund
 Letha Munn Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Vicksburg Foundation Scholarship Fund
 Ana Resseguie Barnes Memorial Scholarship Fund

Gordon & Dorothy Daniels Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Jeremy Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Lloyd Cantwell Memorial Scholarship Fund
 John W. Fritz Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Appell Family Scholarship Fund
 David T. Reisterer Memorial Scholarship Fund

Endowment Balance

July 1, 2016 \$1,889,622

Contributions Received \$51,533

Grant Distributions (\$44,313)

Investment Return \$271,222

Endowment Balance

June 30, 2017 \$2,168,064

Endowments held by Kalamazoo Community Foundation

Donations can be made online at
www.vicksburgcommunityschoolsfoundation.org/donate



Financial Information

The continued growth of our School Foundation is the result of the strong support of the greater Vicksburg community. To learn more about ways to contribute to the Foundation's growth, please contact the Foundation office at 269-321-1006.

2017 Scholarship Recipients



Andrew Phelps
The Appell Family
Scholarship
\$2,500



Abigail Oswalt
Gordan & Dorothy Daniels
Memorial Scholarship
\$2,000



Mattison Bell
Stanley Weinberg
Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000



Raquel Rice
David Reisterer Memorial
Scholarship
\$2,500



Bryce O'Neill
David Reisterer Memorial
Scholarship
\$2,500



Darren Hiemstra
Ana Resseguie-Barnes
Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000



Carlie Kudary
Lloyd (Todd) Cantwell
Scholarship
\$500



Katherine Clarey
Letha Munn Memorial
Scholarship
\$500



Shaidan Knapp
Louise Reed Memorial
Scholarship
\$1,000



Taylor Dent
Jeremy Smith Memorial
Scholarship
\$1,000



Kristen Gustavson
Patrick & Lynn Vallier
Memorial Scholarship
\$500



Shane Cousins
Lewis W. Maher
Scholarship
\$1,000



Caleb Fort
Vicksburg Community Schools
Foundation Scholarship
\$1,000



Kyla Kane-Maystead
Vicksburg Community Schools
Foundation Scholarship
\$1,000



Marissa Ervin
Vicksburg Foundation
Scholarship
\$2,500



Jack Gangloff
Vicksburg Foundation
Scholarship
\$2,500



Benjamin Gangloff
Vicksburg Foundation
Scholarship
\$2,500



Nikolas Zazula
Vicksburg Foundation
Scholarship
\$2,500



Adam Grabowski
Vicksburg Foundation
Scholarship
\$2,500



Grace Welch
Vicksburg Foundation
Scholarship
\$2,500

**Not Pictured - Raven Losee - John Fritz Memorial Scholarship - \$500*

Hello Vicksburg!

Moving here over 26 years ago was an easy decision for my family primarily because of what we heard about Vicksburg Community Schools. Having three children born and raised here, we watched them excel in a very welcoming, supportive, and nurturing school district. We feel very fortunate to live here.

I have the unique honor of leading an energized group of volunteers whose sole purpose is to help our great school district be even greater. As responsible stewards of funding, the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation matches donor generosity to school needs. With support from the Vicksburg Foundation, we supply Curiosity Grants to students and Bardeen Teacher Incentive Grants to teachers, helping them to achieve educational goals that may not otherwise be possible. Last year, 21 scholarships were given to outstanding graduating seniors. We've also supported new educational programs and equipment needs which you can read about in this Annual Report.

Like many of you, I am a willing donor to the VCSF because I believe in our schools. Strong schools produce strong students and a stronger community. Learn more about us at <http://www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org> and click on the VCS Foundation link.

Bob Willhite

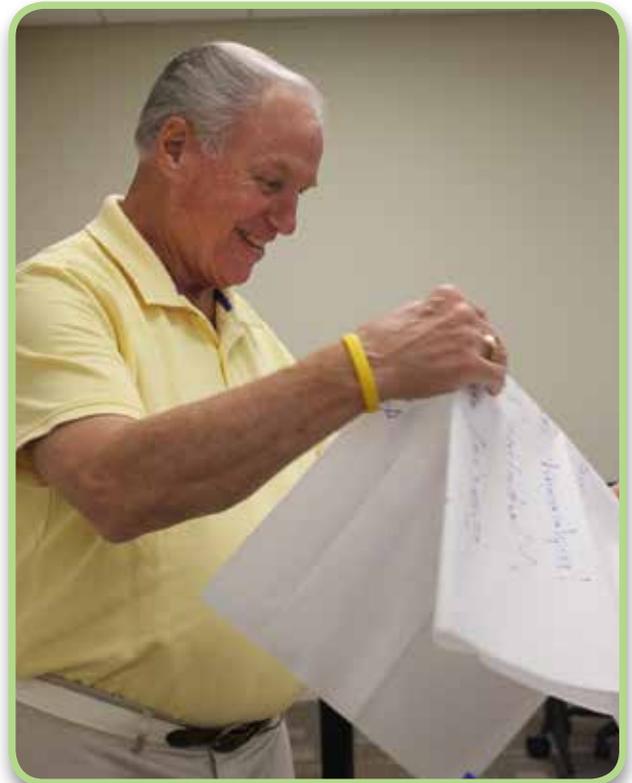
President, Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation

VCSF Strategic Planning

Not content with the status quo, the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation trustees embarked on strategic planning events this past summer. With the help of Jack Hopkins, a noted consultant to foundations, VCSF trustees attended three formal planning sessions to review and improve our mission, vision, and strategic goals. We gathered feedback from community members, school staff, and alumni to gain a better understanding of how we are currently viewed in Vicksburg. This helped us plan where we want to move forward. We'll be sending out new promotional plans and materials to help raise funds for our outstanding school district. If you would like to learn more about these coming attractions, go to www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org and click on the VCS Foundation link.



VCSF Brainstorming Session



Facilitator Jack Hopkins

For complete scholarship and donor information, please visit www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org/foundation/scholarships.shtml