



THE

RED & WHITE

AUGUST 2024

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

I hope you have been enjoying your summer break so far. It's important for all of us to take this time to rest and recharge.

While our students and staff have been enjoying their much needed summer break, our construction crews are hard at work. Thanks to the support of our wonderful community, more bond work has been happening this summer in every one of our school buildings. I am excited for you all to see the upgrades when

you return to school later this month.

I am also excited and encouraged by the numbers of elementary students participating in our first ever summer challenge. Students have been reading and doing extra math each week to earn special charms. I'm proud of the work they are putting in during their break. You'll read more about the challenge in this month's Red and White.

You'll also read more about the construction happening across the district. As well as some exciting events coming up to kick-off the school year.

I look forward to welcoming you all back for the 2024-2025 school year in a few short weeks. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer.



Regards,

Keevin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT

Bulldog Basketball Team Gets New Coach

We are proud to announce our new Boys Varsity Basketball Coach! Please welcome Randy Small to the Bulldog family

Coach Small brings with him a long tradition of excellence. He's a hall of fame coach with 2 state championships and a history of leading young athletes to achieve great things.

We are so excited to have him lead our team!



**INTRODUCING:
THE NEW VHS
BOYS VARSITY
BASKETBALL
COACH:
RANDY SMALL**



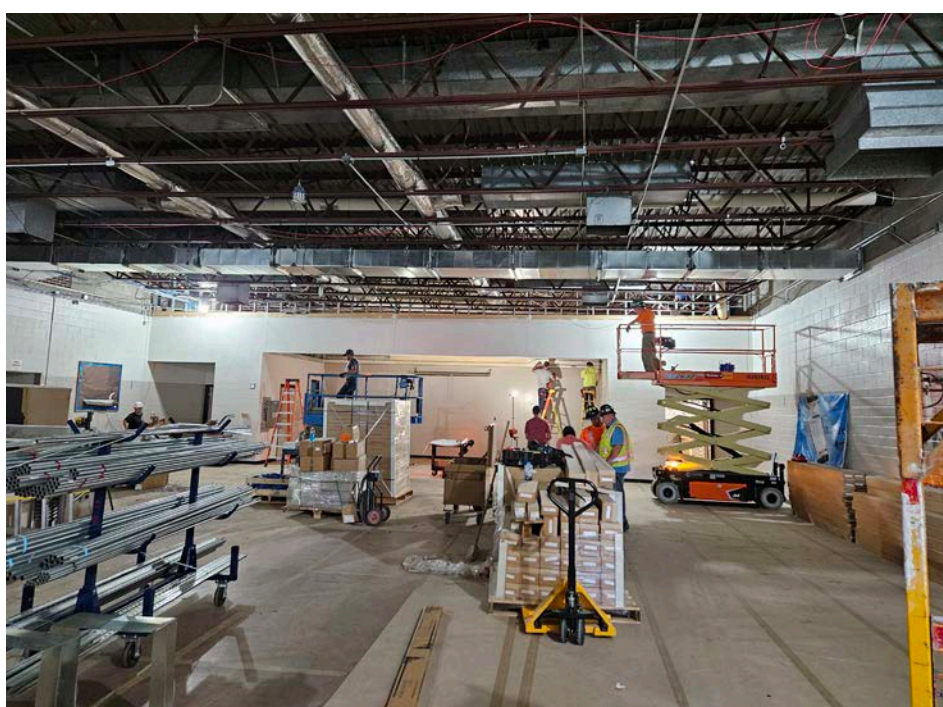
Building Updates Across Vicksburg Schools

All of our school buildings have been busy with construction this summer. There are many improvements that will be waiting for students, teachers and staff when they return.

At Vicksburg High School and Middle School, new classroom ventilation units are being installed, including AC. There will also be upgrades to bathrooms, flooring, lighting, and ceilings.

At Tobey, Sunset Lake and Indian Lake Elementaries, renovations include upgraded bathrooms, new classroom flooring, and fresh classroom paint.

These summer construction projects are made possible once again thanks to our voters and community who support our schools. We can't thank you enough for being Bulldogs United with us!



Renovations have been underway all over Vicksburg schools. Top row, left to right: Sunset Lake Elementary and Vicksburg Middle School. Bottom row, left to right: Indian Lake Elementary, Vicksburg High School, and Tobey Elementary.

Library Fun in the Park for Summer Schoolers

Thank you to the Vicksburg District Library for setting up a day of fun for our elementary summer school students at Clark Park.

Volunteers set up stations with various yard games. Students had to use teamwork and skill to be successful at each game. And most importantly, they learned to have fun!



Thanks, Doctors!

Thank you to doctors for volunteering to perform the VHS and VMS sports physicals for the 2024-2025 school year!

Dr. Stacy Majoras (works at Bronson Sports Medicine)

Dr. David Waterson (works at Bronson Sports Medicine)

Dr. Jon Christ (works at Bronson Primary Care Partners in Three Rivers)

Alex Flach (PA-C) (works at Bronson Sports Medicine)

And an important reminder: all middle and high school athletes for the 2024-2025 school year need an updated sports physical uploaded to planeths.com in order to participate. You can find more information on our website. Physicals must be dated after April 1, 2024 to count. And the physical paperwork must be uploaded to planeths.com before the first practice of the season.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS



Transportation: (269) 321-1070
Food Service: (269) 321-1033

Indian Lake Office & Attendance: (269) 321-1400
Sunset Lake Office & Attendance: (269) 321-1500
Tobey Office & Attendance: (269) 321-1600

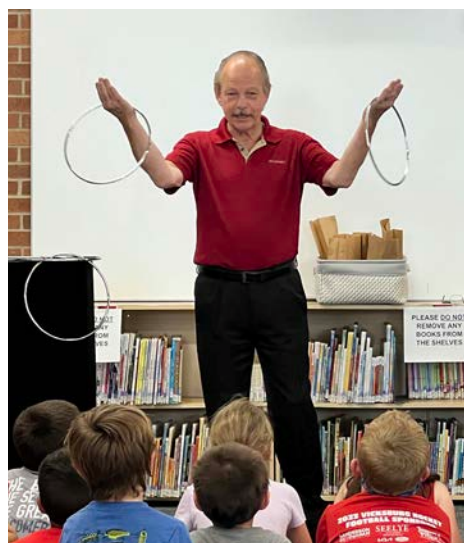
VMS Office & Attendance: (269) 321-1300
Vicksburg High School Office: (269) 321-1100
VHS Attendance: (269) 321-1150
Vicksburg Pathways HS Office: (269) 321-1024

Vicksburg Administration Building: (269) 321-1000

Rick Fisher Makes Summer School Magic

Thank you to Rick Fisher, the owner of The FAB Magic Company, for entertaining our Summer Kids Klub students during one of our very warm summer days!

Rick put on a show for the students in the nice cool library. They had a magically fun time and lots of laughs.



Teachers Full STEAM Ahead Over Summer Break

Ever wonder what your teachers are doing while on summer break? Many of them are continuing their own education and learning fun new things to bring into the classroom!

5 of our Vicksburg middle and high school teachers spent a week at the Van Andel Education Institute Science on the Grand 2024.

They learned new ways to integrate STEAM into their classrooms and had some fun along the way.



New DAWGS House Program for Sunset Lake

Students coming into Sunset Lake Elementary will notice some new team building efforts to help promote positive behavior at the school.

During the last week of school, students were introduced to the new DAWGS House System. DAWGS stands for D-Determination, A-Awareness,

W-Wisdom, G-Grit, and S-Synergy.

The letters are the names of the 5 Houses they have divided the student body into for the 2024-2025 school year.

The groups will span across grades levels and give students an opportunity to work collaboratively, develop

relationships, and establish a stronger connection to the school community as a whole and not just those in their own classroom or grade level.

After meeting their new house groups during the last week of school, students were asked to spend the summer creating a special hand-shake that their

house could vote on when they return to school.

We can't wait to see what they come up with and how they work to build an even stronger school community at Sunset Lake!



VCS Elementary Summer Challenge

Hundreds of our elementary students are participating in the VCS Elementary Summer Challenge!

In the first 6 weeks of the challenge, more than 300 charms have been given out for completed challenges.

The goal of the challenge is

to spend time reading and practicing math skills in a fun and flexible way.

The challenge includes 8 friendly monsters. Each monster has a story to tell about their summer learning journey.

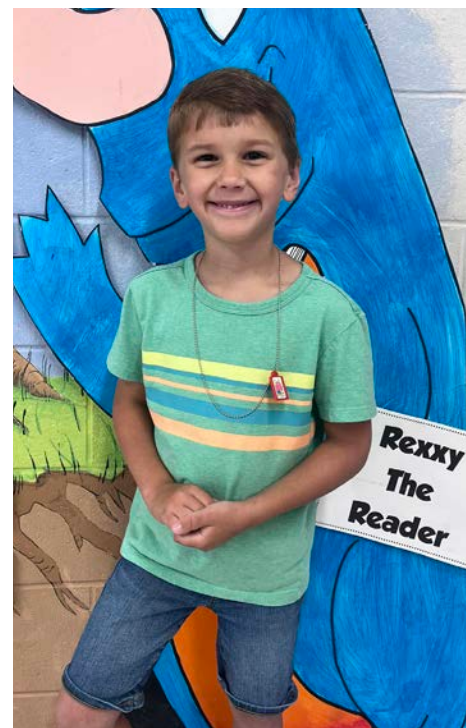
As students engage in the Summer Challenge each week,

they can earn all eight signature monster charms. Students can collect and keep the limited edition charms forever on their Summer Challenge Necklace and wear them with pride when they return to school in the fall.

For those who have been unable to visit Sunset Lake Elementary for their charms, they will be

available at each elementary school open house. All 3 open houses are from 4:30pm to 6pm on Tuesday, August 20th.

Great job to everyone who has completed a challenge week! We can't wait to see all your challenge charms when we return to school!

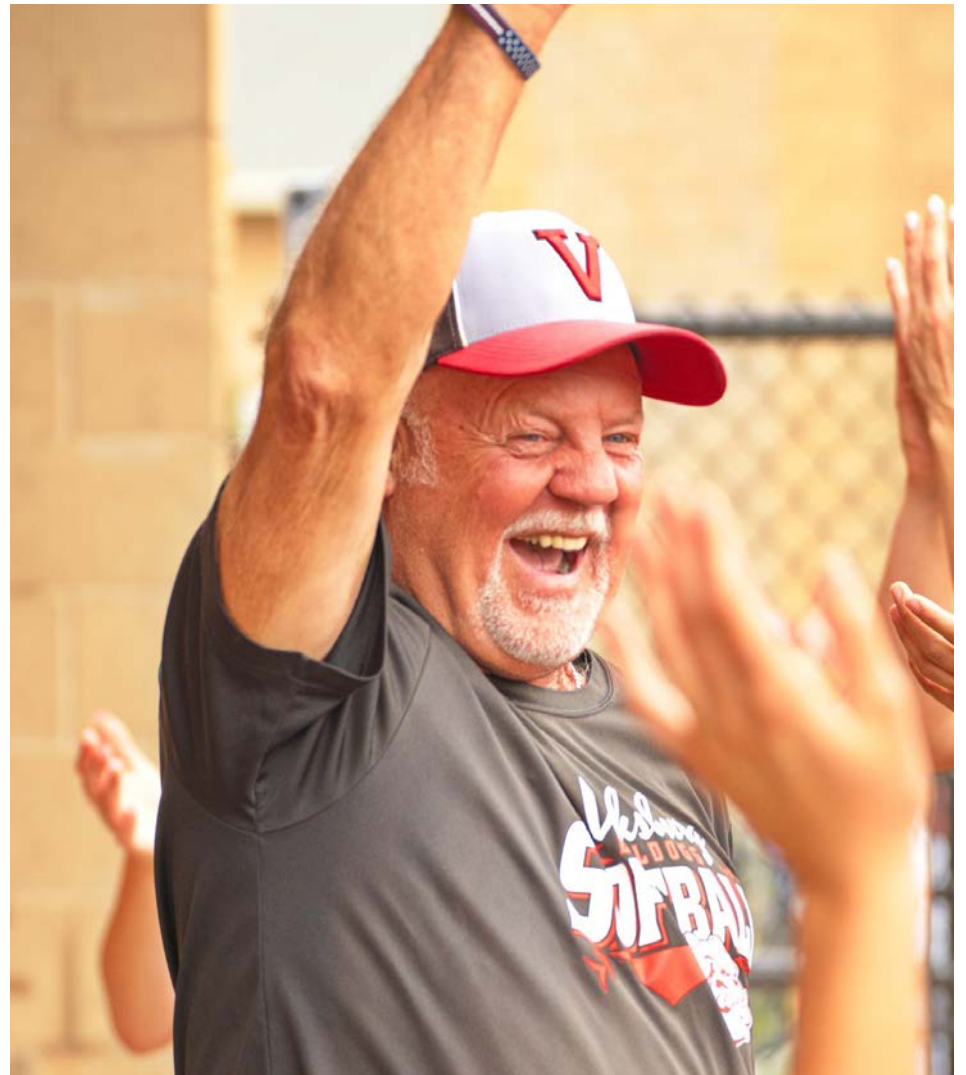


All-Star Softball Coach Paul Gephart

A big congratulations to VHS Varsity Softball Coach Paul Gephart on his selection to coach in the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association Division 2 All-Star Softball game!

Such a well-deserved recognition!

After an amazing season, the Lady Bulldogs took second in state in June. His leadership helped take a very talented group of athletes to the final game for the second year in a row.



VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PRESENTS:

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY TAILGATE!

**September 6, 2024
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm**



Join us for free food, games, giveaways and more from dozens of Vicksburg area businesses!

Contact Vicksburg Community Education for booth availability: 269-321-1022



VHS Clay Target Team Members at Nationals

Two members of the Vicksburg High School Clay Target Team made it to the finals of the USA High School Clay Target League National Championship this summer.

Congratulations to Reed Tassel and Brayden Dugray, who both advanced to the finals.

Out of more than 1,700 competitors, only the top 400 earned that honor!

Great job, guys!



VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FREE BUS SAFETY CARNIVAL



August 15th
5:30 to 7:30pm
at the VAB Parking lot

**ALL PRE-K & ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS ARE INVITED!**



- Learn School Bus and Fire Safety
- Visit the Big Read Machine
- Free hot dog & water for each child
- Free Games, Prizes and More!



Vicksburg Community Schools

2024-25 District Calendar

2024

July

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

August

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

September

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

October

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

November

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

December

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

2025

January

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

February

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

March

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

April

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

May

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

June

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

- No Students or VEA Staff
- First Day of School, Full Day
- ▲ Student Half Day
- Staff/ No Students
- ★ VHS Graduation Day
- ▲ Last Day of School, Half Day

School Days = 180 Teacher Days = 188.5

1st Semester Days: 93 2nd Semester Days: 87



August

- 20 1/2 day work in room/ 1/2 day bldg. PD
- 21 Full day district PD
- 22 Half day district PD (a.m.)
- 26 **First day of school**
- 30 Labor Day Holiday, No School

September

- 2 Labor Day Holiday, No School

October

- 11 1/2 day students (a.m.) 1/2 day PLC

November

- 1 Records Day - No Students
- 27-29 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 13 1/2 day students (a.m.) 1/2 day PD
- 23-31 Winter Break

January

- 1-3 Winter Break
- 10 1/2 day students (a.m.) 1/2 day PLC
- 20-23 Exams
- 24 Records Day - No Students
- 27 1st Day of 2nd Semester

February

- 28 Mid Winter Break

March

- 7 1/2 day students (a.m.) 1/2 day PD
- 27 1/2 day students (a.m.) 1/2 day Records
- 28-31 Spring Break

April

- 1-4 Spring Break

May

- 2 1/2 day students (a.m.) 1/2 day PLC
- 22 VHS Graduation Day
- 26 Memorial Day Holiday

June

- 6 Last Day of School, 1/2 day for students