



THE

RED & WHITE

NOVEMBER 2024

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Schools Families,

As we enter November, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the strength and spirit of our school community.

This month gives us a special opportunity to reflect on all we are thankful for, and I am especially grateful for the dedication of our students, families, teachers, and staff. Your commitment makes our schools a place where growth, kindness,

and learning all thrive.

In this month's Red and White you'll read about new hands-on ways our students are learning their current lessons and how they're also getting increased chances to test out some of the most common careers of the future.

As we move through the month, let's continue to celebrate the

positive impact we have on each other and the difference we make as a united community.

Thank you for being such an integral part of our district's success!



Regards,

Keevin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT

2024 VHS Homecoming Court



Congratulations to Vicksburg High School 2024 Homecoming king and queen: Storm Schrader and Frankie Loriso!

They were crowned at the VHS Homecoming game.

Congratulations to all of this year's court members:

Sydney Hambright and Austin Androsky

Emily Zemitans and Grant Daniels

Frankie Loriso and Grant VanWoert

Ella Rohrstaff and Storm Schrader

Kelsey Campbell and Caden Town

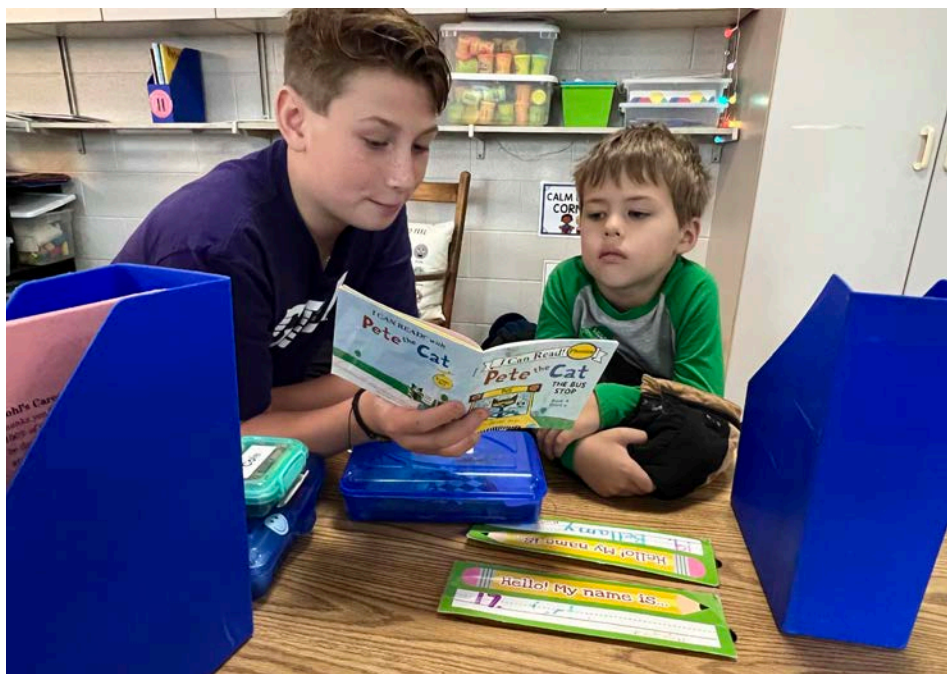


Reading Buddies at Indian Lake Elementary

This school year, the 5th grade classrooms are teaming up with the kindergarten classrooms at Indian Lake Elementary.

Once a month the 5th graders join the kindergarten classes and spend the afternoon reading together. The older students read books to the younger students and then help them identify letters and sound out words.

It's a great way to provide mentors for our youngest students and start their journey at Indian Lake off on a great foot, while the 5th graders get to enjoy some of their old favorite books and practice being leaders.



VMS Teacher Receives Honor

Congratulations to Vicksburg Middle teacher Shannon Howard!

She was selected as the Michigan World Language Association Middle School Teacher of the Year!

The MIWLA Teacher of the Year Awards honor the accomplishments of exemplary K-12 world language teachers.

Mrs. Howard won the award because of her passion for innovative teaching methods that create dynamic and supportive learning environments for students.

We are so proud she's a Bulldog!

**Michigan World Language Association
Middle School Teacher of the Year**

Shannon Howard

The MIWLA Teacher of the Year Awards honor the accomplishments of exemplary K-12 world language teachers

Elementary Kids Learn in Natural Setting

This has been the best fall at the Vicksburg Schools Outdoor Education Center!

Our elementary school classes have enjoyed amazing weather to conduct their science experiments.

Second grade classes just wrapped up learning about plants and trees and testing their

seeds to see how they move and disperse in order to help plant themselves.

The classes tested 6 kinds of plant seeds to see if they float, fly, drop straight or stick to something that brushed up against them.



AP Artists Visit Grand Rapids

AP Art students from VHS recently took a field trip to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids.

The students could explore the facility, both indoors and outdoors, on their own and stop to draw in their sketchbooks along the way.

Many students also took photos to use as references for their own artwork.

It was an exciting and new experience for this group of young artists!



Apply Now for Curiosity Grants

Is your Vicksburg student curious about the world around them?

The Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation is accepting applications for Curiosity Grants!

VCS Students from preschool through 12th grade can apply for Curiosity Grants to learn about and study anything they chose.

Students in 6th through 12th must submit the application form themselves. They may get assistance from an adult but the idea and plan must be their own. Those in pre-K through 5th grade can get the help of a teacher or other adult to submit an application on behalf of an individual student or a group of students. Again, the ideas must

be their own.

Previous grants include money to start a Japanese club at VMS, seeds and supplies to test how flowers grow in small places like sidewalk cracks, materials to make calming jars, and funds for molding supplies for robotics students. Anything students want to test out, learn about or experiment with- Curiosity Grants can help bring their ideas to life.

Applications can be found on the VCSF tab of our website.

CURIOSITY GRANTS

Students can apply for grants to learn about things that interest them!





Tennis Team Takes Wolverine Conference Title

Wolverine Conference Champs!

Congratulations to the Vicksburg High School Boys Varsity Tennis Team on capturing the conference title! It's been exactly 50 years since the team last won a conference championship.

Not only that but, Coach Warner Offord, better known as Doc O, was named Wolverine Conference Coach of the Year! A very fitting tribute to a great coach.

Congratulations to all the players:

1S Maddox Rosalin- Conference Runner up

2S Jordan Diekman- Conference Champ

3S Sawyer Kite- Conference Champ

4S Caden Town- Conference Champ

1D Wes Post/ Gio Gangloff- 4th place

2D Thomas Christiansen/ Grant VanWoert Conference Champions

3D Reese Brush/ Gaige Patnoudé-3rd place

4D Elias Ryder/ Ryan Haddix- 3rd place

Jordan Diekman was also crowned Regional champion.

Great job to all the coaches and players!



Tobey Honors First Responders

The Tobey Tigers took time to say thank you first responders.

As part of their Kindness Fundraiser, students decided to spread kindness to those who help keep them safe, by honoring local police, firefighters and EMS workers.

Tobey students made cards for them and filled their bags with well wishes and thank yous.

Our Vicksburg schools SRO, Officer Skidmore, along with a Portage Police officer, who is a Tobey parent, members of the Pavilion Township Fire Department and Life EMS came out for the parade of thank yous.

The goal was not only to show support and say thank you to our first responders but to also teach and show respect for those who help our community.



VHS Added to AP Honor Roll

Vicksburg High School has once again been honored as one of North America's elite high schools!

In an announcement just released by the College Board, VHS has made the Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll yet again.

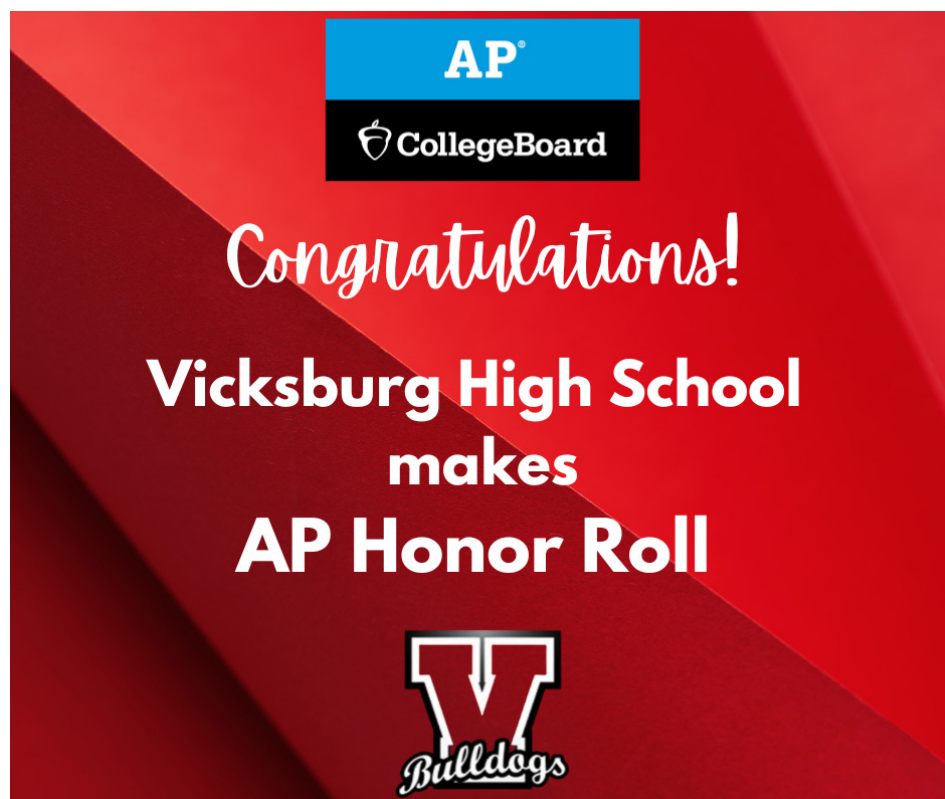
The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools that have done outstanding work to welcome more students into AP courses and support them on the path to college success.

Research shows that students who take AP courses and exams are more likely to attend college and graduate on time. And even for those who don't earn

college credit for their classes, AP coursework provides early exposure to college-level work, giving them an advantage.

This award shows the commitment by VHS to provide access for all students to advanced classes and to support them through the process.

Congratulations to our staff and students for this achievement!



Discovery Lab Visits Vicksburg Schools

At VCS, we are starting career exploration with our elementary school students to open up the possibilities to them at a younger age.

Recently, the Kalamazoo RESA Career Connect Discovery Lab visited Sunset Lake and Indian Lake elementary schools along with Vicksburg Middle School.

5th through 7th graders got hands-on experience while learning about the manufacturing process and available high school classes and future careers.

They were able to explore careers in manufacturing, design, engineering, supply chain management and more. They also learned they could take CTE classes for all those careers while still in high school.

The Discovery Lab allowed them to use a laser engraver, try out a welding simulator and use coding to program a robotic arm.

It was a great way to introduce potential futures!



Unity Day Celebrated in Vicksburg

Vicksburg Schools celebrated Unity Day in October.

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

