



# THE RED & WHITE

SEPTEMBER 2024

## A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Dear Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

We've had a great start to the school year so far and I am incredibly excited about what's to come. I want to thank our teachers and staff for helping to make the transition back to school so smooth.

Our buildings were busy with bond construction projects all summer and I am thankful for the construction crews who worked hard to have our classrooms ready for students. I am also grateful for our community that helped provide

the construction dollars. We will have one more summer of continued work to improve our learning environments for our students and staff. But first, we have a great school year ahead.

At our annual kick-off event for teachers and staff. I was incredibly excited to introduce the VCS Innovation Project. The partnership with The Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation and the Vicksburg Foundation will help bring additional funds into our schools to support

innovative and unique educational experiences and projects. In this issue of the Red and White, you will learn more about the project and what it will mean for our students.

Once again, I am happy to welcome everyone back for the 2024-2025 school year. Let's make it a great year, Bulldogs!



Regards,  
**Keevin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT**

### Meet Our New Teachers at VCS



Front row: Ashlee Huyck, Madie Taft, Kimberly Sterzick, Amy Sue Manley. Second row: Chelsea Freund, Heidi Sterling, Riley Ballinger, Beth Thieroff. Third row: James Young, Sarah Classen, Miranda Leach, Savannah McDowell, David LaBurn. Back row: Amanda Swan, Holly James, Patrick Dunham, Max Jones, Chris Wolf. Not pictured: Jillian Heerlyn, Kristen Hossink, Sami Trimble-Buell.

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 for our students.

New this year we have:

**Indian Lake:** Sarah Classen, Kindergarten teacher; Savannah McDowell, 4th grade teacher.

**Sunset Lake:** Amanda Swan, Counselor; Chelsea Freund, 2nd grade teacher; Sami Trimble-Buell, 2nd grade teacher.

**Tobey:** Beth Thieroff. 3rd grade teacher.

**VHS:** Madie Taft, English teacher; Max Jones, Math teacher; Patrick Dunham, Social Studies teacher.

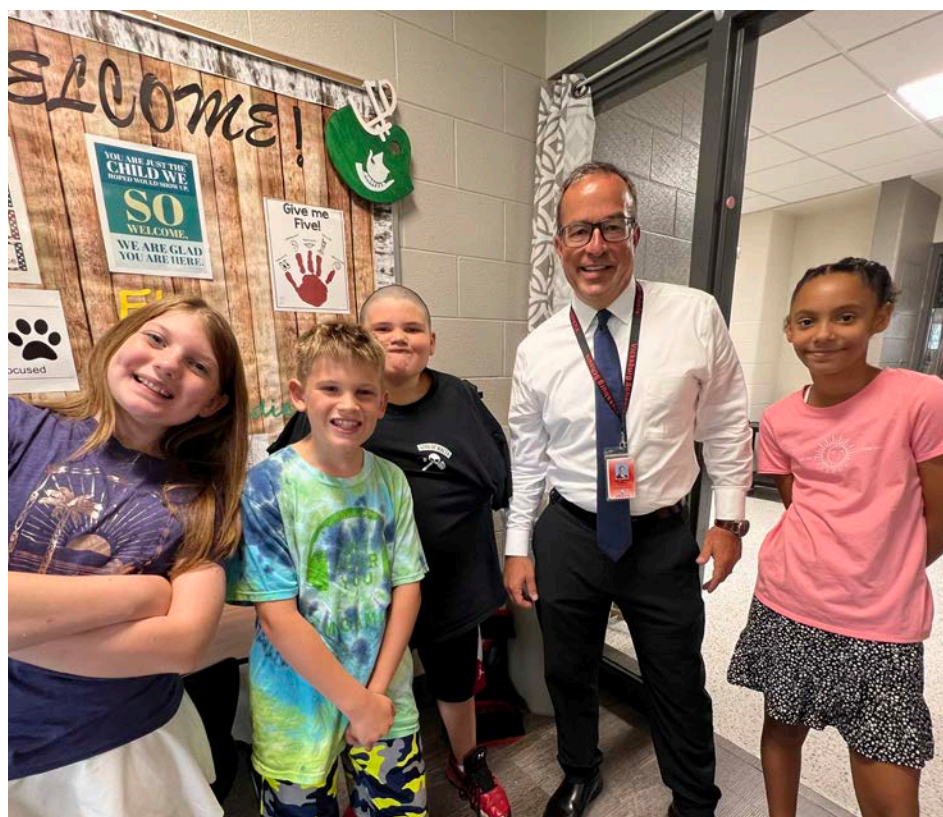
**VMS:** Ashlee Huyck, English teacher; David LaBurn, Math teacher; Holly James, Science teacher; Kimberly Sterzick, English teacher; Miranda Leach, Special Education teacher; Riley

Ballinger, English teacher.

**Both VMS & VHS:** Amy Sue Manley, Media Specialist; Heidi Sterling, ESL teacher.

**Pathways HS:** Christian Wolf, Math teacher; James Young, Social Studies teacher; Jillian Heerlyn, Spanish teacher, Kristen Hossink, ESI teacher.

# Welcome Back to School, Bulldogs!



# Unsung Hero Award Recipient Named

Each year at our kick-off event for teachers and staff, VCS honors one person or group that went above and beyond during the previous school year.

We are very proud to announce that the 2023-2024 Unsung Hero Award Winner is Kim Putman.

Kim started with VCS as an intern in 1999. She is currently a paraprofessional at Tobey Elementary School, but has held many roles including Kids Klub aide and Kindergarten Teacher. Kim is a vital part of the Tobey Community and helps our students succeed every day.

Thank you, Kim, for your hard work and dedication to the students of Vicksburg Community Schools.

**UNsung HERO  
2023-2024**

**KIM  
PUTMAN**



# Freshmen Wanted for Student Advisory Board

For the second year, Vicksburg High School students will be helping to shape the future of VCS.

Last school year, Superintendent O'Neill launched the first ever Vicksburg Community Schools Superintendent's Student Advisory Board (SSAB).

The group met monthly, beginning in November. The goal is to hear directly from the students regarding their experiences at VCS. Last year, the advisory board had a group of 16 students in 9th through 11th grades. Those students will serve on the board until graduation.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the SSAB is looking to add 2 to 3 freshman students. They should be on the lookout for information about applying for the SSAB.

The following students are members of the SSAB: Adelynn Beery, Daniel Best, Riley Blamer, Hannah DeVries, Daniel Dinea, Ashley Gerber, Emelyn Germay, Maya Grossman, Norah Hossink, Elise Howard, Lauren Lyle, Leah Standish, Shelby Stoughton, Caden Town, Taylor VanDam, and Gabriella Yost.

We look forward to the positive impact this group will have on the district.



# Athletic Schedules

Cross Country - Boys Varsity					
Friday	9/13/2024	OPEN (MSU Spartan Invite)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Tuesday	9/17/2024	* Niles High School (Niles Triangular)	Away	Niles High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	9/24/2024	* (Vicksburg Triangular)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/28/2024	OPEN (Otsego Bulldog Invite)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Tuesday	10/1/2024	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/5/2024	OPEN (Portage Invite)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Tuesday	10/8/2024	* (Edwardsburg Triangular)	Away		5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/15/2024	* (Wolverine Conference Cross Country Championships)	Away		4:30 PM
Cross Country - Boys Junior Varsity					
Tuesday	9/17/2024	* (Niles Triangular)	Away	Niles High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	9/24/2024	* (Vicksburg Triangular)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Cross Country - Girls Varsity					
Friday	9/13/2024	OPEN (MSU Spartan Invite)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Tuesday	9/17/2024	* (Niles Triangular)	Away		5:00 PM
Tuesday	9/24/2024	* (Vicksburg Triangular)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/28/2024	OPEN (Otsego Bulldog Invite)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Tuesday	10/1/2024	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/5/2024	OPEN (Portage Invite)	Away	OPEN	TBA
Tuesday	10/8/2024	* (Edwardsburg Triangular)	Away		5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/15/2024	* (Wolverine Conference Cross Country Championships)	Away		4:30 PM
Cross Country - Girls Junior Varsity					
Tuesday	9/17/2024	* (Niles Triangular)	Away	Niles High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	9/24/2024	* (Vicksburg Triangular)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Football - Varsity					
Friday	9/6/2024	Gull Lake Schools (Senior Night)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	9/13/2024	Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	7:00 PM
Friday	9/20/2024	Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	9/27/2024	Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	7:00 PM
Friday	10/4/2024	Niles High School (Homecoming)	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	10/11/2024	Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	7:00 PM
Friday	10/18/2024	Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Friday	10/25/2024	Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	7:00 PM
Football - Junior Varsity					
Thursday	9/5/2024	Gull Lake Schools	Away	Gull Lake Schools	6:15 PM
Thursday	9/12/2024	Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	9/19/2024	Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	9/26/2024	Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	10/3/2024	Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	10/10/2024	Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	10/17/2024	Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	6:15 PM
Thursday	10/24/2024	Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:15 PM
Football - Freshman					
Thursday	9/5/2024	Gull Lake Schools	Away	Gull Lake Schools	4:30 PM
Thursday	9/12/2024	Hastings HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	9/19/2024	Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	9/26/2024	Unity Christian High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/3/2024	Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/10/2024	Centreville	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/17/2024	Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	4:30 PM
Thursday	10/24/2024	Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:30 PM
Golf - Girls Varsity					
Wednesday	9/4/2024	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #4)	Away		12:00 PM
Saturday	9/7/2024	OPEN (NextTee Girls Golf Tourn./Bedford Valley GC)	Away	OPEN	8:00 AM
Monday	9/9/2024	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #7)	Away		4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/11/2024	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #6)	Away		4:00 PM
Thursday	9/12/2024	Comstock (Comstock Inv./Eastern Hills GC)	Away	Comstock	10:00 AM
Thursday	9/19/2024	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #8)	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Friday	9/20/2024	Coldwater High School (Coldwater Inv.)	Away	Coldwater High School	9:30 AM
Tuesday	9/24/2024	Sturgis High School (Sturgis Inv./Island Hills G.C.)	Away	Sturgis High School	9:00 AM
Wednesday	9/25/2024	* (Wolverine Conf. Jamboree #5)	Away		4:00 PM
Wednesday	10/2/2024	* (Wolverine Conf. Championship)	Home	Vicksburg High School	9:00 AM
Golf - Girls Junior Varsity					
Wednesday	9/11/2024	(Comstock Inv./Hickory Ridge)	Away		1:00 PM
Soccer - Boys Varsity					
Wednesday	9/4/2024	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Thursday	9/5/2024	Coldwater High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Monday	9/9/2024	Dowagiac High School	Away	Dowagiac High School	5:00 PM
Wednesday	9/11/2024	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	6:30 PM
Saturday	9/14/2024	Parma Western	Home	Vicksburg High School	11:00 AM
Monday	9/16/2024	Harper Creek HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Wednesday	9/18/2024	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM

# Athletic Schedules

Monday	9/23/2024	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	6:30 PM
Wednesday	9/25/2024	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Saturday	9/28/2024	Gull Lake Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	11:30 AM
Monday	9/30/2024	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	5:30 PM
Wednesday	10/2/2024	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
Monday	10/7/2024	St. Joseph H.S.	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:30 PM
<b>Soccer - Boys Junior Varsity</b>					
Wednesday	9/4/2024	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Wednesday	9/11/2024	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/14/2024	Parma Western	Home	Vicksburg High School	9:30 AM
Monday	9/16/2024	Harper Creek HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Monday	9/23/2024	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	5:00 PM
Wednesday	9/25/2024	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/28/2024	Gull Lake Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	10:00 AM
Monday	9/30/2024	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	10/2/2024	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Monday	10/7/2024	St. Joseph H.S.	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
<b>Tennis - Boys Varsity</b>					
Wednesday	9/4/2024	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Saturday	9/7/2024	(Caledonia Inv.)	Away		9:00 AM
Monday	9/9/2024	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/11/2024	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	9/12/2024	Big Rapids High School (TCC Trip)	Away	Big Rapids High School	4:00 PM
Friday	9/13/2024	(TCC Quad)	Away		9:00 AM
Monday	9/16/2024	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/18/2024	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Saturday	9/21/2024	(Military Appreciation Inv.)	Home	Vicksburg High School	9:00 AM
Monday	9/23/2024	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/25/2024	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/30/2024	Harper Creek HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	10/2/2024	* (Wolverine Conf. Championship)	Away		9:00 AM
<b>Tennis - Boys Junior Varsity</b>					
Wednesday	9/4/2024	* Otsego HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/9/2024	* Paw Paw High School	Away	Paw Paw High School	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/10/2024	Portage Central HS	Away	Portage Central HS	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/11/2024	* Three Rivers	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/16/2024	* Niles High School	Away	Niles High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/18/2024	* Sturgis High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	9/19/2024	Portage Central HS	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Monday	9/23/2024	* Edwardsburg High School	Away	Edwardsburg High School	4:00 PM
Tuesday	9/24/2024	Mattawan High School	Away	Mattawan High School	4:00 PM
Wednesday	9/25/2024	* Plainwell Schools	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	9/26/2024	* Three Rivers (Wolverine Conference JV Tennis Tournament)	Away	Three Rivers	12:00 PM
Tuesday	10/1/2024	Kalamazoo Christian	Home	Vicksburg High School	4:00 PM
Thursday	10/3/2024	Allegan Public Schools	Away	Allegan Public Schools	4:00 PM
<b>Volleyball - Varsity</b>					
Wednesday	9/4/2024	(Vicksburg Mini)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/7/2024	Bronson JR/SR HS (Bronson Inv.)	Away	Bronson JR/SR HS	10:00 AM
Thursday	9/12/2024	* Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/14/2024	Lakeview-Battle Creek (Lakeview Inv.)	Away	Lakeview-Battle Creek	8:30 AM
Thursday	9/19/2024	* Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	9/21/2024	Portage Northern High School (Portage Northern Inv.)	Away	Portage Northern High School	8:30 AM
Monday	9/23/2024	(Quad)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/26/2024	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	6:00 PM
Thursday	10/3/2024	* Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Thursday	10/10/2024	* Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	6:00 PM
Monday	10/14/2024	Parma Western (Tri-Meet)	Away	Parma Western	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/17/2024	* Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	6:00 PM
Saturday	10/19/2024	Coldwater High School (Coldwater Quad)	Away	Coldwater High School	9:00 AM
Thursday	10/24/2024	* Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	6:00 PM
<b>Volleyball - Junior Varsity</b>					
Wednesday	9/4/2024	Wayland Union High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/7/2024	Portage Northern High School (PN Huskie Invitational)	Away	Portage Northern High School	8:30 AM
Monday	9/9/2024	(Quad)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Tuesday	9/10/2024	Comstock Park HS/MS (CP Quad)	Away	Comstock Park HS/MS	TBA
Thursday	9/12/2024	Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/19/2024	* Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/21/2024	Coldwater High School (Coldwater Inv.)	Away	Coldwater High School	8:00 AM
Thursday	9/26/2024	* Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/3/2024	* Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/5/2024	(Wolverine Conf. Championship)	Away		9:00 AM
Thursday	10/10/2024	Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	5:00 PM

# Athletic Schedules

Monday	10/14/2024	Parma Western (Tri-Meet)	Away	Parma Western	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/17/2024	* Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/24/2024	Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	5:00 PM
<b>Volleyball - Freshman</b>					
Wednesday	9/4/2024	Wayland Union High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/7/2024	Portage Northern High School (PN Huskie Invitational)	Away	Portage Northern High School	8:30 AM
Monday	9/9/2024	(Quad)	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/12/2024	* Otsego HS	Away	Otsego HS	5:00 PM
Saturday	9/14/2024	Coldwater High School (Coldwater Inv.)	Away	Coldwater High School	8:30 AM
Thursday	9/19/2024	Paw Paw High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	9/26/2024	Three Rivers	Away	Three Rivers	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/3/2024	Niles High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/5/2024	(Wolverine Conf. Championship)	Away		9:00 AM
Thursday	10/10/2024	Sturgis High School	Away	Sturgis High School	5:00 PM
Saturday	10/12/2024	Portage Northern High School (Portage Northern Inv.)	Away	Portage Northern High School	9:00 AM
Monday	10/14/2024	Parma Western (Tri-Meet)	Away	Parma Western	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/17/2024	Edwardsburg High School	Home	Vicksburg High School	5:00 PM
Thursday	10/24/2024	Plainwell Schools	Away	Plainwell Schools	5:00 PM

## The Giving Pump Donates to Vicksburg Schools

Give back to VCS just by filling up your gas tank!

Our Vicksburg Johnny's Markets location, at the corner of Highway and Richardson, will be giving 1 cent per every gallon of gas sold at each purple Giving Pump branded dispenser to Vicksburg Community Schools!

Look for the Purple Giving Pump logo to make sure you're at the right pump!

This year the Giving Pump will run from September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>.

We are so thankful that Shell and Johnny's are teaming up with VCS to kick off the school year with such a great fundraiser.

Nearly 7,500 U.S. Shell stations are participating in this initiative to support 552 local charities, schools and organizations!

The Giving Pump runs  
September 1st through October 31st











Our Vicksburg Johnny's Markets location will be giving 1 cent per every gallon sold at each purple Giving Pump branded dispenser to Vicksburg Community Schools!

Look for the Purple Giving Pump logo to make sure you're at the right pump!

## VCS Innovation Project Introduced

Vicksburg Community Schools is excited to announce a new program designed to provide innovative and unique educational experiences for our students.

It's called the VCS Innovation Project and it's a partnership with the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation and the Vicksburg Foundation. The 3 year pilot program will provide \$60,000 each year to support innovative teaching and learning. The project was officially unveiled at the school year kick-off event for teachers and staff.

"This project will put Vicksburg Community Schools at the forefront of innovation in education in our region," said VCS Superintendent Keevin O'Neill. "I am honored that the Vicksburg Com-

munity Schools Foundation and the Vicksburg Foundation are helping to support our students in new and exciting ways."

The funds will go to things like new and sustainable classroom resources and initiatives in STEAM, STEM, the Arts, technology, staff professional development and training. The Outdoor Education Center will also be included in the funding.

VCS is currently developing an application process for teachers who are interested in using the funds to help create lessons and programs for our students.

We can't wait to share the great things that will be happening in our schools thanks to this amazing gift.

### VCS INNOVATION PROJECT

- 3-year pilot program
- \$60,000 annually for three years to support innovation in teaching and learning
- Dollars allocated to all our schools including the Outdoor Education Center based on student enrollment at each school
- Application process will be developed
- Resources, initiatives, high level PD, sustainability, SEL, STEM, STEAM, arts, technology, etc.

# Annual Notices 2024-2025

For a complete listing of annual notices, please check our website at [www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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."

Gail Van Daff  
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.

Tobey Principal Mike Barwegen is the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer. He 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

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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 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PRESENTS:

# VICKSBURG COMMUNITY TAILGATE!

**September 6, 2024**

**4:30pm to 6:30pm**



**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

