

Vicksburg Community Schools **High School Activities**

VHS offers students the opportunity to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities including:

French Club: The French Club is an informal organization of student who wants to expand the activities in French beyond the classroom. The club participates in field trips to Chicago, French dinners & plays.

Spanish Club: Spanish Club promotes extra curricular activities, which take Spanish language/cultural learning out of the classroom into the community/world at large. Every other year Spanish Club offers a weeklong trip in mid-June to a Spanish speaking country (Spain 2003). Field trips (to Chicago, to local performances by Spanish dance/drama/music groups) are offered every year as ways of extending learning beyond the classroom. Spanish Club encourages students to become more informed about the role of Spanish language and culture in the world today through visits to restaurants, art exhibits, musical/theatrical programs, festivals, radio or television opportunities, etc.

FFA (Future Farmers of America): The Vicksburg FFA is an integral part of the Vicksburg Agricultural and Natural Resources (ANR) program. As part of the Kalamazoo Education for Employment (EFE) Program, the Vicksburg ANR program serves all Kalamazoo County. Students from all over the country travel to Vicksburg to attend classes in Animal Science, Horticulture and Natural Resources. Students participating in the ANR program are encouraged to join the FFA to help them improve their leadership skills.

Chamber Singers: The VHS Chamber Singers is a select choral ensemble that sings challenging choral literature from all periods in music history. These students are chosen by audition based on their citizenship, reliability, musical skill and leadership. The Chamber Singers participate in district and state choral festivals through the Michigan School Vocal Music Association and have received Division I superior ratings at both levels.

Student Senate: This is a group of approximately 25 – 30 students who are elected from an application process that includes teacher comments to organize and sponsor a variety of events. Senate is in charge of the Blood Drive (community members as well as our 17+ age students are welcome to donate) and the March of Dimes Breadlift (students visit homes and businesses requesting money donations in exchange for a loaf of bread). The Senate also sponsors the Semi-formal dance in December as well as all the pep assemblies, all voting for fall/winter Homecoming Courts, most high school dances and teacher & student appreciation perks.

DECA: An association of marketing students. It is an extracurricular club that any student can belong to. We compete at the district level in December, the state level in March, and the International level in April. Competition consists of role-playing and tests that are related to a specific occupational area. DECA provides students with a variety of professional and social experiences.

Yearbook: Are you dedicated, enthusiastic, and motivated? If you are, you should join yearbook! Yearbook's objective is to create a visually appealing yearbook publication that captures the students' attention. We focus having a positive work ethic, being organized, and trying something new. If you are interested in joining, get an application from your guidance counselor.

Jazz Ensemble: The Vicksburg HS Jazz Ensemble is comprised of students in grades 9-12. The ensemble is made up of approximately 30 students. The students meet three days per week (M-W-F), from 6:50-7:35am. The Jazz Ensemble performs at 4 concerts each year at VHS and at two jazz festivals. The band performs a variety of music, including swing, rock and Latin.

NHS (National Honor Society): Membership in NHS provides high school students with a number of opportunities to serve their community, be recognized for their academic achievements and participate in an organization that promotes positive role models. Each member may take away something different, but each member is enriched by the experience. Chosen on the basis of *scholarship, service, leadership and character*, students must write an essay, maintain a GPA of 3.3+, volunteer in the community, provide leadership in school and community projects and demonstrate high standards of character. Each year NHS completes at least two whole chapter service projects: canned food drive and spaghetti benefit dinner.

VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America): This national organization serves more than 250,000 high school and college students and professional members who are enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled, and service occupations, including health occupations. Also known as Skills USA, VICA prepares America's high performance workers. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. It emphasizes total quality at work, high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education and pride in the dignity of work. Skills USA also promotes understanding of the free enterprise system and involvement in community service activities.

Drama Productions: The Vicksburg High School Drama Department puts on two productions every year. Our Fall Play is open to anyone in the school who is interested in auditioning. The Spring Musical is done in collaboration with the Music Department and is also open to anyone who is interested in auditioning. No experience is necessary to participate in either of these two productions. Both productions offer students the opportunity to act on stage or work behind the

scenes. It is an excellent way to meet new people, work with others to create a spectacular show and gain self-confidence.

Teen Heart: A nonprofit, educational organization based in Kalamazoo to promote attitudes of self-worth and to further develop critical thinking skills. These elements can assist in the development of healthy adolescent lifestyles while promoting dialogue between teens, parents and educators.

LINK (Freshman Transition Program): Is a freshman transition program that welcomes freshmen and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed; Link Crew trains members of the junior and senior class to be Link Leaders. As positive role models, Link Leaders are motivators, leaders and teachers who guide the freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful in high school.

After a spirited and interactive freshman orientation, Link Crew continues providing a variety of both Academic and Social Follow Up activities throughout the year. The Academic Follow Ups are lessons presented by trained Link Crew Leaders during visits to freshmen AE classes. These lessons are designed to give freshmen the skills needed to be successful during their high school years and beyond. Social Follow Ups provide social settings for the Link Leaders and their Crews to reconnect and further build relationships outside the classroom. The goal of the yearlong Link Crew transition program is to provide a structure in which students make real connections with each other. Through this program students learn that people at school care about them and their success.

NAHS (National Art Honor Society): The purpose of the Vicksburg High School Chapter of the National Art Honor Society is to foster excellence and enthusiasm for the visual arts, recognize students who have shown outstanding ability in art, and bring art to the attention of the school and community through service and leadership. Students must meet the requirement of a 2.5 overall grade point average, at least two semesters of art, and maintained a 3.5 or better average in those art classes. Students are required to fulfill a community service activity such as volunteering at the KIA Art Fair. NAHS will also begin the promote school spirit by creating mural in hopes of raising school spirit. NAHS looks for students who also have strong moral character and leadership qualities.

BPA (Business Professional of America): The mission of Business Professionals of America is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills.

Interscholastic Sports: These are available to 9th-12th graders throughout the school year.

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Middle School Activities

VMS offers students opportunities to make life-long friends and to get to know their teachers, school and community through the sharing of common interests. Students have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including:

Band, Jazz Band, Woodwind Ensemble, Choir: offered as elective classes, these groups give performances several times each year as well as participate in regional festivals.

Interscholastic Sports: Basketball, Volleyball, Track, Wrestling and Cross Country. These are available to 7th and 8th graders throughout the year.

Intramural Athletics: open to all grades and abilities after school. Games include towerball and volleyball.

Student Council: Meets with staff advisors and helps to develop and run student activities.

School Yearbook: works to plan and layout the annual yearbook.

Activities in the Enrichment Lab include:

- Writer's Guild – Interested students meet to work with staff and guest writers to develop their skills and publish selected works in a publication entitled the *Bulldog Bard*.
- Math Counts Team: Students compete with other schools in tournaments that feature complex problem solving.
- Art Break: Students interested in stretching themselves artistically work with many different types of media.
- Theatre Games: Drama and acting exercises and games are played to enhance skills.
- Destination Imagination Competition: Teams from VMS compete against other schools to develop imaginative solutions to abstract problems.

Social Activities include: dances (grades 7 & 8), activity nights (6th grade), roller skating (6th grade) and the annual Lock-In (all grades).

School Clubs include: Ski Club, Table Tennis Club, and Chess Club.

Talent Show: Held in the spring with tryouts open to all grades.

Trips and in-school activities include: 6th grade camp, 6th grade historical tour of Vicksburg, 7th grade Challenger Center simulation, 8th grade career day at KVCC, 8th grade Cedar Point trip.

Vicksburg Community Schools

Elementary Student Activities

Vicksburg Community Schools offers a variety of activities for students during school. These activities include:

Indian Lake Elementary

Battle of the Books: An opportunity for students to read a set list of books and compete against other teams and other schools on their knowledge of the books.

Student Council: Fourth and 5th grade students are elected to the student council to learn parliamentary procedure and promote school, community, and worldwide issues.

Talent Show: The Student Council sponsors this school wide talent show.

Accelerated Reader: In this program, students read books and then take a computer test on their comprehension of the books. Points are awarded based on the level of the books.

Speech Contest: Fourth and 5th grade students compete in a speech contest about Career Choices (4th grade) and Heroes (5th grade). The final six from each grade perform their speech in front of the entire school and a panel of judges.

Track & Field Day: Third through 5th graders spend a fun-filled day outside participating in a variety of track and field events. K – 2nd graders have various activities for their half-day event.

Giving Tree: Each year in December students and staff are asked to bring in items for different organizations (i.e., Human Society, Food Bank, Toys for Tots). Students learn the importance of giving as the items are delivered or picked up by the different organizations.

Science Fair: Each spring students are encouraged to participate in the Science Fair. Projects range from volcanoes to which toothpaste whitens teeth best. Displays are set up throughout the school.

Grandparents/Special Persons Day: Our PTSO has an Ice Cream Social along with classroom visitation. Grandparents are free to visit their grandchildren's classroom, have pictures taken and be served ice cream by our PTSO volunteers.

Peer Mediators: This program, run by our school counselor, involves pairs of 4th and 5th graders who assist other students in solving their problems/conflicts.

Sunset Lake Elementary

Accelerated Reader: In this program, students read books and then can take a computer test on their comprehension of the books. Points are awarded based on the level of the books read.

Student Council: Fourth and 5th grade students are elected to the Student Council to learn parliamentary procedure and promote school, community and worldwide issues.

Battle of the Books: An opportunity for students to read a set list of books and compete against other teams and other schools on the knowledge of the books.

2nd Grade Economics Sale: Our 2nd graders, after studying a unit on economics, hold a sale the rest of the student body can attend. They learn about marketing, sales, production and expenses.

Book Swap: All students, under the direction of the library, bring in gently used books and “swap” for an equal number of books.

Peer Mediators: This program, run by our school counselor, involves pairs of 5th graders who assist other students in solving their problems.

Track and Field Day/Dr. Seuss Day: BK, K, 1st and 2nd graders participate in a fun version of field day. They have several “events” that are based on Dr. Seuss stories. Third through 5th grade students spend a fun-filled day outside participating in a variety of track and field events.

Friday Spirit Assemblies: Students are recognized for outstanding achievement and improvement where examples of honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility are honored.

WINGS: Fourth and 5th grades Gifted and Talented Program

Some of the other highlights that we have at Sunset Lake are: Family Visitation Days, Clifford Book Club, Cross grade level buddies, Summer Reading Program, March is Reading Month Celebration, 100's Day Celebration and Community Service experiences – Partnerships with Local Agencies.

Tobey Elementary

Accelerated Reader: In this program, students read books and then can take a computer test on their comprehension of the books. Points are awarded based on the level of the books.

Battle of the Books: An opportunity for students to read a set list of books and compete against other teams and other schools on their knowledge of the books.

Tobey Community: Every week our school has an assembly we call Tobey Community. At Tobey Community Mr. Barwegen recognizes student and school achievements from the previous week and always talks about the importance of positive character traits.

Chess Club: This is an opportunity for K-5th grade students to learn the basics of chess in a fun setting.

Book Fair: The library works with a book company to bring in books for students to purchase. The profit from these fundraisers helps to purchase books and related material for the library.

Music Programs: All grade levels present a music program during the year.

Student Council: Fourth and 5th grade students are elected to the student council to learn parliamentary procedure and promote school, community and worldwide issues.

Talent Show: Student Council sponsors our school wide talent show.

Track & Field Day: This is a much anticipated event!! Third through 5th grade students spend a fun filled day outside participating in a variety of track and field events.