

Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation

A foundation for community investment in educational excellence

**Annual Report
2015-2016**

www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org/foundation

Greetings Vicksburg!

Most school districts are not fortunate enough to have a supporting foundation, let alone one with the mission to “encourage innovation in teaching and learning.” Since 1983, the Vicksburg Community Schools’ Foundation (VCSF) has supplemented our local schools in countless ways as exemplified in our 2015-2016 Annual Report.

The VCSF is a “big school” organization within our modest-sized school community. The Trustees are comprised of community members, parents and educators who devote hours of time each year to these worthy goals. They pride themselves in being excellent stewards of your generous contributions. And you can see what your support means in the faces of the students in the following pages.

There are still many within our local community who remain unaware of the VCSF’s efforts. In the upcoming year, the VCSF is making a conscientious effort to increase its presence in Vicksburg and beyond. In true holiday spirit, please spread the message and good cheer found in our Annual Report to your neighbors, family and friends. The VCSF’s mission is truly something to believe in. We thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Brett A. Grossman, President
Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation

The
Leader in Me™
great happens here

The Vicksburg Community School Foundation (VCSF) awarded a grant of \$25,000 to help Sunset Lake Elementary become a Leader in Me School.

Sunset has begun to implement The Leader in Me, a whole school operating system proven to positively impact students, families, staff and community. The process is based on a leadership focus which promotes, nurtures, and unleashes each students’ unique talents. The three main Leader in Me focus areas are Culture, 21st Century Leadership Skills, and Academics. In this first year, Sunset Lake’s priority is building a positive culture which promotes student voice and leadership.

Culture Building:

Teachers and support staff were trained in Stephen R. Covey’s 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. The 7 Habits are the core of The Leader in Me program.

The focus on a positive culture, led staff, parents, and students to plan two special “beautification” days at Sunset to improve the physical environment through positive pictures, color, and words.

Through the theme: *Together, We are Building Leaders*, teachers and staff help all students see themselves as leaders. Each month, the building focuses on a specific habit, as students learn about, practice, and live it.



Students excited about new equipment from the Beautification Team’s “Playground Shower”

A Family Lighthouse Team has also been established to help meet the needs of Sunset families, and to help connect 7 Habits between the school and home.

21st Century Skills:

Two school improvement goals have been established to focus on building student leadership skills. Every student is learning to create goals and to self-monitor their progress. Students track their data in Student Leadership Binders and are learning how to make action plans for self-improvement. The second goal is in the area of student led conferences, with the intent that all BK-5 students will be leading their own second semester conferences.

Students practice leadership every day. All classrooms have implemented student leader roles to help grow leadership and participation from all students. Building leadership roles include, Recycling Team, Safety Patrol, Cafeteria Crew, Playground Crew, and Lost and Found Team. The student council will be adding new committees such as Student Greeters, Tour Guides and more.

The VCSF is excited to help Sunset Lake Elementary School student leaders make great things happen!



Lost & Found Team prepping for Parent Teacher Conference Night

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation is to encourage innovation in teaching and learning. Through grants and contributions to teachers, programs, students, and projects, the VCSF provides long-term benefits to the Vicksburg Community Schools and the students they serve.

2015 - 2016 Bardeen 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 grants were awarded in the amount of \$15,200 earlier this spring:



Caden Chapman listening to an audio book

Ben Rosier

A Surface Pro was purchased to integrate the Google classroom platform, and will increase teacher mobility in the classroom.

Noreen Heikes

Veterinary Science students will provide routine veterinary services for animals housed at Tillers International, Aacorn Farm, and Gull Meadow Farms. Students will perform routine health assessments and keep appropriate medical records. Funding for transportation to the community sites and additional equipment and supplies were provided by this grant.

Terri Negri and Laura Wilson

A technology package was purchased, including an Apple iPad, tripod, green screen kit, external microphone, a Doink Green Screen Application and an iMovie Application to be used in creating videos.

Scott Wills

The Vicksburg DECA Chapter attended the Michigan DECA Career Development Conference at Eastern Michigan University. This conference allowed the students to network with other schools and businesses to form partnerships, and learn how other schools operate their DECA Chapters.



Students creating videos using the new Green Screen technology



Tobey students supporting the new all-inclusive playground

Angela Spanhak

Purchased the Love and Logic Childhood Parenting Made Fun Program and offered a Love and Logic Training and behavior management session to all lower elementary teachers.

Vicksburg Middle School English Teachers

The teachers attended the National Council for the Teachers of English Conference in November 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Diana Haring

Purchased Audiobooks and the "Raz-Kids" online reading program, including an iPad mini and headset.

Nichole Wisinski

Several Indian Lake Teachers attended the 2016 National PBIS Leadership Forum, Systems for Enhancing Climate and Culture in October 2016, in Chicago, Illinois.

Michael Barwegen

IXL for Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies, will be implemented at Tobey. Students will set goals and track their progress.

Kelly Christiansen

iPads and accessories were purchased to benefit Genius Hour in the classroom. Reading applications, including Epic Books, allow the students to read a wide variety of books at their level.

Stephanie Mallery

A Microsoft Surface Pro was purchased to support the implementation of VCS' Instructional Coaching model and the mission of, "Excellent instruction, every day for every student."



Maddie Eyster using Raz-Kids online reading program

2015-2016 Curiosity Grant Recipients

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 awarded up to \$250; however, the committee does consider and has funded grants in larger amounts.

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

Mrs. Myers' 3rd Grade Class - \$240 awarded to purchase new classroom books for Accelerated Reader testing.



Preston Brush using his stand-up desk

Jessica Buell - \$250 awarded in for the purchase of Bluebird house kits.

Preston Brush and Parker Heighton - \$462 awarded for the purchase of two new stand-up desks.

Mrs. Chang's 2nd Grade Class - \$164 awarded for Google Cardboard (virtual reality) and Sphero.

Mrs. Christiansen's 5th Grade Class - \$300 awarded for Yoga Balls to use in the classroom as chairs.

VHS Environmental Club - \$279 awarded for a field trip to the Toledo Zoo.



*Top Photo: Mrs. Christiansen's class enjoying their yoga balls
Bottom Photo: Mrs. Chang's students with their Sphero Bot*

VCSF Endowment Funds Are Moving On Up!

The Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation believes that an important part of a well-balanced fund development plan is to insure growth in the foundation's endowment fund. The principal of invested endowment dollars can never be spent, only a portion of the interest generated by the fund may be used for approving grants or be used for operational costs. As the principal of an endowment fund grows so does the fund's grant-making power.

When the VCSF was created in 1983, trustees developed a policy that insured a portion of any donated money would be placed in a general endowment fund. As the years rolled by, memorials donated and special endowment fund gifts were also added to the general endowment or were placed in

designated endowment funds. At the close of the 2015-2016 school year, the VCSF endowment fund's principal stood at \$1,869,277! The entire \$32,000 of VCSF student scholarships can be traced to the interest from various endowment funds.

All VCSF endowment funds are held in the Kalamazoo Community Foundation where they are invested and administered. The partnership between the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation and the Kalamazoo Community Foundation has produced very positive results for educators and students in the Vicksburg Community Schools! "For Good. For Ever." Is the motto for all Michigan's Community Foundations!

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\$100-\$199 per year for 5 Years

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\$200-\$499 per year for 5 Years

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\$500 per year for 5 Years

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 VHS Class of 1963
 Vicksburg Foundation
 Vicksburg Rotary
 Bob & Kathy Willhite
 Wisner Financial Group
 Jim & Linda Yates
 Yogi's Restaurant

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Dornbos Family Dentistry
 Frederick Construction
 Grossman Law
 Jaspars's Pizza
 Kalamazoo County State Bank
 RDMG Life Story Funeral Home
 TowerPinkster
 Wisner Financial Group

Operating Grants & Contributions:

Annual fund drive	\$ 16,118
Student Curiosity Grant	\$3,000
Bardeen Teacher Incentive Grant . . .	\$10,000
Fundraisers-net	\$12,365
Other Grants & Contributions.	\$18,304
Scholarships	\$3,500
Total	\$63,287

Grants Awarded:

Bardeen teacher incentive grants	\$14,650
Student curiosity grants	\$3,000
Student scholarships	\$32,000
Other grants	\$36,515
Total	\$86,165

Total Operating Expenses: .. \$12,627

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, 2015 \$1,917,011

Contributions Received \$26,885

Grant Distributions (\$59,631)

Investment Return (\$15,038)

Endowment Balance

June 30, 2016 \$1,869,277

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.

2016 Scholarship Recipients

**Not Pictured*
Amelia Klenowski
Lewis Maher Memorial
Scholarship
\$1,000



Tabby Sears
Letha Munn Memorial Scholarship
\$500



Jordan Bowdish
Louise Reed Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000



Lillian Venema
Lloyd (Todd) Cantwell Memorial
Scholarship
\$500



Keegan Frisbie
Ana Resseguie-Barnes
Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000



Parys Gonzales
Jeremy Smith Memorial
Scholarship
\$1,000



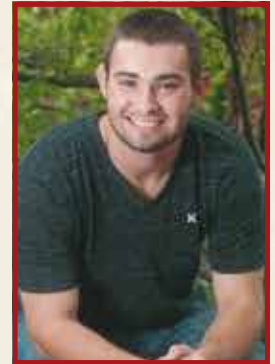
Seth Benson
Lynn and Patrick Vallier
Memorial Scholarship
\$500



Katie Reed
Gordon and Dorothy Daniels
Memorial Scholarship
\$2,000



Olivia Holmes
David T. Reisterer Memorial
Scholarship
\$2,500



Trace Slancic
David T. Reisterer Memorial
Scholarship
\$2,500



Shannon Fess
Zack Neal Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000



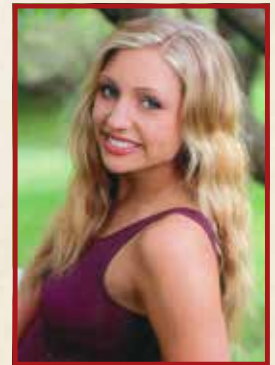
Nathan Chiu
Appell Family Scholarship
\$2,500



Clarissa Mutch
Vicksburg Foundation Scholarship
\$2,500



Alex Cannizzaro
Vicksburg Foundation Scholarship
\$2,500



Maddison Prebenda
Vicksburg Foundation Scholarship
\$2,500



Kaylyn Ruger
Vicksburg Foundation Scholarship
\$2,500



Faith Morris
Vicksburg Foundation Scholarship
\$2,500



Madeline Warner
Vicksburg Foundation Scholarship
\$2,500



Megan Markell
VCSF Scholarship
\$1,000



Carly Buell
VCSF Scholarship
\$1,000



2016 Louise Reed Memorial Scholarship



2016 Appell Family Scholarship



2016 Zack Neal Memorial Scholarship



2016 Jeremy Smith Memorial Scholarship



David T. Reisterer Memorial Scholarship



2016 VHS Honor Students

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