

# Vicksburg Community Schools

[Parent Organizations]

Vicksburg is fortunate to have parents sponsor and be involved in several organizations for students at each of our schools:

## High School

- **Athletic Boosters:** This group of more than 50 parents is active as a fund raising group for the enhancement of Vicksburg Athletics. All adults are welcome to be a part of this group, even if you don't have a student in the athletic program. Meetings are held once a month and ideas are always welcome. Following is a list of just a FEW of the many items the Athletic Boosters have provided since 1985: scholarships, tennis wind screens, locker rooms, wrestling mats, soccer/football scoreboard, batting cages, golf cart, pole vault pit, ultra sound machine, concession stand/press box for softball, cheerleading mats, and volleyball equipment for the middle school. All in all, the Athletic Boosters have contributed \$192,040 since 1985!
- **Band Boosters:** The Vicksburg Band Parents Association is comprised of dedicated & hard working parent volunteers. The group meets on a monthly basis. Besides the school system, the band parents are the primary funding source for the band. The band parents hold 4-5 fundraisers per year. In addition to student fundraisers, the band parents set up concession stands at the Old Car Festival, Varsity Football Games and boys & girls basketball. The group also sponsors the annual Friends of the Vicksburg Bands fund drive. In 2001, the band parents hosted the District XI Middle School Band Festival and the MSBOA State Band Festival at VHS. All parents of middle & high school students are encouraged to attend the monthly band parent meetings!
- **Choir Boosters:** The Vicksburg High School Choir Boosters is a parent organization that focuses on heightening the experiences of the students involved in the VHS Choral Program. By organizing and chaperoning choir trips, sponsoring fundraisers and organizing choral concerts and events, the Choir Boosters are integral to the success of the VHS Choirs. We consider every VHS Choir Parent to be a booster member. If you have a student singing in one of the VHS Choirs, become involved and help our choral program grow!
- **Project Graduation:** Parents of the current year senior class make up this group. They do several fundraisers throughout the year for the Grad Bash that is held on the night of graduation. The seniors are taken to an undisclosed location for an evening of safe drug/alcohol free fun. Some of the fundraisers include a golf outing, an adult barn dance, a craft show, and the Christmas Home Tour. The parents also try to do special things for the seniors each month. These are called FSOs (For Seniors Only).

## Middle School

Instead of a formalized parent organization, at VMS we have an informal group called *Parents In the Middle* (PIM). PIM meetings take place one day per month, at 9:30 a.m. and a duplicate evening meeting at 7:00 p.m. to accommodate various parent schedules.

At PIM meetings, parents are updated on the latest events at VMS, and staff or speakers of interest are brought in periodically. Parents may bring up topics and questions of their own for the Principal or Assistant Principal and some volunteer activities are planned.

Many VMS parents attend at least one meeting a year and find them to be a helpful way to network with VMS staff and other parents about issues that affect them as well as to support other parents.

## Indian Lake Elementary

The Indian Lake Elementary Parent, Teacher, Student Organization (PTSO) is a volunteer group of parents and staff who strive to enrich and enhance their children's educational experiences. The PTSO usually holds two to three fundraisers per year to help support additional learning programs and to purchase special items for the school as needed. They are always looking for more volunteers! Their meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Indian Lake Elementary. Some of the activity highlights are:

- **Book fair:** The book fair is an opportunity for students to purchase new books for their personal collection. It is also a fundraiser that helps to purchase more books for the school library.
- **Halloween Monster Mash:** This annual Halloween party has become a favorite with families. A little food, a little music, a little dancing, a few costumes...
- **Mother/Son Dance:** The cafeteria is transformed into a new setting. Moms and sons come all dressed up for a night of fun.
- **Father/Daughter Dance:** Don't worry, the Dads and daughters get their turn for some family fun, too.
- **Spaghetti Dinner:** This annual event gives parents a night off from cooking and a chance to get together with friends from school. The PTO prepares a yummy spaghetti dinner and the staff helps to serve!
- **Grandparent's Day:** Grandparents are invited "back to school" for a day. Grandparents have the opportunity to see what their grandkids are doing in school, have a bit of ice cream and even get their picture taken together.

## Sunset Lake Elementary

Sunset Lake's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is made up of a dynamic group of parents and teachers who play a positive role in the education of our students. This group actively supports and supplements numerous academic, enrichment and social opportunities for students. Some of the activity highlights include:

- **Family Valentine Party:** The entire family is invited to this annual event. Dress in your best and have a fun Valentine celebration.
- **Field trips for all grades:** All grade levels take at least 1 field trip per year. PTA assists with the bussing costs and sometimes the entrance fees. These field trips vary from year to year, depending on the teacher requests.
- **Crafts for Kids:** Students are provided with the opportunity to make crafts that may be used for themselves or as gifts.
- **Assemblies:** PTA brings in various assemblies to assist in student's learning.
- **Popcorn Days:** Once a month, the PTA pops popcorn for the entire school as an afternoon treat.
- **Weekly Reader/Science/News Current Magazines:** PTA provides individual classrooms with subscriptions to a variety of current event materials.
- **Summer Carnival:** Sometimes as a fundraiser, other times just for fun, the PTA hosts a carnival filled with games and good eats for students and their families.

- **Family Movie Nights:** Want the feel of a drive-in movie, but the warmth of inside? Then family movie night is for you. Students and their families are invited to the Performing Arts Center and the high school to view a family friendly movie on the big screen.
- **Junior Achievement:** Volunteer parents come into the classrooms and teach lessons on various aspects of business in this PTA sponsored program.
- **Classroom materials:** When it's raining outside, what do you do during recess? The PTA regularly provides games and activities for rainy day recesses.
- **Incentive prizes:** PTA provides some funding for programs such as Accelerated Reader and National Children's Book Week.

### **Tobey Elementary**

Tobey's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is an active organization, which provides scholarships, materials, awards, enrichment activities, moral support, equipment, and averages \$17,000 of expenditures for the school throughout the year. Some of the activity highlights are:

- **Ice cream Social/Open House:** Each year, PTSO sponsors an ice-cream social along with the open house for Tobey. This allows parents and students to meet the teacher as well as get reacquainted with one another.
- **Resource speakers:** Many times, teachers are interested in have guest speakers come into the classroom to enhance a lesson. PTSO has funded some of the speakers.
- **Library materials:** PTSO has purchased many things for the library, some of which include books and audiovisual equipment.
- **Holiday Bazaar:** Kids always like to do their own Christmas shopping, and that's just what they do at the Holiday Bazaar. PTSO gathers items for all ages and students have the opportunity to "shop" for presents for their families.
- **Family Pumpkin Festival:** You can't imagine how many things you can do with a pumpkin! Families use their creativity and come up with a new carving or a "scene" for their pumpkin. It's something to see.
- **Father/Daughter Dance:** It's time for Father's and daughter's to get dressed up and dance the night away.
- **Mother/Son Bowling Tournament:** Not to forget the Mothers and sons, this bowling tournament brings the family together.