

# We ARE Vestaburg

Community Update - January 2026



## From the Superintendent

### **From the Desk of the Superintendent: A Mid-Year Reset**

Happy New Year, Vestaburg families! I hope you all enjoyed a well-deserved break and made some wonderful memories together.

As we welcome your students back into our hallways, I invite you to join us in a "Mid-Year Reset." The start of a new semester is the perfect opportunity to hit the refresh button at home, just as we are doing in our classrooms.

This is a great week to sit down with your student and ask: *What worked well for us in the fall? What challenges should we leave behind in 2025?*

Whether it is re-establishing a consistent bedtime routine, setting a new goal for attendance, or simply carving out time to talk about their day, these small adjustments can make a huge difference in your child's success. We are honored to partner with you in your child's education—let's work together to start off 2026 strong!

Best,  
Brandon Hubbard *Superintendent*

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## Proud to be a Wolverine

### Academics-Raising the Bar

- **GSRP-Preschool Grant:**
- We are thrilled to announce that Vestaburg's *third preschool classroom* has been awarded a \$42,000 Start-up grant. These funds will be directly applied to supporting this new classroom, which provides invaluable resources for our students and community. We remain extremely proud to offer such a robust and fantastic preschool program.
- **Curriculum & Instruction:** Our teachers are hard at work strengthening "Tier 1 instruction" to increase academic rigor and engagement. We are also pleased to report that the implementation of our new Science curriculum is moving forward successfully.
- **Student Dedication:** We are incredibly proud of our secondary students, who are taking ownership of their learning. We have seen a steady increase in students utilizing tutoring opportunities and staying after school to master course material.
- **Continuous Improvement:** The District Improvement Team is actively refining our goals to ensure we have a clear, shared roadmap for academic growth across all buildings.



# November PAW Winners



**Kindergarten**  
**Sophia Mahin**  
**Dakota Moses**



**2nd Grade**  
**Isaiah Czerkies**  
**Lavinia Darmody**



**1st Grade**  
**Brayston Avery**  
**Colby Carmen**



**3rd Grade**  
**Grace Scharaswak**  
**Braelynn Chapman**

## Beyond the Classroom: Wolverines in Action

At Vestaburg, education doesn't stop when the bell rings. From the basketball court to the art studio, our students are learning valuable lessons in teamwork, creativity, and service. Here is a look at how our Wolverines are shining this winter:

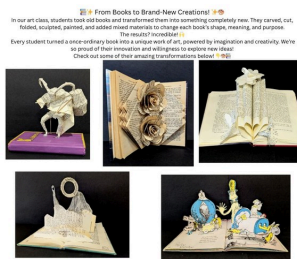
- **Athletics:** Winter sports are off to a thrilling start!.
- **Boys Basketball:** The team has roared out of the gate with a **6-2 record**, including a strong 2nd place finish at the Reed City Holiday Tournament.
- **Girls Basketball:** Congratulations to the Varsity team on decisive victories over Morrice and Baldwin.
- **Middle School:** Our MS Girls' Basketball team and coaches have done an outstanding job this season, demonstrating incredible improvement and dedication.
- **The Arts Alive:** It is a pleasure to see our students expressing their creativity! Our art students are producing beautiful work , and we loved celebrating the season with our K-2 families at the Holiday Music Concert.

- **Service & Leadership:** Our students are also learning the importance of giving back.
  - **NHS members** traveled to Greenville to help pack boxes for Toys for Tots.
  - The **Peer-to-Peer** club worked hard selling decorated sleighs during lunch to fundraise for their activities.

Whether they are scoring points, creating art, or serving the community, we are incredibly proud of our well-rounded Wolverines!



**Girls Basketball**



**Student Art Productions**



**Boys Basketball**

## One Big Thing.....

### The Spirit of Giving: A Community That Cares

The Vestaburg community never ceases to amaze us with its generosity. This holiday season, we have seen an incredible outpouring of support to ensure that every family in our district feels the joy of the season.

**Community & Corporate Partners** We want to extend a special **Thank You to GARR TOOL** for their generous donation, which allowed us to sponsor additional families this year. We also want to send a huge shout-out to **Marview Lane** for sponsoring a couple of local families. When local businesses step up like this, it makes a real difference!

### Supporting Our Families

- **Success VCS Center (Godwin Heights):** A huge shout-out to the staff who provided five full Thanksgiving meals to families in need and connected others with a local restaurant for free pizzas.
- **Wellness Team:** Thank you to everyone who donated food or helped with the annual **Turkey Trot**. Because of your kindness, we were able to provide Thanksgiving meals to 8 families!

+1

**Elementary School Holiday Support** This season, our elementary school is supporting approximately **70 families** with Christmas gifts. This massive effort is the result of true

collaboration. We are deeply grateful to our partners:

- Toys for Tots
- Shop with a Cop
- The MEARS Program
- Fire Station Christmas Adoption
- M46 Church
- Angel Tree
- One additional family adoption

Thank you to these organizations for helping make this a memorable holiday for our students. A special acknowledgment goes to **Danielle Anderson** for her incredible hard work in organizing these donations!

**The Joy of Giving Back** Finally, we want to recognize a touching gesture from an **anonymous donor** who reached out to host a special "shopping day." With more than **600 items** available, students were able to "shop" for their own family members at no cost, allowing them to experience the pride and joy of giving a gift to someone they love.

The donor requested to remain anonymous, but their impact was deeply felt. We hope to extend similar support to our secondary schools in the future.

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## Board News

### Board In Brief

#### Board in Brief: December Highlights

- **Strategic Planning for Success:** During a dedicated Board Retreat on December 15th, the Board and Administration reviewed our district's core beliefs and mission to ensure we are aligned on student success. We are refining our goals to target ranking in the top 50% academically among our ISD peers while maintaining strong financial stewardship with a fund balance of 25% or higher.



- **Investing in Support:** To better serve our students, the Board approved the hiring of a new Secondary Special Education Social Worker, Dominique Keranen, a much-needed addition to help manage student caseloads. Additionally, the Board approved a wage increase for our custodial partners to remain competitive and ensure our facilities are well-maintained.

## Shout Outs

At our December meeting, Board President Lynn VanSickler had the privilege of sharing a heartfelt message from a Vestaburg parent. It is always a joy to hear how our team is positively impacting families.

A special thank you to the following staff members for their "kindness and wisdom" and for going the extra mile to support a student in need:

- **Kathryn Battjes**
- **Shaun McManus**
- **Margo Berta**

## Events

Event Information

### Parent -Game Night

Come join us for a fun-filled Parent-Game Night!

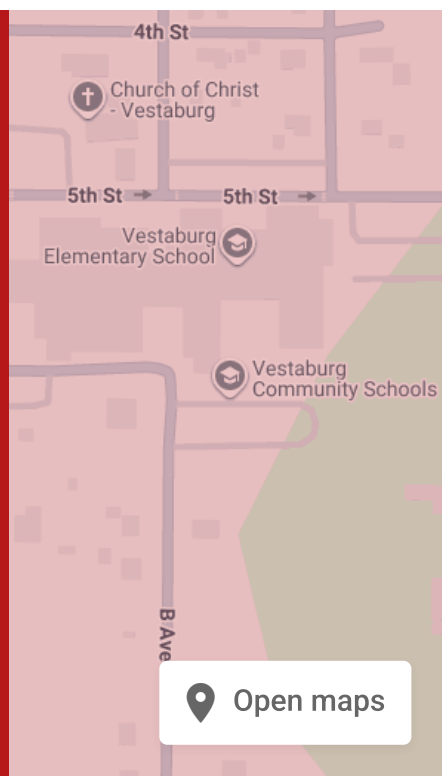
We will kick off the evening by serving pizza from 5:30 to 6:00 pm. Following dinner, families will have the chance to play various games together. As an exciting bonus, we will be raffling off games to attending families and students throughout the night!

When?

**Wednesday, Jan 28, 2026, 05:30 PM**

Where?

**Vestaburg Community Schools, B Avenue, Vestaburg, MI, USA**



 [Open maps](#)

# VESTABURG

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



**January  
4th-10th**

**Contact any NHS  
Member or Katie  
Bissell  
kbissell@ves-k12.net  
if you have  
cans/bottles to  
donate**

**Proceeds help NHS  
members with  
funding for trip to  
Philadelphia**

**THANK YOU!**

## Resources

### Other News and Links

[Employment](#) - VCS is still in need of Bus Drivers!



25-26 Academic Calendar.xlsx - 25-26 (2) (1).pdf

[Download](#)

69.7 KB



**VHS Handbook 25-26 -Official Copy (3) (1).pdf**

**Download**

1.8 MB



**VES Handbook 2025-26 - Official Copy (1) (1).pdf**

**Download**

1.4 MB



**Vestaburg Secondary Course Guide 2025-26 (2).pdf**

**Download**

548.4 KB



**25-26 VCS Elementary Program Guide (2).pdf**

**Download**

340.9 KB



**2024-25 Alternative Ed Course Description Guide.pdf**

**Download**

661.8 KB



**Success VCS Student hand book 25-26 (3).pdf**

**Download**

1.1 MB



## Contact Us

Email: [bhubbard@vcsw-k12.net](mailto:bhubbard@vcsw-k12.net)

Website: [www.vcs-k12.net](http://www.vcs-k12.net)

Location: [7188 Avenue B, Vestaburg, MI, USA](#)

Phone: [989-268-5353](tel:989-268-5353)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Vestaburg->



[Community-School-190353380995433](#)

Twitter: [@HSVestaburg](#)



**Created by Brandon Hubbard**  
VCS Superintendent

