

The Bridge



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Important Dates

Feb. 7	Math Field Day at PBHS; 4—7 p.m.
Feb. 9	GED Examinations at CTEC, 8:00 a.m.
Feb. 11	Board of Education Meets; 6 pm at BOE
Feb. 22	PK and Kindergarten Registration @ PBHS
Feb. 25	Board of Education Meets; 6 pm at BOE
March 11	Board of Education Meets; 6 pm at BOE
March 15	End of 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period
March 19	Young Writers Program at PBHS; 6:00 p.m.
March 23	GED Examinations at CTEC, 8:00 a.m.
March 25	Board of Education Meets; 6 pm at BOE
March 25	Report Cards Provided at All Schools
March 26	Parent-Teacher Conf. at Philip Barbour H. S.
March 29	Amended to become an Instructional Day
Apr. 1—5	Spring Break: Out of Calendar Days
April 8	Amended to become an Instructional Day

Hi Folks,

You have to love winter in West Virginia – the snow, the freezing temperatures, schools closed one day and then 60 degree weather the next!!

It is that time of year again when we are faced with tough recommendations regarding personnel and the budget. The uncertainties related to pending cuts in revenue from both Washington and Charleston make things that much harder in trying to work through the process. As we did last year, we again went directly to our folks to explain the situation and the subsequent recommendations to the Board. While making no promises or guarantees, we are working hard to post positions as quickly as we can to afford those affected an opportunity to bid for positions for next year.

Everyone's patience, understanding and trust placed in the process and those implementing that process were, and are, truly appreciated – for that I THANK YOU. I reiterate that everything will be and is being done to try to place folks in positions for next year as early as possible.

I have always been straightforward with folks. Even though this is a difficult time for the school system, and knowing that there may be more rough days ahead, the faith and trust I have in all our students, in all our staff, and in our county is unwavering. I know that everyone has our students first in mind. You have my assurance that whatever recommendations will be presented to the BOE will be done only after careful consideration of the students needs and in keeping the system financially sound.

Again, my personal "THANK YOU" to all of our folks for working with us during past couple of months.

Respectfully,

CTEC Projects Set for Summer 2013 Completion

\$1.6 Million Plan Selected for Funding by State SBA

Final plans are being made for a series of renovations and improvements at the Barbour County Career and Technical Education Center at the conclusion of the current school year. The \$ 1,614,752 dollar project is being funded through a competitive SBA Needs Grant (\$ 1,402,305 or 87%) and a local funding match of \$ 212,447 or 13%). Administrators note that the county share comes



from the district's Energy Performance Contract and therefore does not involve any dollars from the Barbour County Schools budget. Approved by the State in 2012, the project has six (6) major components and is expected to be completed before the doors open for the 2013-14 school year.

The needs addressed will include: a new heating-ventilation-air conditioning system for the main building; fire safety improvements (new sprinkler system, fire panel separator in the ProStart lab, and fire alarm and emergency lighting upgrades); renovations to allow expansion of collaborative learning spaces (e.g. New Tech laboratories); improvements in wireless technology capabilities; installation of Smartboard and projection hardware; and ceiling replacement. The goal of the initiative is to meet the facility's major health, safety and academic challenges and to provide students with a 21st Century learning environment.



Kindergarten & PK Registration Set for February 22nd at PBHS

Barbour County Schools will conduct student enrollment for the 2013-14 Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten programs on Friday, February 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the auxiliary gymnasium at Philip Barbour High School. Children who are currently attending a PK program will not need to register. Parents are reminded that, by state code, children must attend a state-approved Kindergarten program prior to entering first grade. Children who will be five (5) years old before September 1, 2013 are eligible for enrollment in kindergarten for the 2013-2014 school year. All county four-year olds are also eligible for PK enrollment during the same session. The make-up date, in case of school cancellation, has been set for March 1st.

County Youngsters Show Compassion for Sandy Hook Students



Barbour County Schools emphasizes character education throughout the year and it showed in several schools as students responded with compassion to the tragic events that took place in Newtown, CT during December. One example, shown above, was Kasson School's creation of a memory board and donations made for a 'care basket' to be sent to Sandy Hook.

Sheriff's Office Plans Regular School Visits Throughout County

The Barbour County Sheriff's Office is planning a new outreach effort that involves deputies spending time with students and staff members inside schools across the county in the near future.



The department is partnering with the Barbour Board of Education on the project. Superintendent, Dr. Joseph Super said the sheriff's department would work through details that would allow all deputies to have the opportunity to regularly visit schools in the county in one-hour blocks.

By interacting with students in a variety of formal and informal ways, "it will help them to view law enforcement in a positive way," Dr. Super said. "They'll know that this individual is in the building and they can turn to the officer if they need some help or advice."

Sheriff John Hawkins (above left) and other police officers attended a county-wide meeting in January to discuss the program. The sheriff's office has also made proposals for board of education consideration regarding the possible addition of a local bomb-search dog that could serve the school system in the case of an emergency or threat evacuation. Finally, Deputy Chad Kennedy (above right), a certified hunter safety instructor, offered to make his class available three times each year. Following discussions on both items, the superintendent and board members requested further information and documentation for consideration.

City Police Increase Patrol At Philippi Schools Intersection

The Philippi Police Department has resumed monitoring of the intersection of Cherry Hill Road with Mansfield Drive each afternoon when school buses and other vehicles depart the Philippi Elementary/Middle School campus. Interim Chief, Jeff Walters, asks local motorists to be especially careful between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. on school days, when hundreds of students, staff members and parents leave busy Cherry Hill Road and Jenny Street.



WESTEST Writing Windows Opened

Test date windows have been finalized for Barbour County's 2013 WESTEST 2 Online Writing Test, a part of the reading/language arts portion of the annual assessment. The approved dates for each school include:

- ◆ Belington Elementary: April 9—19
- ◆ Philippi Elementary: April 9—19
- ◆ Kasson Elem/Middle: April 9—19
- ◆ Belington Middle: February 25—March 15
- ◆ Philippi Middle: February 25—March 15
- ◆ Junior Elementary: April 9—19
- ◆ Mt. Vernon Elementary: April 9—19
- ◆ Volga-Century Elementary: April 9—19
- ◆ Philip Barbour High School: March 11—28



Upcoming Event Dates Announced

As Winter moves towards Spring, dates for several traditional county school events are being established. They include:

- ◇ **February 7:** 2013 Math Field Day at Philip Barbour H.S. from 4 to 7 p.m. (rescheduled)
- ◇ **February 12:** Golden Horseshoe Essays
- ◇ **March 19:** Young Writers Celebration at Philip Barbour High School at 6:00 p.m.
- ◇ **March 21:** Golden Horseshoe Objective Exam (middle schools)
- ◇ **April 12:** All-County Music Program at Philip Barbour High School at 7:00 p.m.
- ◇ **May (to be determined):** Barbour County Art Show at Alderson-Broadbudd College

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **403(b) Plan Information Available:** County school personnel should note that the 403(b) Plan Information brochure is now available. The retirement savings option is available to all regular school system employees. A copy of the 2013 plan has been sent electronically to all staff members with e-mail addresses. All others should check with their immediate supervisors to receive a paper copy. Those with questions about the provisions, policies or rules governing this annual offer are encouraged to contact the payroll office for further information.

PB Students Get the Royal Treatment



The students and staff at Philip Barbour High School continue to emphasize positive character traits each month to help promote a respectful and friendly atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Recently the school conducted a lunch challenge as part of its theme of "Colts Making a Difference." Students with the cleanest lunch tables and surroundings were served their meals by an administrator at a setting that included real china and glassware, along with cloth napkins, a tablecloth and a centerpiece provided by the ProStart program. The winning groups were served their meals and drinks and the table was bussed for them when they finished. It's an example of "little things making a big difference."

Proposed School Calendar Changes Are Announced



WV Code §18-5-45 requires school systems to achieve 180 days of instruction for students. To date this school year, Barbour County Schools has canceled seven (7) days of instruction for students due to hazardous conditions. With the number of instructional days already canceled, the school system is required to amend its calendar to achieve 180 days of instruction.

The sequential order that of days in the calendar to be rescheduled to instructional days are as follows: Out-of-School Environment Days (OS), Teacher-Parent Conference Days (TP), Continuing Education Days (CE), and then Instructional Support and Enhancement Days (IS).

Assistant Superintendent, Jeff Kittle, is recommending to the board of education that the following Out-of-School Environment Days (OS) be rescheduled as instructional days: March 18, March 28, May 24, June 4, June 5, and June 6. With the 7th day of instruction this school year canceled on February 1, the Teacher-Parent (TP) day scheduled for April 8th is rescheduled as an instructional day for students. With the 8th of instruction cancelled on February 4, the ISE Day set for March 29th is now rescheduled as an instructional day. As a result of this rescheduling the aforementioned OS, TP and ISE and days, it is also necessary to reschedule the June 3rd IS Day to June 6th to provide a better flow to the end of the year.

Another Strange (But True) Exam Answer

10. The diagram below best illustrates
- a. Lamarck's theory of evolution.
 - b. Darwin's theory of evolution.
 - c. Malthus's principles.
 - d. Lyell's theory about past changes.
 - e. Giraffes are heartless creatures.

