

The Bridge

Volume 13, Issue 3

Spring, 2022



Important Dates

March 11	End of Third 9-Week Grading Period
March 21	Report Cards Are Distributed
March 28 to April 1	Out of Calendar Days: No School
April 2	Hall of Fame Program at Philip Barbour HS
March 15	Out of Calendar Day: No School
April 18	Prof. Learning Day: No School—Fac. Sen.
May 10	Election Day: No School
May 20	Graduation Day for PBHS Seniors
May 27	Last Day of School: End 4th 9-Wks, 2nd S.
May 27	Report Cards Are Distributed
May 30	Memorial Day Holiday No School
May 31	Planning/Prep Day for Closing of Schools
June 1	PT Conf. Day for Personnel Who Need
June 2-7	OS Days: Last Day of Employment 200 Days
June 20	WV Day: Holiday; Schools/BOE Closed

Greetings to All,

Each and every one of us in the education profession are teachers. I have said this many times, but I believe it is worth repeating. All of the men and women of Barbour County Schools, regardless of their classifications or roles, are teachers.

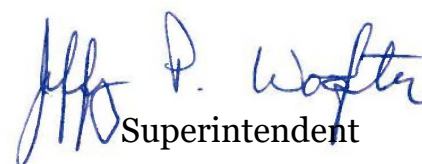
Children pay attention to the adults in their lives, and especially in our schools, and learn from what they see, not only in person but also on social media, at sporting events, and elsewhere in public. Therefore, it is imperative that each of us understand that we are modeling the behavior we want to see from our kids, like it or not, on a constant basis. That can be a heavy load to carry. The education profession is daunting enough, knowing that we are guiding and molding our children to be productive adults, without the added stress of worrying about how we are perceived both at work and away from work.

In my life, I have been a laborer, a business owner, and an elected official, all before entering the realm of education. From these perspectives, I can truthfully say that people outside of our field have no idea about what educators go through daily. It is truly a profession that can only be fully understood and appreciated by doing.

My advice to all is to make a concerted effort to be positive! On the buses, in the kitchens, the classrooms, playing fields, offices, at sporting events, and in social media, be positive. Yes, it is easier said than done, but it is something that can help us all make the best of even the most trying times. The past two years have been a little crazy. We have all experienced ups and downs and many are just about worn out.

Luckily, spring break is arriving at the perfect time, allowing us to get recharged for the home stretch. I hope that you all have a wonderful break and are able to spend precious time with family and friends.

Thanks for all you do, as always!


Superintendent

Eleven Honorees Set to Enter PBHS Hall of Fame on April 2nd



Coffman



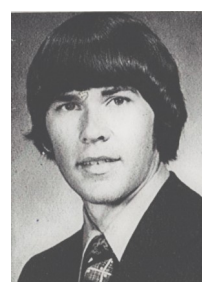
Cross



Kittle Kaiser



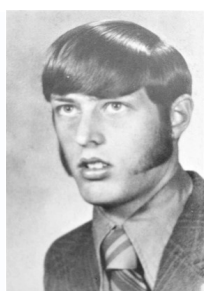
Murphy Osborne



McDaniel



Rogers



Hammack



Holbert



Shaw McBee



Swartz



Webster Pecora



Representing a broad cross-section of accomplishment, service and leadership, eleven new members will be formally inducted into the Philip Barbour High School Hall of Fame in a special dinner program on Saturday, April 2. The induction ceremonies had been delayed by the COVID restrictions of the last 18 months. These two classes of outstanding representatives of Colt heritage and pride will join the Hall's 24 standing members who were previously inducted from 2017-2019.

The six honorees from the Hall of Fame Class of 2020 will include, alphabetically by name while at PBHS: Bert Coffman (PB Class of 1966); Aaron Cross (Class of 2002); Melissa Kittle Kaiser (Class of 1990); Angela Murphy Osborne (Class of 1987); Tim McDaniel (Class of 1974); and Jeff Rogers (Class of 1984).

The five newest members, comprising the HOF Class of 2021, will include: Van Hammack, Jr. (PB Class of 1973); Cecil Holbert (Class of 1991); Susan Shaw McBee (Class of 1984); Melissa Swartz (Class of 1985); and Patty Webster Pecora (Class of 1984).

These two groups or family representatives, along with guests, will be feted at a special dinner program on the evening of Saturday, April 2, in the commons area at PBHS, where they will be introduced and presented with personalized gifts. Permanent plaques in their honor will be added to the school's Wall of Fame. The special guest speaker for this year's event will long-time PBHS supporter, Charlie Byrer.

School personnel and the public are cordially invited to attend the dinner program, with tickets available in advance at the high school or at the door on the evening of the program. A meet-and-greet for socializing will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the ceremonies set to begin at 6:30 p.m. Appetizers will be served during the reception, to be followed by a full-course meal, featuring entrees of baked steak and lasagna prepared by Laurel Mountain Inn. Adult tickets for the event are \$20, with children 12-and-under \$10.

Student Music Talent on Display as All-County Concert Returns March 14



Following a two-year hiatus, the annual All-County Concert returned triumphantly to the Philip Barbour High School gymnasium on the evening of Monday, March 14. A large crowd was on hand to enjoy a sampling of choral and instrumental treats performed by the scores of student-musicians from all elementary, middle and PBHS programs, under the direction of Barbour County's talented team of music education instructors.

The PB Drumline pre-concert warmed up the audience, which was then welcomed by BOE President, Joanne McConnell, and Superintendent, Jeffrey Woofter. The PB Colt band then opened the formal program with their rendition of The National Anthem. The Middle-High School Choir then performed two songs, leading to a special rendition of "That Lonesome Road" by the PBHS Select Ensemble.

The Kasson, Belington and Philippi Middle School bands then performed, followed by the Pride of Barbour County's "Great Locomotive Chase." Next, the Elementary Choir sang three St. Patrick's Day-themed songs. The program concluded with the Combined Choir and Band finale, with the always popular arrangement of "America the Beautiful" (shown above) under the direction of PB Bandmaster, Mr. Victor Iapalucci.

County's Top Young Writers Are Recognized During Annual Celebration Event



A total of 18 students were recognized for their writing abilities during the 2022 Young Writers awards ceremony in the auditorium of Philip Barbour High School on the evening of March 7. The winners were selected from scores of student writers from all county schools in grades 1-12. The ceremony was hosted by county K-5 Curriculum & Instruction Director, Connie Mundy.

Barbour County would claim a state winner when PBHS student, Elizabeth "Cadie" Kittle, a student in Fran Wagner's English class, was recently announced as the West Virginia title in the Grades 11-12 category. She is shown below reading her essay during the county program.



First place winners in the other categories of this year's Barbour County competition included:

Grades 1-2: Summer Croston, PES, Ms. Wolfe

Grades 3-4: Jordan Crites, BES, Ms. Fetter

Grades 5-6: Braydon Weaver, PMS, Ms. Jones

Grades 7-8: Madison Blake, PMS, Ms. Scott

Grades 9-10: Haiden Hedrick, PBHS, Ms. Halfin

Middle School Gymnasium Bleacher Projects Will Be Completed by Early April



The first phase of a three-part project to renovate the gymnasiums at Barbour County's middle schools is in full swing with completion of the installation process in early March of brand new bleachers at Philippi Middle School. The units replace seating that had been installed in the 1970s and had grown steadily more worn and unreliable over the past several years. The new systems feature current technology and are opened and closed via an electric push button system similar to the one in place at Philip Barbour High School.

Similar bleacher structures will be installed during the spring break at Kasson and Belington Middle Schools, with a target completion date of April 1. The units feature school colors and tight modern construction. In addition to the addition of contemporary seating for athletic and other large audience events, each gymnasium floor will undergo a complete deep cleaning during the project period.



Board of Education Meeting Dates Set for Spring Months

Following are the established meeting dates for the Barbour County Board of Education during the spring of 2022. All sessions are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

- ♦ **April 11** **Board of Education Office**
- ♦ **April 25** **Board of Education Office**
- ♦ **May 9** **Board of Education Office**
- ♦ **May 23** **Board of Education Office**
- ♦ **June 13** **Board of Education Office**
- ♦ **June 27** **Board of Education Office**

It's Maple Syrup Season at Junior!

For the past four years, third and fourth grade students at Junior Elementary have worked with Katie Wolpert to tap maple trees in the late winter and early spring. Supplementing lessons in math, science, and literacy, the project results in producing maple syrup. The WV tradition leads JES students through WV history via literacy and science vocabulary is built throughout the lessons too.

Students work with Ms. Wolpert in identifying maple trees through bark and branch patterns, make predictions on what weather makes the trees run the best, and how much sugar water it will take to produce a quart of syrup. Students gather the syrup in the morning



before classes start and bring it to their classrooms and cook it down in electric pots. By the end of the day, they can pour off their syrup in their jars to seal. The students are eager to get their first quart of syrup so they can enjoy a pancake breakfast.

Community Foundation Grants Will Assist Schools With Projects

Grant awards totaling some \$13,500 were recently received by Barbour County Schools for a variety of projects approved by the Barbour County Community Foundation during its 2021-22 grant cycle. Proposals are accepted each fall, with awards announced the following February by the BCCF.



Philip Barbour High School received \$2500 in funding for a modern portable training table that can be used on the sidelines for home and away athletic and other high profile events. The unit can be adapted to different training needs and service up to two students at a time.

A \$3000 award to Belington Middle School will be utilized for the establishment of a new multi-media news room that will serve as a public relations tool for the school while providing students with contemporary means for quality journalism experiences.

Kasson Elementary-Middle's \$2000 grant was awarded to support upgrades to the school's volleyball and softball facilities to benefit student and community programs.

Barbour County school libraries will benefit from the \$2000 grant to the Hackers Creek Pioneers Descendants Society. The genealogical organization will use the funds from the Nicholas Sturm Endowment to digitize many of its many family, historical and map resources. The products will be made available to all Barbour County schools and Alderson Broaddus University.

Philippi Middle School Family Engagement Endeavor Thriving

The Philippi Middle School staff recognizes that positive family engagement opportunities help parents feel welcome and a part of their child's school community. The school feels blessed to be able to design and provide experiences that caretakers can attend with their children. Through the Title 1 program, a WV Family Engagement grant, its School Leadership Team and PTO, PMS has hosted various activities such as an annual Open House, movie nights on the school theater screen, Bingo Nights with a variety of prizes and book giveaways, book walks and book fairs.

These are activities where attendees are asked to power down and enjoy their time together. The PTO works collaboratively with the staff to help sponsor events such as dances, hang outs (lock-ins) and Santa's Workshop. PMS has received funding from the Barbour County Community Foundation (BCCF) twice to improve outdoor space for intramurals and for the benefit of the community. This spring, a fitness station and a GAGA ball pit will be added. Other grant funded purchases include giant Connect Four games, giant checkerboards, giant tic tac toe boards, kickball and badminton sets all of which will be used to host outdoor game nights and intramural activities. Finally, this spring the 5th grade science students will plant vegetables in raised garden beds that their family members can help plant and maintain.

School connectedness and belonging have also been an emphasis throughout the year. Before leaving for winter break, students participated in a Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament. Winners received prizes such as championship ring (pop)s, pizza and special trophies.



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ Affordable Connectivity Program:

Parents who have a student in Barbour County Schools have been presented a great opportunity to save money on their monthly cell phone or internet bill. Because Barbour is a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) county, parents or guardians of children in the school system may be eligible to receive up to \$30 a month off their family cell phone or internet bills.

To obtain an enrollment form, parents should send an email to David Neff, dbneff@k12.wv.us, and include their child's name and school. He will email a copy back that can be uploaded for the application. One may also get a form by contacting your child's school or by calling the board office.

➤ Section 125 Enrollment Reminder:

The Finance Office reminds personnel that their Section 125 enrollment began on March 14th for plan year covering 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023. By selecting benefits under a Section 125 Plan, you are able to reduce your overall taxable income, resulting in more take-home pay for you! Take advantage of these tax savings by selecting benefits for your upcoming plan year. For more program information, see the email from Annette Hughart that was sent out to employees on March 9.

➤ **Certification Renewals:** BCS Staff members who will need to renew teaching certificates effective June 30 of 2022 are reminded that they may begin the renewal process at any time this spring. Any process questions may be directed to Homer Talbott, executive secretary, at the Board of Education office.

PES Kindergartens Celebrate "Read Across America Day"



Once again this year, kindergarten students at Philippi Elementary School gathered to help celebrate Dr. Seuss Day, also known as Read Across America Day. The annual event was established by the National Education Association, a professional employee organization committed to advancing public education, in 1998 to motivate "children and teens to read through events, partnerships and reading resources that are about everyone, for everyone."

National Read Across America Day is observed on March 2nd, the birthday of beloved children's book author Dr. Seuss. If March 2nd falls on a weekend, it is moved to the closest school day.

Theodor Seuss "Ted" Geisel was an American children's author, political cartoonist, illustrator, poet, animator, screenwriter, and filmmaker. He was born on March 2nd of 1904 and is known for his work writing and illustrating more than 60 books under the pen name Dr. Seuss.

Superintendent, Jeff Woofert, is shown above reading "The Cat in the Hat" to the children, aided in full character by Homer Talbott.