

The Bridge



Volume 10, Issue 3

Spring, 2019



Important Dates

- April 8** BOE Meeting: 6:00 pm
- April 12** Faculty Senates Meet -
2-Hour Early Release
- April 15** Instructional Days to
and 16 Replace Feb. 19-20
- April 17** Out of School Environ.
and 18 Days—No School
- April 19** Out of School Calendar
and 22 Days—No School
- April 26** Philippi Main Street—
Annual Art Stroll
- April 29** BOE Meeting: 6:00 pm
- May 13** BOE Meeting: 6:00 pm
- May 24** Commencement Day
for Seniors:
- May 24** Last Day of School:
Report Cards Distributed
- May 27** Memorial Day Holiday:
No School
- May 28** Planning & Preparation
Day for Employees
- May 28** BOE Meeting: 6:00 pm
- May 29** Parent-Teacher
Conference Day
- May 30-** Out of Calendar Days
June 28 (unless rescheduled)
- June 20** West Virginia Day:
Schools Closed

Greetings Everyone,

As I write this letter to you, I am anxiously awaiting the full-time arrival of spring. Mother Nature has teased us a few days with temperatures near 80 degrees, but then followed that up with a dusting of snow the next day just to remind us that we are in West Virginia. At the time of this writing, we are still looking at getting at least a partial Spring Break, beginning the Wednesday of Easter Week and running through the Monday after Easter.

We are quickly approaching the end of another school year. Philip Barbour High School's staff just finished the administration of the SAT test to their entire junior class and, from all reports, most students worked as hard as they could to score well. The rest of our schools are busy pushing for a strong finish to the school year with the GSA testing scheduled to begin in the next few weeks.

The West Virginia Legislature will be called back for a special session in Charleston sometime this summer to address legislative issues dealing with education. A few of us from Barbour County attended the education forum that was held at Robert C. Byrd High School a few days ago. Educators, legislators, local elected officials, and community members all gathered to discuss ideas about how our lawmakers should proceed during the special session.

The Barbour County Board of Education will also be holding a work session in late-April or early-May to discuss educational issues with our local representatives. To prepare for the session with the legislators, members will be discussing a number of issues with local educational stakeholders during a reconvened meeting on April 16th. The Board would like to invite any school employees, parents, and interested community members to attend this meeting to provide input on what they feel would benefit Barbour County Schools during the special session.

With spring's arrival, we are also finalizing plans for infrastructure improvements and furniture upgrades in many of our schools. Some of the upgrades will happen in the next few weeks, while others have been scheduled to begin when school lets out at the end of May.

Please keep pushing yourselves and your students for the next couple months. Do your best to finish out the year with energy and momentum, keeping in mind that a majority of the hard work has already been completed. Thank you for all that you do for our students!



Jeff P. Wampler
Superintendent

Students, Staff and Community Celebrate *Music in Our Schools* at March 19 All-County Concert

A typically large and enthusiastic crowd of parents, relatives, students and community music-lovers filled the gymnasium at Philip Barbour High School on Tuesday evening, March 19, to witness the 2019 performance of the school system's annual All-County Concert. The popular event is hosted by Barbour County's music educators and held each spring to showcase the vocal and instrumental talents of the many student-musicians who represent each of the county's seven schools.



Following a rousing pre-concert performance by the Philip Barbour High School drum line, emcee, Doug Schiefelbein, introduced Board of Education President, Eric Ruf, and Superintendent, Jeffrey Woofter, who shared welcoming comments with the audience. The PB Colt band next opened the festivities by presenting "The Star Spangled Banner," and then the county's middle and high school choir took center stage.

Led by school choral directors Laura Hart, Kim Neff, Edward Poling and Briana Pudsell, and accompanied by retired music instructor, Rick Kennedy, the ensemble opened with Amy Bernon's "Oceans and Stars", which compares a river voyage to our own journeys through life. The choir then performed "Count on Me," a tropical folk song that tells of enduring friendships. Arranged by Andy Beck, it was made popular by Bruno Mars.

Next, the respective bands from the three middle schools and high school each performed selections chosen for the evening. First, under the direction of Kim Neff, Kasson Middle played "The Tenth Planet" by Michael Story. Belington Middle, directed by T.J. Dalton, followed with Randal Standridge's "Afterburn." Next, director, Edward Poling, led the Philippi Middle band in Pierre LaPlante's "All Ye Young Sailors." The band portion concluded with a medley of four popular Rock and Roll Hall of Fame instrumentals performed by the PB Colt band, under the direction of Victor Iapalucci.

The elementary choir, representing Belington, Junior, Kasson and Philippi Elementary Schools, then joined voices to sing three selections: "Spring in My Step", "We Share the World," and "My Kazoo Fell on the Floor" under the guidance of their respective teachers, Tonya Baker, Laura Hart, Briana Pudsell and Kim Neff. The traditional finale, "America the Beautiful," concluded the evening as the hundreds of young Barbour County musicians all blended their talents to honor our nation and its veterans.



Jeffrey Woofter Named WV "Superintendent of the Year" by West Virginia Music Educators Association

Barbour County Superintendent of Schools, Jeffrey Woofter, was recognized by students, staff members and community citizens at the outset of the All-County Music Program for being selected as the 2019 Superintendent of the Year by the West Virginia Music Educators Association. Music teachers from around the state annually recognize the dedication, contributions and service of educators to students and their pursuit of music studies during the WVMEA In-Service Conference.

Barbour County Embarks Upon Comprehensive Mathematics Journey

Barbour County Schools is taking its emphasis on mathematics education to the next level through several initiatives that are now or will soon be underway. The county has joined other LEA's across the state in signing on to West Virginia's **Math 4 Life** program, a comprehensive and intensive statewide effort to improve students' math performance over the next five years. The Department of Education and participating counties have established leadership teams that will ultimately impact the state, district, school and student levels. The local team met for the first time on March 13 to review data and begin the campaign of setting the direction for math instruction in our county.



Two high-intensity training opportunities have been scheduled for June to help provide tools and motivation to local math instructors. From June 17-19 a workshop on **DNA Math** will be held at the high school beginning each day at 8:30 a.m. for math teachers in grades K-2 and 3-5. The sessions will focus on making sense of mathematics for teaching and creating shared visions of classroom instruction that advance student achievement.

Then, the **Big Picture Shift** training will be open to all math teachers in grades K-12 on June 24 at PBHS beginning at 8:30 a.m. This program will focus on what to look for and promote in instruction, exploring content-based strategies to transform teaching and advance learning, with emphasis on investigating shifts in planning, instructing and assessing, to create a shared image of successful math classrooms.



Board of Education Meeting Dates Set for Spring Months

Following are the planned meeting dates for the Barbour County Board of Education during the Spring months of 2019. ***The April 16 session will reconvene the March 11 meeting and then may be followed by a special meeting.* Each meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m.

- **April 8—** Board of Ed. Office
- ****April 16—** Board of Ed. Office
- **April 29—** Board of Ed. Office
- **May 13—** Board of Ed. Office
- **May 28—** Board of Ed. Office

Pro-Start Team from PBHS Excels at 2019 State Hospitality Event



Chef Christina Holbrook (center) recently attended the WV Hospitality Cup with two of her Pro-Start students. Halie Mayle (right) and Jaycee Everson (left) competed in the 2019 Junior Chef competition, in which both young ladies were partnered with a student from another state career-tech center. The teams then prepared and presented dishes for judging. Both students did an excellent job representing Philip Barbour's Pro-Start program. Jaycee and her contest partner earned 1st place awards, which included a \$16,000 scholarship to Sullivan University.



Do Your Best on the Test!

Tips and Strategies

When students ask why it is so important to give good effort on the General Summative Assessment (WVGSA) or the SAT or NAEP, here are some reasons, tips and/or discussion starters...

- *It is generally good practice to always give your best effort on anything you do. It becomes ingrained and a part of your character, and others will notice.*
- *While it is true that the GSA results will not affect your classroom grades, report card or promotion status, these scores become part of your official school records and, as such, will be available to future schools and employers.*
- *In addition to the importance of your individual scores, the overall grade level and school scores will be used to compare your school with other schools around the county, state and nation. We want to show how well prepared our students are! The results will also be used by the school staff to improve the curriculum as it analyzes strengths and weaknesses.*

Note: The teacher's attitude toward the testing process is critical because students are by nature intuitive. Also, be aware of the fine line between preparation and over-preparation. There exists a point of diminishing returns where students may become overwhelmed by the whole process and begin tuning out.

Before the Test:

- *Get a full night of rest before each of the testing dates so that you are fresh and alert the following mornings. Test sessions are usually limited to the morning hours to avoid fatigue and burn-out.*
- *Eat a good breakfast either at school or at home to provide fuel for the day's activities.*
- *Dress comfortably so that you are not distracted by clothing too warm, not warm enough, too tight, etc.*
- *When feeling nervous before the test, close your eyes and take several slow, deep breaths; spend a few moments completely relaxing your mind as necessary.*
- *Do not try to study for the General Summative Assessment or the SAT. Think of it as a non-threatening opportunity to show what you've learned over the past several years.*

General Test-Taking Tips:

- *On any online test, try to use the available technology tools. They are there to help you. For example, you can use the on-screen calculator in math for grades 6 and up.*

- *The GSA is untimed. Don't agonize over any one question. Work at a comfortable pace, marking any items that you need to return to, and use available time at the end of each section to review your answers.*

- *Answer all questions. All multiple-choice items are weighted equally. You are not penalized for incorrect responses. Your score is determined by the correct number of answers. Don't leave any answers blank.*

- *All tests have some hard questions. Don't skip them. It's much better to take a good guess. Use the process of elimination to reduce the number of choices and then make your best guess.*

- *Read all directions through twice. Never begin to answer questions before reading all directions.*

- *Read all passages in their entirety before attempting to find the answers to any related questions.*

- *Stop when prompted to at the end of the test section. Usually, you can then go back and work on any questions that were skipped and marked for review. Make sure that an answer has been bubbled for every item. You may then begin a quiet activity at your desk (e.g. reading a book, working a puzzle, etc.) until the rest of the class is finished.*

- *Use the highlighter and note-taking tools to mark key words or phrases that tell what kind of computation is needed in mathematics sections; for example, less than, greatest, between, nearest, least and so on.*

- *Use the provided scratch paper for mathematics calculations or helpful notations.*

- *Try out all answer choices until finding one that is correct. Sometimes the correct answer is not given. Then follow the directions for marking the none of the above choice. Similarly, sometimes the first three answers are all correct. Then mark all of the above as your choice.*

- *Watch carefully for negative words in directions, such as NOT or OPPOSITE. These words tell exactly which answer to look for. Such key words often appear in bold or italic type or all capital letters.*



New Lunch Alternative Program a Hit with Students at Philip Barbour

The recent introduction of a grab-and-go lunch option at Philip Barbour High School has proven very popular with the student body, according to



early reports. Available each Friday, the program gives students the choice of the day's regular menu items in the traditional lunch line, or

they can save time by going directly to the "Fuel Up" station in the commons area to grab a complete pre-packed lunch that is ready to go. A typical meal at this station might include a chicken salad with dressing, a dessert item, a bag of chips and a nutritious fruit smoothie as the drink.

Barbour County is one of four districts in West Virginia to have been awarded a "Fuel Up to Play 60" grant of up to \$4000 to help implement the program. Sponsored by the National Dairy Council and the NFL in collaboration with the USDA, the initiative is designed to provide in-school nutrition and physical activity ideas that will help today's youth lead healthier lives.

Teacher Certification Reminders Issued

Staff members whose teaching certification is due to expire on June 30, 2019, are reminded that the coursework required for renewal and an application for renewal must be submitted to the Personnel Office prior to the opening of the 2019-20 school term. Teachers are encouraged to contact their colleges with any questions. Also, those who have completed hours making them eligible for advanced salary classification are urged to submit all paperwork as soon as the class is completed. The county's state aid funding is based in part on current salary information. More importantly, the state will generally backdate salary increases only up to three months.

Annual Art Stroll Set for April 26



The 2019 edition of the Philippi Art Stroll is scheduled for Friday, April 26, from 5:00 pm. to 8:00 pm. The annual event is sponsored by the Philippi Main Street arm of the Barbour County Chamber of Commerce. Displays of art projects by students in Barbour County Schools will be displayed in the following locations:

- BES, KES, JES and PES: at the Philippi United Methodist Church
- KMS, PMS, and BMS: Philippi Public Library
- PBHS: Wanderlust on Main Street

Art teachers at the middle and high school levels will coordinate displays of art at the designated locations listed above, while county coordinator, David Neff, will display the artwork for elementary schools at the Philippi UMC.

In addition, Barbour County Schools will conduct a literacy event at the Wanderlust coffee house from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on the same evening. Title 1 teachers and any volunteers are invited and encouraged to participate. Mr. Woofter will join in by reading aloud to the students in attendance.



BC Schools Awarded BCCF Grants



Four Barbour County Schools have been awarded nearly \$8000 during the 2018-19 cycle of the community grant program announced recently by the Barbour County Community Foundation. The local philanthropic organization's mission is to build a better

life for the citizens of Barbour County in work, play and retirement. Schools and projects funded in 2019 include:

Philippi Middle School: \$2100 for start-up costs in kits and materials needed for the school's fledgling robotics after-school and in-school programs.

Kasson Elementary/Middle School: \$1500 to purchase gravel and blacktop to complete the school's campus walking trail around the playground.

Philip Barbour High School: \$1200 to initiate an incentive program to encourage students to stay in school and attend school regularly.

Belington Elementary School: \$3078 for a twice per week tutoring program and to purchase coding kits for robotics and the building of electronics.

Kasson Students Participate in Youth in Government Event at Capitol

During late-winter, Kasson Middle School students, Olivia Cherok, Alexia Ferber, Hannah Haller, and Mattie Marsh attended the 2019 Youth in Government Conference in Charleston with their social studies teacher, Miss Rochelle Nestor.



Sponsored by the Youth Leadership Association, the annual three-day event focuses on solutions for the common good and citizenship, rather than politics, political careers, talk or debate.

Junior Elementary Places 2nd In 2019 West Virginia State Robotics Competition



The three-student team from Junior Elementary School completed an amazing run of success during the 2019 West Virginia State Robotics tournament held at Fairmont State University in early March. The local team of youngsters, coached by Diana Bibey and Charla Reger, was comprised of Alexis Keyes, Izzy Knotts and Hayden Dalton. The group, which also included two parent volunteers, had begun its preparations back in September, learning engineering coding and programming, as they perfected their driving skills to compete in this year's NASA designed task.

The state tournament included the top forty robots out of hundreds from around the state. Just to qualify was an honor, but JES had higher goals. A total of 170 matches of 60 seconds each were held throughout the day, with Junior remaining in the top 16 in the rankings as the contest progressed, allowing them to advance to the state finals. The team's best score of the day vaulted the local squad into second place when the dust settled. JES was also awarded 1st place in the Judges Overall Competition Award category.

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➡ **Commencement Plans Announced:** The Philip Barbour High School Class of 2019 cordially invites family, friends and the public to the school's 56th Commencement Exercises. The ceremonies will be conducted in the high school gymnasium at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 24. The traditional Baccalaureate Service will be held at Wilcox Chapel on the campus of Alderson Broadus University the previous evening, Thursday, May 23, also beginning at 7:00 p.m.

➡ **Highmark Grant Provides Supplies:** The Highmark Foundation has announced supplemental funding of \$500 per school for the purchase of nursing supplies for the coming year. The charitable organization previously awarded \$1000 to each of Barbour County's seven schools for the same purpose during 2018-19.

➡ **PEIA Open Enrollment:** Public Employees Insurance Agency Open Enrollment for 2019 will be held from April 2 to May 15. During Open Enrollment, employees can change their health plans, add, drop or change coverage for themselves and dependents without a qualifying event, and make changes to their Mountaineer Flexible Benefits, if applicable.

Policyholders should have received a Shopper's Guide in the mail in late March that has information needed about the health coverage PEIA offers. Those who don't find answers in the Shopper's Guide can visit one of the upcoming Benefit Fairs. Representatives of PEIA, The Health Plan, Minnesota Life, Mountaineer Flexible Benefits, Humana, Go365, iSelectMD, and Rx Savings Solutions will be present. The nearest location for Barbour County staff is in Morgantown on April 25.

Elementary Students Enjoy Performance by the West Virginia Dance Company

County students in grades K-4 learned about different styles of dance when they traveled to Philip Barbour High School on March 22 for a special performance by the West Virginia Dance Company. The Beckley-based group displayed their artistry and athleticism to the enthusiastic youngsters as an arts enrichment project.



First Responders Visit Kasson School



Members of the Barbour County Emergency Squad spoke to students in the Kid Reach and Reach.U program at Kasson School in mid-

March to instruct them on how to deal with emergency situations. The youngsters toured the ambulance and participated in a question and answer session as well. The activity was funded in part through WVDE and ESEA and as a 21st Century Community Learning Center project.

