

# News and Information for Barbour County School Personnel

*The PB Class of 2021 Now Departs the Friendly Confines of Barbour County*

*Ready to Meet the Excitement and Challenges that Lie Beyond*

# The Bridge

Volume 12, Issue 3

May, 2021



## Important Dates

<b>May 21</b>	Graduation Day for PBHS Senior Class
<b>May 27</b>	Last Instructional Day; Report Cards Issued
<b>May 28</b>	Plan/Preparation Day for County Staff
<b>May 31</b>	Memorial Day Holiday; No School
<b>June 1</b>	P-T Conference Day; End of 200 Day Term
<b>June 14</b>	Board of Education Meets BOE; 6:00 p.m.
<b>June 21</b>	West Virginia Day; Holiday
<b>June 28</b>	Board of Education Meets BOE; 6:00 p.m.
<b>July 12</b>	Board of Education Meets BOE; 6:00 p.m.
<b>July 26</b>	Board of Education Meets BOE; 6:00 p.m.
<b>August 9</b>	Board of Education Meets BOE; 6:00 p.m.
<b>Aug. 12</b>	First Day of 2021-22 Employment Term
<b>August 12, 13, 16</b>	Professional Meeting Days
<b>Aug. 17</b>	Plan/Preparation Day
<b>Aug. 18</b>	First Day for Students
<b>Aug. 23</b>	Board of Education Meets BOE; 6:00 p.m.

Today is the last day for most students this school year...until next Thursday. That's right, the year that couldn't get started won't end until the end of June for many students and staff members. We are participating in the additional month of school in an effort to offset the learning loss that occurred during the past fourteen months of remote, blended, and almost normal learning.

I admit when I hear from the wise men and women of education describing the near catastrophic predictions of the effect of the pandemic on our children's ability to "Catch Up," I just shake my head in disbelief. In fact, I believe the experiences of the past fourteen months have taught all of us more than a "Normal" school year ever could have taught us.

Learning is the gaining of knowledge. It is not limited to what can be achieved in a brick and mortar classroom and happens only between teachers and students. As we have learned over the course of the last year, life and the human condition is the greatest teacher. It doesn't have content standards or pacing guides, like traditional education. It teaches us lessons, on a daily basis, whether we are ready or not, willing or not, or even want to learn.

Most children carry, in the palm of their hand, devices with more computing capability than the computers of NASA used in sending astronauts to the surface of the moon, and back. Our children have the ability to get the answers to questions in a few seconds that would have taken the people of my generation hours or days to answer. I am not saying this to diminish the importance of a formal education but to get people to relax and understand that our county, state, nation, and the entire world has lived the reality of the pandemic and most of us are in similar circumstances.

The past fourteen months has been trying for many students, staff, parents and community members. The pandemic has been the cause of unprecedented stress and anxiety regarding physical, social, emotional, and even spiritual health. We have lost friends, family, and a general feeling of control like we have never experienced before. Personally, it has been the most difficult time for me in all of my 58 years of life.

However, I do believe that this stretch of time has made all of us stronger, more appreciative of our freedom and of all of the blessings that we receive. I am proud of the work that the men and women of Barbour County Schools has done under the most trying of circumstances and I hope and pray that we all get an opportunity to spend quality time with our family and friends this summer and that we are reinvigorated to come back in the fall to what, we hope, will be a normal school year. Thanks again for your hard work and dedication to our students!

Sincerely,

## Farewell to a Colleague and Friend

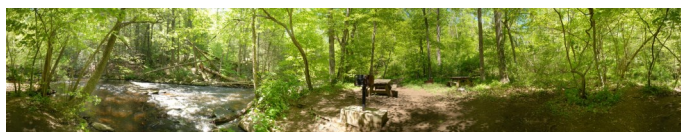
On Saturday, March 13, the Barbour County school community heard the sad and stunning news of the passing of Ronald Jeffrey Kittle, a longtime educational leader within the local school system. Mr. Kittle served with distinction in his varied positions as a teacher, school principal and county administrator for the past 25 years, including multiple periods of service as the LEA's interim superintendent.



Known for his love of family, outdoor life and all things West Virginia, Jeff brought a wealth of educational knowledge, life experience and common sense to his roles within Barbour County Schools. With his even temperament and easy grin, he had a knack for assuring those around him that everything would be okay, even in the most trying of times.

As the school year wound down during his 2010 stint as county superintendent, Jeff's letter to colleagues in *The Bridge* concluded with this: "Thanks for all that you've accomplished this school year. Please know that there are many students out there who have benefited greatly from your dedication to your jobs, and that their lives have been enriched for having been associated with you, as has mine."

*And ours as well with you, Jeff... ours as well.*



## 58th PBHS Commencement Held at County Fairgrounds on May 21st

Some 124 members of the Philip Barbour High School Class of 2021 culminated their 13-year journeys through public education and 14 months of overcoming unprecedented challenges by crossing the stage to become Colt graduates on the evening of May 21st at the Barbour County Fairgrounds.

The Senior Class and Student Council presidents, Bryanne Tustin and Payton Gregory respectively, shared thoughts on behalf of their classmates to highlight the program. Song Leader, Sarah Poling, performed the class song, "I'll Always Remember You" and led in the concluding Alma Mater. The PBHS



band opened and closed the ceremony with their familiar rendition of "Pomp and Circumstance."

Principal, Ron Keener, presented the class to Jeffrey Woofert, Superintendent of Schools, while Tonya Ferguson, CTEC Director, introduced students as they received their diplomas. The Class

motto was: "Together, we have experienced life. Separately, we will pursue our dreams. Forever, our memories will remain."

The 58th Commencement Exercises featured special seating, an outdoor venue and other arrangements designed to comply with COVID-related protocols. Class sponsors for 2021 were staff members, Michelle Harris, Tammy Hill and Tammy Zimmerman.

## 2021 Community Foundation Grant Funds Support Local School Projects

Barbour County Schools received several thousand dollars in grant dollars through the 2021 Barbour County Community Foundation earlier this year. The dollars were allocated by the philanthropic organization for projects designed for community improvement and support of its youth. The four approved BCS proposals during the cycle included:



*Philip Barbour High School:* Purchases of a visitor identification card printer/reader, along with new personalized welcome mats at the high school's primary entrances.

*Belington Elementary School:* Funding for the purchase of several tons of pea gravel for safety in the school's play areas. Volunteers will spread and maintain the gravel.

*Philippi Middle School:* Purchases of pieces of outdoor playground equipment and materials to promote and enhance physical exercise by students during recess and intramural periods.

*PBHS George Byrer Field:* Awarded to the Promise Foundation for the purchase and installation of two new water bottle stations in the respective locker rooms at BC Bank Park.



## Best Wishes & Thanks Extended to This Year's BCS Retirees

As of May 25, a total of four Barbour County School employees have retired or have formally declared their intent to do so at the end of the 2020-21 school year. The board of education, school administrators and colleagues all send their appreciation and best wishes for healthy and happy retirements to the following school personnel:



- ◆ **L. Jan Coffman: 40 years as teacher;**
- ◆ **Dr. Teresa Marsh: 21 years as teacher and school principal;**
- ◆ **Laura Shelton: 30 years as teacher;**
- ◆ **Sam Wright: 12 years as school bus operator**

## PB CTEC Receives ENTRE Emerge Grant For Entrepreneurial Program

The West Virginia Department of Education recently announced that the Career and Technical Center at PBHS had been selected for funding of nearly \$25,000 through the new *ENTRE Emerge* program for entrepreneurship. The dollars will help with start-up expenses for the school's proposed student centered microbusiness to be housed at the center. Located in a refurbished portion of the media center, the new store will display and sell products created or cultivated in the CTEC's various programs by its students.



## Local Young Writers Honored in County & State Virtual Ceremonies

A total of sixteen Barbour County students across six categories were selected as the district's Young Writers winners in virtual ceremonies held both locally and in the state capitol during recent weeks. COVID protocols did not allow in-person programs, but that did not dim the bright accomplishments of the county scribes.

This year's winners, along with school and teacher names, included:

**Grades 1-2:** 1) Liam Croston, PES, Ms. Hammack/Mrs. Moss; 2) Faith Green, PES, Mrs. Wilmoth; 3) Bailee Lewis, PES, Mrs. Allen.

**Grades 3-4:** 1) Joellie Mayle, PES, Mrs. Morehead; 2) Taylor Stutler, PES, Mrs. Gould; 3) Maddix Weese, JES, Mrs. Skinner.

**Grades 5-6:** 1) Landyn Carpenter, KEMS, Mr. Taylor; 2) Jayden Pitzer, KEMS, Mrs. Levesque; 3) Marshall Posey, BMS, Mr. Suder.

**Grades 7-8:** 1) Sullivan Grassi, KEMS, Mrs. Levesque; 2) Teagan Shafer, BMS, Ms. Boot; 3) Hailey Findley, BMS, Ms. Boot.



**Grades 9-10:** 1) Emma Whetzel, PBHS, Ms. Wagner.

**Grades 11-12:** 1) Graylin Floyd, PBHS, Mrs. Irvine; 2) Maggie Haller, PBHS, Mrs. Irvine; 3) Elizabeth Kittle, PBHS, Mrs. Irvine.

The county celebration was held virtually on TEAMS during the evening of Monday, March 15, while the state digital awards ceremony and workshops occurred, also via Microsoft Teams, on the morning of May 7. Mrs. Connie Mundy, Barbour County Title I Director, once again served as the Young Writers program coordinator.

## Barbour's Knights and Ladies of Golden Horseshoe to Be Honored in Late-June

Three Barbour County students will be among more than 200 to be honored as 2021 Golden Horseshoe winners from across West Virginia. All of the local eighth graders are students in Selena Strong's social studies class at Philippi Middle School. The honorees include: Mitchell Stone, Taylor Phillips and Ashton Sickler.

Since 1931, students have been honored as Knights and Ladies of the Golden Horseshoe for demonstrating exceptional knowledge of West Virginia history on the annual state-administered exam. The three Barbour County youngsters will join the ranks of thousands of state citizens who have won this prestigious award over the past ninety years.



County winners will have an opportunity to be recognized at the 2021 Golden Horseshoe pinning ceremony in Charleston on June 25. In addition, winners from 2020 have been notified of an optional knighting opportunity on June 24, 2021. Congratulations to all on their high achievements!

## Professional Certification Reminder

Barbour County teachers and other professional personnel whose certification expires at the end of the current school year (June 30) are reminded that they are responsible for submitting the appropriate application for renewal to the Board of Education office. Any questions may be forwarded to Homer Talbott at 457-3030 (ext. 1031) or htalbott@k12.wv.us.



### County Career-Tech Students Earn Honors at West Virginia Conference



The FBLA at Philip Barbour's CTEC was recently named WV Chapter of the Year for the 2020-21 school year. To earn this honor, local students remained active in charity events and other extra activities throughout the year, even while attending school remotely!

Barbour County also features young leaders who scored high in state level competitions and will soon represent the PB CTEC at the national Leadership Conference, to be held virtually this year in late June

The following county students earned honors this year during the state competition:

- 1st - Electronic Career Portfolio: Alex Thompson
- 1st - Publication Design: Emma Whetzel
- 2nd - Client Service: Savana Hedrick
- 2nd - Public Service Announcer: Trinity Ketchem
- 2nd - Intro. to Information Tech: Taylor Skidmore
- 3rd - Healthcare Administration: Carrie Wilmarth
- 4th - Graphic Design: Team of Linzy Wilson, Gage Iseli and Hannah Collette

### Unique Prom Held at PBHS on May 16th

The 2021 Philip Barbour High School Prom was one that will forever be remembered as unique. With an eye toward COVID protocols, social distancing and other safety strategies were put into place, but the Prom was held in a manner as close to normal as possible. Principal, Ron Keener, reported that it was a memorable evening and that a great time was had by all.



Using the commons area and new gymnasium, the event's New York City theme feature student art galleries, caricature drawings in a Time Square setting, complete with a bridge from the urban decorations to the dance floor area. A variety of food trucks parked outside the main entrance offered tasty items to the students, who each received vouchers with which to order snacks. In addition, about two dozen students from last year's cancelled Class of 2020 Prom participated as well.

### Homeschool Students Invited Back to Philip Barbour for 2021-22 School Year

With concerns related to the COVID-19 outbreak abating, students who withdrew from Philip Barbour High School over the past year or more are being invited to return to public school and pre-enroll for the 2021-22 school year at PBHS. School officials have announced that anyone who would like to pre-enroll may do so on Friday, May 28 by calling the school at 304-457-1360 to make an appointment. Doing this will help ensure that these students will have the best opportunities for placement in the classes needed or desired for the new year.



Students who opted for home schooling during the past year are reminded that those hours and grades do not count as credits at Philip Barbour since they are not accredited by the West Virginia Department of Education. Only high school students enrolled at PBHS, the WV Virtual School or another accredited secondary school can receive high school credits for coursework that has been successfully completed.

Those who are unable to attend the pre-enrollment or make their decision to return during the summer should note the regular fall registration dates of August 10-11, 2021. Appointments for those days may also be made by calling the school at the number above.

## Board of Education Approves 2021-22 Schol Calendar

Using Equivalent Time Option: ☒*Confirmed by State Department; Available on Barbour County Schools Website*

WVEIS:

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	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Instructional Days		Compensated Not Taught Days		Total Employment Days																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
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First and Last Dates	Faculty Senate Meetings	Professional Learning	School Holidays Within Instructional Term	Noninstructional Days - Recap	Totals	180	20	200
08 / 12 / 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First day employment term 08 / 18 / 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First day instructional term 10 / 06 / 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Last day of second month 12 / 23 / 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Last day first semester 05 / 27 / 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Last day instructional term 06 / 07 / 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Last day employment term	08 / 17 / 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1st Meeting 10 / 15 / 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2nd Meeting 12 / 23 / 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3rd Meeting 02 / 21 / 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4th Meeting 04 / 18 / 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5th Meeting 05 / 31 / 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6th Meeting	04 / 18 / 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Half day <input type="checkbox"/> 02 / 21 / 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Half day <input type="checkbox"/> 12 / 23 / 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Half day <input type="checkbox"/> 02 / 07 / 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Half day <input type="checkbox"/> 10 / 15 / 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Half day <input type="checkbox"/>	(West Virginia Code §18A-5-2) September 6, Labor Day November 11, Veteran's Day November 25, Thanksgiving Day December 24, Christmas Day December 31, New Years Day January 17, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday May 10, Election Day May 30, Memorial Day	CD <input type="text" value="0"/> Curriculum Development P <input type="text" value="2"/> Preparation for Opening/Closing Schools PL <input type="text" value="5"/> Professional Learning TP <input type="text" value="1"/> Teacher-Pupil-Parent Conference OS <input type="text" value="6"/> Outside School Environment E <input type="text" value="1"/> Primary/General Election H <input type="text" value="7"/> Holidays PM <input type="text" value="3"/> Professional Meeting ET <input type="text" value="0"/> Equivalent Time FS <input type="text" value="6"/> Faculty Senate NT <input type="text" value="0"/> Non-Traditional Instruction 20 <input type="text"/> Total Noninstructional Days	Out-of-Calendar (Non-paid) Days O <input type="text" value="14"/> Out of Calendar Days Maximum number of out-of-calendar days possible is 40 in order that the 200 day employment term does not exceed 48 weeks. Out-of-calendar days must be used to make-up canceled instructional days, if non-instructional days are not adequate, however, since June 20th is a school holiday, it cannot be used for make-up if its use causes the total number of holidays to exceed seven.			

Dates of Graduation					
School	Philip Barbour High School Complex	Graduation date	05 / 20 / 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School	
School		Graduation date		School	
School		Graduation date		School	
School		Graduation date		School	
				Date	Name of County Superintendent