



The Bridge

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Summer, 2018

Greetings Everyone,

It is hard to believe that another school year is complete and the time to re-charge your batteries is upon us. It is hard for people outside of the education profession to realize how important it is for both students and staff to have a break, take time to enjoy their families, and get ready to come back for another year.

I have to admit that, prior to my becoming a teacher, I also thought that public educators and school service staff members had it made. It wasn't until about half way through my first year that I realized that not only was it crucial to have a summer break, but absolutely necessary to keep people in the education field.

I'm sure you are all looking forward to the break, but there are many of our students whom we serve that are not as anxious to be away from school. Our schools provide a safe haven for them, they are assured at least two nutritious meals a day and they are cared for by people who truly have their best interests at heart.

Although most Barbour County School employees have an extended break, there are several of us who will be working throughout the summer making improvements to our buildings and grounds, developing handbooks and policies, setting up training schedules and working to finalize our budgets for the upcoming school year.



I certainly hope that all of you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and that you come back in August ready to do some more amazing things with our students.

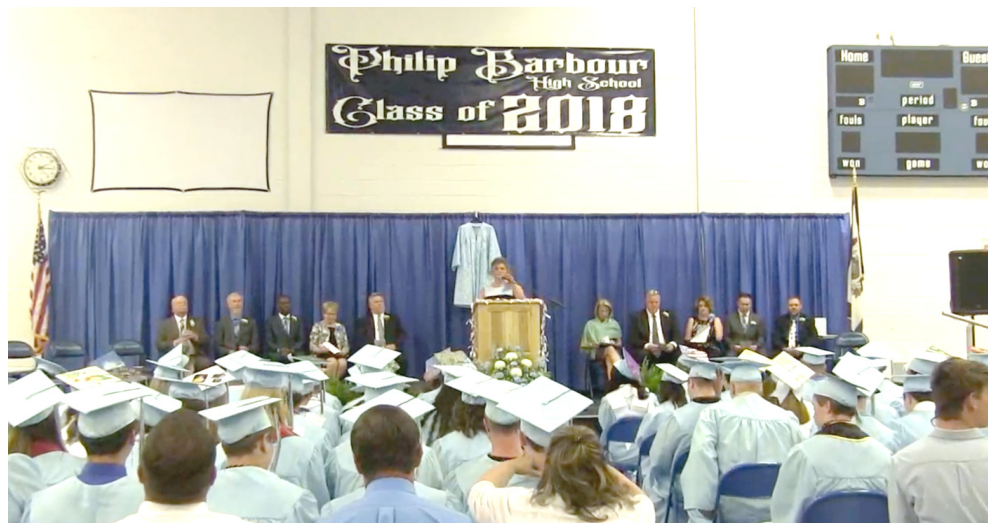
Thanks!



Important Dates

June 5-11	Professional Meeting Days for Staff
June 11	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.
June 12	Planning & Prep Day for Closing of School
June 13	Parent-Teacher Conference Day
June 25	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.
July 2	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.
July 23	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.
August 7	Registration Day for New Students
Aug. 8-10	Staff Development for All Employees
August 13	Prep. Day: Two-Hour Faculty .Senate
August 13	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.
August 14	First Instructional Day—Grades K-12
August 20	First Instructional Day for Pre-Kind.
August 22	Two-Hour Early Dismissal for PLCs
August 23	PBHS Hall of Fame Dinner Program
August 27	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.
August 31	No School: OS Day for Fair Activities

55th Philip Barbour Commencement Exercises Held at School on May 18th



A total of 117 members of the Philip Barbour High School Class of 2018 turned their tassels from right to left as they officially became alumni at the conclusion of this year's commencement exercises on the evening of May 18th. The well-attended annual event was held in the school gymnasium due to threatening weather. The graduating class included nineteen students with cum laude or higher honors designations, in addition to nine graduates from the PBHS New Tech program.

After Associate Principal, Autumn Queen, welcomed the class, family members and guests, Senior Class President, Maddi Carpenter, and Student Council President, Cadie McNaboe, shared memories of the past and thoughts about the future with their classmates. A highlight of the evening was the keynote address by United States Senator, Shelley Moore Capito, who offered her congratulations, advice and encouragement to the class.

Autumn McClung, a member of the Class of '18, then performed a vocal selection entitled, "I Lived—One Republic." Principal, Ronald Keener, followed with his final address to the class and formally presented the graduates to Superintendent, Jeffrey Woofert, who received them on behalf of the Board of Education and the community.

During the concluding presentation, each student was introduced by Tonya Ferguson, CTE Director, with Board President, Eric Ruf, handing out diplomas as graduates shook hands with the dignitaries on the stage. Following the traditional tassel and ring ceremony, Autumn McClung led her classmates in a final singing of their Alma Mater.

Philippi Middle Educators Plan Summer Learning Adventures

Angie McDaniel Nominated eCybermission Team Advisor of the Year

A trio of teachers from Philippi Middle School plan to spend a good portion of their summer days participating in different professional growth and enrichment activities. Staff members, shown left to right, Stephanie Henthorne, Julie Scott and Angie McDaniel will travel to West Virginia, Georgia, Virginia and Ohio. They have earned stipends for various trainings based on their selections during competitive processes.

Stephanie Henthorne has been accepted for participation in the Special Education Technology Integration Specialist (SETIS) program, beginning on June 25 in Fayetteville, WV with a follow-up session scheduled for Morgantown during November. The

SETIS program is designed to prepare teachers for leadership roles in the effective integration of technology into the curriculum. Participants in the cohort will work with students and teachers to promote rich, standards-aligned tools to enhance instruction.

Meanwhile, *Julie Scott* will be traveling to Atlanta, GA on June 17 to attend a weeklong summer TeacherCon workshop. This program will prepare Julie to teach a new computer science course that will be offered to middle school students across West Virginia beginning next fall. The course, entitled "Computer Science Discoveries," will feature a year-long class available as an elective for seventh and eighth graders during 2018-19. Participating students will learn how to construct their own websites, design apps, program games, and even create physical devices that interact with the outside world. Further, they will learn the computer science fundamentals that underlie the functions of modern technology that they use every day.

Finally, *Angie McDaniel* has been nominated to become the eCYBERMISSION Team Advisor for 2018 based upon her leadership and commitment to students. She has been invited to serve as a national judge during the organization's educational event in Reston, VA from June 20-22. In addition, Angie will be attending the Gateway Medical Detectives training in Dayton, OH during July. The *Project Lead the Way* program introduces numerous health field-related topics such as blood pressure, heart rates, pulse, body temperature and the senses. She will share the new knowledge with students next year, helping them to understand diseases and viruses and how they spread, even including the dissection of a sheep brain. The new nine-week offering at PMS will complement the existing Forensics course already in place at the school.



PB's Civil Engineering Students Tour Frank Loyd Wright's Fallingwater



Earlier this spring, Engineering students from the Career & Technical Center at Philip Barbour High School had the opportunity to tour Frank Loyd Wright's famous Fallingwater structure. The home was constructed in 1937 in rural southwestern Pennsylvania by the renowned American architect and has been open to the public as a museum since 1964.

It was originally designed as a private residence and weekend home for the Kaufmann family of Pittsburgh. Fallingwater actually allowed its owners to live within a waterfall. It is one of Wright's most widely acclaimed works and probably best exemplifies his philosophy of organic architecture.

Locker Motivation Tool at Kasson

A grant from A.C. Moore will result in Kasson students returning to motivational quotes and messages on their lockers in August. Custodian, Mary Shaver, is shown affixing one of the signs to a student locker at the close of the school year.



Kasson Middle Spanish Class Celebrates Cinco de Mayo Day



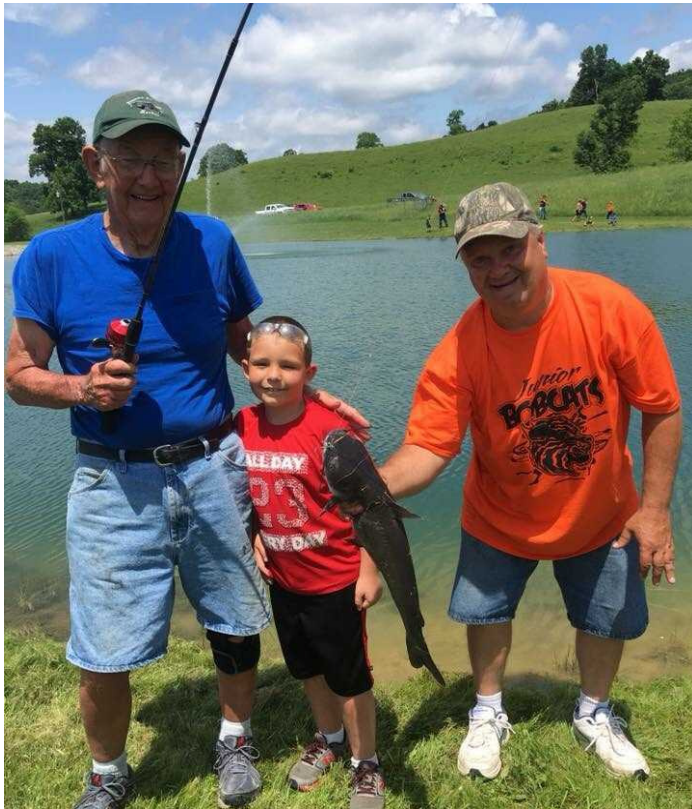
County Spanish teacher, Matthew Bright, the desperado at left above, continued a long tradition on May 5th by hosting the annual Cinco de Mayo celebrations across the county. At Kasson Middle School, the students and staff participated in several multicultural activities, including ethnic foods, traditional dress and the breaking of the piñata.

CTE Students Receive Governor's Awards in Charleston Ceremony



Five Career and Technical graduates from Philip Barbour High School received Governor's Workforce Credentials for placing in the top 2% of established criteria for grades, attendance and portfolios among state CTE seniors for 2018. Displaying their certificates following the Charleston ceremony are, left to right: Sandra Johnson, Gena Kelley, Kasey Neville, Amber Simmons and Jeremy Upton.

Junior Elementary Students Learn Eco-System Lessons at Local Pond



Students at Junior Elementary School took their second trip of the year to the farm pond owned by Lee Swartz in Belington. The youngsters at JES have been joined recently by community supporters from the American Legion, Sentinel Mines, Junior Lions Club, DEP and the Department of Agriculture in their participation of first-hand learning experiences.

First, the students watched an agriculture/USDA team presentation assembly on native animals. Later, they spent the afternoon fishing with the adult volunteers. Students caught six different fish species, including an eight pound trout and a 25 inch long catfish.

The students enjoyed working with the community supporters and expressed interest in their careers, perhaps even one day pursuing that type of work themselves. Junior students and staff members appreciated the support from these amazing men and women.



Board of Education Meeting Dates Set for Spring Months

Following are the anticipated meeting dates for the Barbour County Board of Education for the upcoming summer months. *Those marked with asterisks are tentatively scheduled until formally approved by the Board.* All sessions will begin at 6 p.m.

- **June 11—** Board of Ed. Office
- **June 25—** Board of Ed. Office
- ***July 2—** Board of Ed. Office
- ***July 23—** Board of Ed. Office
- ***August 13—** Board of Ed. Office
- ***August 27—** Board of Ed. Office

History Comes Alive for Students During *Blue and Gray* Reunion



Students from Philippi Middle School were among several school groups from Barbour County and across the region to participate in the Blue and Gray Reunion's Walking History Day activities on June 1st. The PMS group is shown above as they listen to a Union soldier re-enactor describing some of the strategies, supplies and equipment used during the first land skirmish of the Civil War.

Technology Influx Will Transform Learning Dynamics Next Year



Barbour County staff members and students are about to enter a new era of teaching and learning as the LEA joins the newest revolution in classroom computing. On June 7-8, teachers and administrators received training on the operation, management and benefits of Chromebooks in the classroom.

The small, keyboard-based laptops will aid local schools in meeting many of West Virginia's state standards as students learn, research, collaborate and create. These new instructional tools will be provided to all students in grades 3-12 throughout Barbour County for use at school and at home.

Students will carry their Chromebooks from class to class since it is anticipated that the devices will play a major daily role going forward. It is expected that student enthusiasm will be sparked by the new technology.

The county will provide ongoing support during the transformation process and understands that patience and perseverance will be keys to the program's long term success.

Barbour Community Foundation Awards Grants for School Projects

The Barbour County Community Foundation has awarded nearly \$8000 to Barbour County Schools for various project proposals made during the 2017-18 cycle of the organization's



annual community grant program. Each year, the Foundation solicits applications from area non-profit groups in the areas of arts and culture, health and human services, education, public recreation or beautification; and youth services. School-based projects approved during the most recent round of awards included:

- \$1630 to Kasson School for the purchase of a new robotics competition field and to help fund a student field trip to the Clay Center for the Arts in Charleston.
- \$2000 to the Philip Barbour High School art department for materials and equipment for three-dimensional clay and sculpture program improvements.
- \$945 to Philip Barbour High School for the addition of eighty (80) high interest books to the media center inventory, based upon the variety of student reading levels determined by lexile scores during recent standardized testing.
- \$2000 to Belington Middle School to assist in the purchase of four new uniforms for the growing Hawks band program.
- \$1320 to Philip Barbour High School for the purchase of several new stands for the percussion section of the Colt band.

PBHS Track and Field Teams Give Stellar Performances at State Meet

The Philip Barbour High School track and field teams traveled to Charleston on May 18-19 and came



home with a record number of medals and a new state champion. Senior, Kasey Neville, left, captured the West Virginia Class AA title in the shot put event, helping to lead the way as the girls' squad earned a school-record 21 medals in thirteen events. Fourteen different female athletes placed in the top three of their events. Meanwhile, on the boys' side, the Colt team delivered fourteen medals across eight different events.

A highlight of the trip was the special ceremony for senior athletes who were missing their home commencement programs. Donning their blue and white caps and gowns on the field as their names were posted on the scoreboard were PB graduates: Jessica Melvin, Kierra Hodge, Kasey Neville, Johnny Williams and Nathan Riccio. The Colts were led by head coaches, Jim Seaton and Roberta Hatcher.

Colt Girls and Boys Athletic Programs Achieve High Rankings During 2017-18

Philip Barbour High School's athletic programs received high recognition in the end-of-year MVB Bank Champions Cup rankings for 2018. Based upon a point system that rewards the top eight finishers in state championship events and graduation rates, the Colts' girls overall athletic program finished sixth in Class AA with 290 points, while the boys also cracked the top tier by finishing eighth in Class AA at 282 points.



Sarah McCauley Vismans Provides Message on "Grit" to JES Pupils



Junior Elementary School established a school wide theme for 2017-18 of creating a Growth Mindset with Grit. Students were encouraged to use "grit" in all tasks they performed and to also build a growth mindset in their school work, sports, and hobbies.

During May, JES invited Sarah McCauley Vismans to their year-end honor roll banquet for words of encouragement. She spoke to students about her journey through school and collegiate sports. She expressed to students that she didn't succeed in her career path and sports so much because of natural skill, but rather because of her work effort and grit.

Sarah, shown above with the honored students and in front of wellness poster with her life-sized portrait, sent them into the summer months with a challenge to put forth 100% effort in all they do and to set goals for their future. She also emphasized to them that anything in life is possible, no matter where you are from, as long as you set your mind to it and never give up. Sarah McCauley Vismans was an award-winning student-athlete throughout her school years in Barbour County, as well as during her career at West Virginia University.