



The Bridge

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Dear Barbour County Schools Colleagues:

It is an honor and a pleasure to return to Barbour County as Superintendent of Barbour County Schools. When I left Barbour County nearly twenty (20) years ago from my college teaching position at Alderson-Broadus College, I never in my wildest dreams would have imagined that we would be working together again nearly two (2) decades later!

Barbour County is a very special place with very special people. I remember very well the many school employees that I met years ago and I was very impressed with your desire, determination, and dedication to provide the best education possible for the girls and boys in Barbour County Schools.

Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for the warm and genuine welcome that you so freely gave to me when I joined your school system. Your kindness, thoughtfulness, and consideration are very much appreciated; and I look forward to working closely with you to help make an outstanding school system even better, more efficient, and more effective.

Over the course of this school year, I plan to spend at least one (1) entire school day in each and every school in our county visiting in each and every classroom and with each and every employee. I respectfully request that you be open and honest and tell me what you believe is working in our school system and what needs to be changed or "fixed" to make us even better.

The most difficult decisions are often not the ones in which we cannot determine the correct course, rather the ones in which we are certain of the path but fear the journey. Let's not fear the journey as we begin a brand-new one. Let's strive to do the right things, in the right ways, for the right reasons for the nearly 2,500 students in the Barbour County School system.

Please accept my sincere thanks for a wonderful opening of a new school year. It is my hope that each and every one of you have a great and memorable school year. Good luck, God bless, and best wishes as we begin a brand new journey. If I may ever be of any assistance to you in any way, please know that my door is open to you. Please do not hesitate to let me know.

Early Enrollment Figures Show 2500 Students in Barbour County Schools

Although official first month enrollment totals will not be available until later in September, the first week head count of pupils in Barbour County Schools shows exactly 2500 youngsters in attendance. Breakdowns by school include: Belington Elementary-328; Belington Middle-208; Junior Elementary-131; Kasson Elementary/Middle-200; Mt. Vernon Elementary-73; Philip Barbour High School-807; Philippi Elementary-432; Philippi Middle-252; and Volga-Century Elementary-69.

The distribution by grade level shows: pre-kindergarten-150; kindergarten-192; first grade-169; second grade-166; third grade-176; fourth grade-156; fifth grade-164; sixth grade-190; seventh grade-161; eighth grade-169; ninth grade-189; tenth grade-211; eleventh grade-183; and twelfth grade (largest class in the entire county)-224.



Warm Welcome Is Extended to All New County School Staff Members



The opening of the 2010-11 school year finds more than two dozen new professional and service personnel joining the staff of Barbour County Schools. As of the first week of September, a total of twenty-six (26) new employees were lending their skills and talents to provide the best possible educational experiences for Barbour County students. Best wishes for a productive and rewarding year are extended to:

Dr. Ben Guido, Superintendent of Schools; Barbara Harvey, bus operator; David Matko, bus operator; Matthew Ryan, bus operator; Vicki Gogikar, math/science teacher, Belington Middle; Vratpal Gogikar, multi-category teacher, Kasson Elementary/Middle; Sylvania Lima, physical education teacher, Mt. Vernon, Junior and Volga-Century Elementary; Danielle Nestor, pre-kindergarten/special needs, Philippi Elementary; Christy Weese, pre-kindergarten/special needs, Junior Elementary;

Stephanie Moss, pre-kindergarten/special needs, Philippi Elementary; Stacie Triplett, cafeteria manager/cook, Philippi and Mt. Vernon Elementary and PBHS; Cindy Vance, principal, Belington Elementary; Jennifer Martin, fourth grade, Philippi Elementary; Angela McDaniel, science/health, Kasson Elementary/Middle; Jessica Chenoweth, multi-category, Philip Barbour and Philippi Middle; Eddie Flowers, accounts payable, county office; Carol Mumma, physics/chemistry, Philip Barbour; Janet Poling, multi-category, Philippi Elementary;

Samantha Cox, multi-category, Belington Middle; Sheila Copeland, third grade, Philippi Elementary; Sarah Rutherford, science, Philip Barbour; Miranda Zickefoose, technology integration specialist, Philippi Middle; Annetta Vest, business education, Philip Barbour; Ryan Kelly, speech, Philippi Elementary; Susan Mitchell, LPN/aide, Philippi Middle; Gina Layhew, multi-category, Belington Middle.



“Wild and Wonderful Explorations” Camp Provides Summer Enrichment for Local Middle School Students

Dozens of students from Belington, Kasson and Philippi Middle Schools participated in Barbour County’s “Wild and Wonderful Explorations” camp from June 10-30. Funded by a WVSAN After-School Program Development Grant, the three week event provided pupils in grades 6-8, with enrichment activities focused on such areas as contemporary science and technology, culture and the arts, safety and responsibility, problem-solving and higher level thinking, and West Virginia heritage and pride. Based at Philip Barbour High School and staffed by certified county teachers, the program provided transportation, meals, guest speakers, special programs and field trip “explorations” to such varied locations as the Anna Jarvis museum, Adaland Mansion (right), Grandview State Park for “The Hatfields and McCoys,” the New River Gorge and the Exhibition Coal Mine at Beckley.





2010 Barbour AYP Results Discussed: Local Schools Meet 339 of 342 Indicators

Submitted by the BCS Title I Office

Barbour County Schools' mission is to provide educational excellence with **commitment to learning for all** in preparation for the challenges of the 21st century. We strive to prepare our children for tomorrow's world and assure their ability to pursue a career or further their education.

Barbour County Schools also strives to keep our parents and community informed about important issues affecting our schools. Each August, all West Virginia school districts are notified by the West Virginia Department of Education of their Adequate Yearly Progress status in relation to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is a key part of NCLB, and AYP status is determined by the number of students meeting or exceeding state academic standards on tests in Reading and Mathematics as compared to state norms. Additionally, WESTEST participation, attendance, and graduation rates are included in the determination of AYP status.

We are pleased that the following schools made Adequate Yearly Progress for the 2009 – 2010 school year: Belington Middle, Junior Elementary, Kasson Elementary/Middle, Mount Vernon Elementary, Philip Barbour High School, Philippi Middle and Volga-Century Elementary. Belington Elementary and Philippi Elementary did not make AYP due to the fact that each school had at least one subgroup that did not demonstrate adequate progress in Reading and/or Mathematics. Overall, the above listed schools made Adequate Yearly Progress in 339 out of a possible 342 indicators. Barbour County Schools was identified as not making Adequate Yearly Progress. Statewide, 49 out of 55 counties did not make AYP.

The federal law, No Child Left Behind, requires that schools that do not meet the state standards of AYP for two consecutive years are identified for "school improvement". Philippi Elementary School has not met the state standards for Adequate Yearly Progress in 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. As a result, parents of students that attend Philippi Elementary School have the right to request their children be transferred to either Mount Vernon Elementary School or Volga-Century Elementary School given available space. Parents received letters prior to the first day of school explaining Philippi Elementary's School Choice status.

Schools and school districts not making AYP are required to revise their five year strategic plans to address the areas targeted for improvement by working with school, district staff, parents, and community members. Barbour County Schools' has begun the process of addressing the targeted areas for improvement. For more information you can contact Jack Reger, Barbour County Schools, at 457-3030 or visit our website at www.wvschools.com/barbourcountyschools.

Earlier Intervention Seen as Key to New County Student Attendance Policy

In accordance with recent legislative action which modified the state's mandatory attendance code, Barbour County Schools Policy 8210, section 7.2, has decreased the reaction time in cases of unexcused absences from ten days to just five per school year. At that point, beginning in 2010-11, a formal CA-2 form will be issued to the family and a formal meeting involving the student, parent, principal and county official will be scheduled. Cases may be referred to the judicial system at any point following this meeting. It is anticipated that this early and coordinated intervention will result in fewer instances of truancy, more regular attendance and better opportunities for success in the classroom.



— Odds 'N' Ends —

New Board Meeting Times Announced:

Beginning with the 2010-11 school term, regular meetings of the Barbour County Board of Education will commence at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Any special meetings or necessary changes in the regular schedule will be announced in advance to the public and school personnel. September meetings are currently planned for Monday, September 13, and Monday, September 27, both beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the board of education office in Philippi.

Sam's Club Partner Program Reminder:

County school personnel are reminded that the deadline for submitting the orange Sam's Club Partner Membership Program forms to the Finance Office is the close of business on Friday, September 10. All new and renewed members will receive a \$10 gift card. Questions about the program can be directed to Sharon Allen, Payroll Benefits Coordinator, at 457-3030 (ext. 136).

GED Exam Dates Revealed for 2010-11:

Local citizens may prepare and register for the GED exams through Barbour County's Adult Basic Education program, located at the Career and Technical Education Center on the campus of PBHS. Over one hundred individuals have earned their equivalency diplomas through Barbour County Schools during the past three years. All announced dates are on Saturdays and testing begins at 8:00 a.m. They include: October 2, November 13, December 18, February 12, March 26, May 14 and June 28.

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Two County Staff Members Selected To Help Design WVDE's Learn 21 Website

A pair of Barbour County educators has been selected by the West Virginia Department of Education to serve as members of the new PreK-12 Learn 21 Team. Jana Ruf and Julie Scott, technology integration specialists at Belington Elementary School and Philip Barbour High School respectively, will begin training on September 18 in Charleston to assist with the continued development of the WVDE Learn 21 website. Their work will be associated with the identification, review and acceptance of Learn 21 materials on the web. Resources scheduled to be added during the 2010-11 school term are: Math (PreK-2, 3-5, 6-8), Social Studies (PreK-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12), and Science (PreK-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12). Language arts and reading resource work will begin during the second semester of 2010-11. For more information about this initiative, personnel may visit: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/learn21/>.

Health Care Reform Law Clarification Provided on Benefit Values and Taxes

The Business Office is providing the following information in response to several questions that have been posed recently regarding W-2 forms and the new Health Care Reform Law (Affordable Care Act). Most questions are along the lines of "Will the requirement to report the value of my health insurance on my W-2 for 2011 mean that I am being taxed on those benefits?" Because of some confusion and inaccurate information that is circulating, here is a concise response to the question:

Myth: The requirement of the employer to report the value of employer-sponsored health coverage on the 2011 W-2 means that employees will have to pay taxes on the value of those benefits.



Fact: Although ACA does require employers to report the value of health insurance benefits on the 2011 W-2, the reporting is for informational purposes only and will not cause the employee (or employer) to pay taxes on the amounts reported.