



The Bridge

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Occasionally, Superintendent Woofter will ask someone in the system to serve as a guest contributor and write the Page One message for The Bridge. The thoughts for this issue are shared by retired educator, Doug Schiefelbein.

From “Captive” to “Captivated”

You may have missed it, but Channel One went permanently dark a few months ago. The ambitious project, which dawned in the early 1990’s, offered schools “free” satellite dishes, monitors and the infrastructure with which to record and broadcast professionally-produced 12-minute daily news programs geared towards students. By meeting a few requirements, schools could also use the then-cutting edge systems for other educational purposes like educational videos, movies and live on-campus events. After some consideration, Philip Barbour jumped aboard, followed later by county middle schools. The pluses were obvious: much needed communication technology that would not otherwise be affordable; and new opportunities to expose our relatively insulated student population to current events, features about other cultures and different perspectives on the issues of the day.

On the other hand were concerns that students at Channel One schools were in fact a “captive audience” that had no choice but to watch and listen to whatever was aired. Some critics feared the potential for political biases. But most complaints centered on the required two minutes of commercials embedded within each broadcast (which ultimately paid for the initiative nationwide). Some parents and teachers were upset that their children were being influenced, subtly or overtly, to buy or use everything from school supply products to snacks and fast food to certain television shows. Following its heydays of the 1990’s and early 2000’s, Channel One’s technology eventually became dated, its business model changed and many subscribers, Barbour County included, departed. And now the simple but revolutionary concept has officially become a footnote in American education history.

Fast-forward to 2018. Once again, Barbour County has joined a growing vanguard of school systems looking to blend high technology to best educational practices. A quarter century later, our students today are part of the first generation to grow up completely immersed in technology, so it begs the question: why not use this natural hook at school to capture and maintain pupil interest with available learning tools that they can control, organize and interact with? So, this month, Barbour County is programming and distributing more than 1500 Chromebooks for teachers and all students in grades 3-12. By placing a fully-functional computer in the hands of each of its pupils on a 1:1 basis, educators can tap into children’s inherent curiosity and fascination, empowering them with machines that can more quickly and efficiently do as much as a dozen traditional tools back in the Channel One era..

Designed to support and enhance (rather than supplant) teacher instruction, the Chromebook project has the capacity to supercharge classrooms in such areas as: organization, productivity, collaboration, content personalization and access to real-time information. Early reports from county educators describe students with big smiles and general excitement about receiving their “very own” personal computers, along with their amazement at the many cool things it will help them do both at school and at home. It appears that they are quickly becoming a “captivated audience,” one that is both willing to try and eager to use technology to learn in ways that many of them had never before imagined. In 1980, Steve Jobs described computers as “bicycles for the mind” and wondered about their future role in education. In the coming days, Barbour County’s students will climb aboard their new bikes and embark upon countless journeys to amazing places that will help shape and guide their futures.



Important Dates

Sept. 3	Labor Day Holiday: No School
Sept. 13	GSA Results May Be Released
Sept. 19	PLC Meetings: Two- Hour Early Dismissal
Sept. 19	Student Progress Reports Distributed
Oct. 12	Faculty Senate: Two- Hour Early Dismissal
Oct. 15	End of the First Nine- Week Grading Period
Oct. 23	Nine-Weeks Report Cards Distributed
Oct. 23	Elementary Parent- Teacher Conferences
Oct. 24	Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct. 25	High School Parent- Teacher Conferences
Nov. 6	Election Day: No School - Vote!
Nov. 7	PBHS Career Fair: 1:00 p.m. Commons
Nov. 12	Veterans Day Holi- day: No School
Nov. 16	Student Progress Reports Distributed
Nov. 19 thru 23	Out of Calendar Days: No School
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday: No School

Greetings Extended to Large Group of New County School Staff Members

The first month of the 2018-19 school year shows a total of twenty-nine (29) new professional and service staff members joining the ranks at Barbour County Schools. As of mid-September, the following personnel were adding their skills and talents to provide the best possible educational experiences for Barbour County students.



Danielle Gray, Itinerant, PE/Parenting; Megan Stell, Philippi Elementary, 1st Grade; Brianna Huffman, PBHS, Spanish/Computers; Jordan Haines, Philippi Middle, Mathematics; William Lanham, Junior Elementary, Social Work; Jonathan Talkington, Maintenance Department; Diana Upton, Philippi Middle, English/Language Arts; Harry Olenick, PBHS, Social Studies; Andrea White, Itinerant, Academic/Data Coach; Sebastian Swartz, PBHS, Chemistry/Physics; Greg Hoskins, PBHS, Science; Catlin Carrico, Kasson School, Science; Mahaley Vargo, Philippi Elementary, Kindergarten.

Also, Lindsey Skinner, Junior Elementary, 3rd Grade; Briana Pudsell, PBHS/Junior; Music/Theater; Alex Pugh, County Office, Accounts Payable Supervisor; Aaron Grose, Philippi Middle, Custodian; Christina Mayle, County Office, Child Nutrition Director; Hatti Phillips, Philippi Middle, 5th Grade; Chris Grecek, Philippi Middle, 5th Grade; Trevor Mouser, Belington Middle, Mathematics; Michael Poston, Bus Operator; Travis Delauder, PBHS, Custodian; Samuel Wagner, Belington Middle, Interpreter/Aide; Robin Poling, PBHS, Cook; Christina Holbrook, PBHS, Pro-Start; Justin Suder, Belington Middle, English/Language Arts; Robin Reed, Philippi Elementary, Kindergarten; and Kate Kincaid, Junior Elementary, Kindergarten Aide.

Angela McDaniel To Represent Barbour as Teacher of the Year

Philippi Middle School's Angela McDaniel was named Barbour County's 2018-19 Teacher of the Year during an end-of-year ceremony at Philip Barbour High School in early June. The 23-year veteran educator, shown with her award at left below, along with fellow TOY colleagues, is entering her second year at PMS as a science and Project Lead the Way teacher.



As a National Board Certified Teacher and recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science among her awards earned, Angie has been on the cutting edge of STEM initiatives in recent years and has raised thousands of dollars to support her students through grants and Donors Choose projects.

Her philosophy of education is related directly to the subject she teaches, as Mrs. McDaniel strives to make her classes student-driven with an approach that engages her pupils both mentally and physically. By varying learning modalities, Angie allows students to learn in ways that they are most comfortable. She finds that this can be best accomplished in an inquiry based laboratory (hands-on) setting, perhaps best summed up in a favorite quote by Benjamin Franklin: "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember; involve me and I learn."

Melissa Zirkle Named District's Service Person of the Year



Melissa Zirkle, an LPN aide in her second year at Philippi Elementary School, was honored as the Barbour County Service Person of the Year during the county's year-ending meeting last spring. Melissa, fourth from the left, front row above, is shown holding her Educator Apple award, and is joined by her fellow nominees and Board of Education member, Dave Everson, and Superintendent, Jeffrey Woofert, back row.

Ms. Zirkle is described by her colleagues as dependable, pleasant, hard working and dedicated to the students in her charge. Following a period of time on the LEA's substitute list, she served as a Licensed Practical Nurse aide during 2015-16 and 2016-17 at Philip Barbour High School before moving on to her duties at PES.



"They call it the 'Three R's,' and then say we can't spell!"

Philip Barbour Hall of Fame Welcomes Class of 2018



Eight new members were inducted into the Philip Barbour High School Hall of Fame during August 23-24. The group was honored in special ceremonies at the annual dinner program at the high school on Thursday evening, and again prior to the first home football game at BC Bank Park the following night.

"The Hall of Fame exists to recognize alumni and others who have brought recognition and honor to the Columbia Blue and White through their exceptional achievements and service to Philip Barbour High School" according to the organization's mission statement. The HOF committee plans to so commemorate PB's 55-year history annually, having now just "scratched the surface."

Former PB teacher, coach and athletic director, Linda Sandusky, served as the 2018 guest speaker, and honorees or family representatives shared thoughts and memories during the evening after receiving their HOF plaques and personalized gifts.

Nominations for the 2019 cycle will be accepted from January 1 to February 15. Additional information will be available through local media and the PBHS school website and the Hall's Facebook page.



Surrounding HOF committee members, Ron Keener and Sherri Fridley, center, are PB's Class of 2018 HOF inductees and representatives. They include, from left: Mary (Daugherty) Poling, Jessica (Maunz) Salfia, Sarah (McCauley) Vismans, Roger L. Nestor, Capt. Donald Schnably, Priscilla Serafin, Tina (Wright) Shriver and Joshua Yeager.

Clay Center Grant to Nurture Expansion of KEMS Robotics

"Robots: Our Other Best Friends" is the name of the Kasson Elementary/Middle School Clay Center project that was funded for \$23,300 during the summer. Similar to the long and abiding relationship between mankind and the domesticated dog, the new bonds being formed with robots among modern students are based upon close relationships that feature trust, training, task assistance and dependable companionship. Student fascination with robots and automation has driven the school to expand its program from one team to possibly six by the end of the 2018-19 school year.



Kasson recently sponsored a station at the Barbour County Fair during Education Day. In addition to demonstrating a working robot, the students helped youngsters create their own "fun" robots out of marshmallows and pretzels.

Acknowledged as one of the pioneers in the exploration and implementation of STEAM education in north central West Virginia, the small, rural Barbour County school has in just two years nurtured basic student curiosity into a successful and vibrant program that has captivated a school and its community. With the Clay Center grant funding, KEMS is poised to become a willing model for other schools as it strengthens and expands its robotics program through robust staff training, new partnerships and the acquisition of contemporary technology plans, equipment and materials.

The Clay Center funds will be used for Project Lead the Way training, substitute costs, travel expenses for student teams traveling to regional and national events, contest fees and robotics-based software, hardware, equipment and materials.

2018-19 County Adult Education Program Is Ready to Serve

Barbour County's Adult Education staff has made plans for a busy year this fall with programs and services now underway that are designed to "enable adult workers to be literate, productive and successful in the home, the workplace and community."

Staffed by its experienced instructor, Michelle Gainer; Examiner, Angie Harris; and Director, Tonya Ferguson, the team offers preparation classes for citizens seeking high school equivalency credentials through the Test Assessing Secondary Completion. Last year, 49 local citizens participated in TASC, computer literacy and TEAS academic coursework.

Mrs. Gainer's classes are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Barbour County Career and Technical Education Center. The instructional periods will be available to citizens who wish to prepare for high school equivalency diplomas through the TASC program, brush up on mathematics or reading skills or would like assistance in computer training or the preparation of resumes.

The tentative 2018-19 TASC exam schedule has been announced as follows:

- **October 17-18, 2018**
- **December 19-20, 2018**
- **February 13-14, 2019**
- **April 10-11, 2019**
- **June 5-6, 2019**



Board of Education Meeting Dates Set for Fall Months

Following are the scheduled meeting dates for the Barbour County Board of Education during the upcoming autumn months. LSIC meetings will commence at 6:00 p.m. for the respective listed schools, with regular business meetings to follow after a short break:

- **Sept. 10 — Kasson School**
- **Sept. 24 — Philippi Elementary**
- **Oct. 8 — Belington Elementary**
- **Oct. 22 — Philip Barbour H. S.**
- **Nov. 12 — Junior Elementary**
- **Nov. 26 — Belington Middle**
- **Dec. 10 — Philippi Middle**

Appreciation and Gratitude Expressed to County Retirees

Superintendent Jeffrey Woofter and members of the Barbour County Board of Education have expressed gratitude for the dedication and service of the eight professional and service staff members who have concluded their careers in education since the summer of 2017. Best wishes for happy and healthy retirements are extended to the following employees, who represent more than 200 years of service: Sandra Haller; Beldine Mayle; Boyd Mayle; Karen Shannon; Stanley Fitzwater; Philip Bowers; Rebecca Shaffer and Rebecca Bartlett.

THANK YOU!

Late Summer Camp at Junior Blends Learning with Fun



For the second straight year, students at Junior Elementary School prepared for the new school term by participating in an action-packed, late-July camp held on the school campus. Aided by Matthew 25 Ministries of Ohio, JES staff and pupils engaged in a variety of learning, fun and engagement activities. The week was filled with events such as: rocketry design, creation of simple machines, relay races, following recipes for food products and soap, and participation in skits. Plans are already underway for Year 3 of the summer camp.

Kid Reach Programs Begin at Kasson

During September, students at Kasson have become members of the Kid Reach (elementary) and Reach U (middle) after-school networks. They can now enjoy a meal, receive homework help and participate in hands-on learning activities throughout the year. On August 13, Program Director, Carol Malcolm Parsons (below), spoke to parents about the new KEMS programs.



WVU Extension Service Offers School Enrichment Programs

Amanda Johnson, Barbour County's 4-H Extension Agent for Youth Development, has announced the school enrichment programming available to the LEA during 2018-19. Her offerings, which reflect hands-on and educational activities, are highlighted in blue below while those conducted by **Barbara Wolfe**, Health Educator, are shown in green. County educators may call 457-3254 to contact the office and schedule a program:

The Germ Stops Here: hand washing, fluorescent lotion and a UV lamp; PK to 1st grade; 40 minutes.

Introduction to Gardening: pollination, gardening and the food cycle; 2nd grade; 30-40 minutes.

Alka-Seltzer Rockets: Newton's 3rd Law of Motion; sponsored by Mace's Pharmacy; 3rd grade.

Lego Robotic Education: Science; Legos demonstrate plant pollination & animals; 4th grade; 60 minutes.

ATV Safety: peer education; ATV safety equipment & guidelines; 5th Grade or Health/PE.; 4 x 45 minutes.



Show Me Nutrition: USDA My Plate method to teach nutrients & healthy foods; PK-5th grade; 45 minutes.

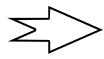
Re-Think Your Drink: benefits of water & milk instead of sugary drinks; PK-5th grade; 30-45 minutes.

Learn, Grow, Eat and Go!: 6-week curriculum plant nutrition and physical activity; 3rd grade; 45 minutes.

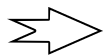
WV Garden Challenge: home gardens, learning about seeds & planting them; PK-12th grade; 30 minutes.

Teen Cuisine: learn to cook and nutrition education; 6 weekly lessons; read labels, use recipes, food handling; small groups; 6th to 12th grades; 60-90 minutes.

— Odds 'N' Ends —



New Program Produces Surge in Breakfast Participation: The Child Nutrition department at Barbour County Schools is crediting the new "Breakfast after First" program for a substantial increase in the numbers of middle school students who are participating in the county meal program. According to Coordinator, Christina Mayle, the rate of breakfasts served at Belington and Philippi Middle Schools has risen by nearly 50% so far this school year. The two schools join Philip Barbour High School in providing the nutritious breaks as delivered to various locations by food service staff following first period classes.



Grant Writing Support Just a Call Away: With discretionary funding for special projects in short supply, county schools, departments and educators may consider looking at grant opportunities to support program needs or wants. If you have a project and a source that you'd like to pursue, whether a mini-grant or something on a larger scale, feel free to get in touch with Doug Schiefelbein (457-3030, ext. 1010) for technical assistance, help in grant writing or thoughts on how to present your idea in the most favorable light.



Highmark Grant Helps Provide AEDs: A \$1330 matching grant from the Highmark Foundation has allowed county schools to purchase Automated External Defibrillators for county schools during late summer. The AED's built-in computer can check a victim's heart rhythms through adhesive electrodes. The lightweight portable device diagnoses the victim's condition and can then provide a life-saving shock through the chest to the heart as needed.

Third Graders Travel Back in Time at Mouse Run School



A longstanding tradition continued on August 29th when Barbour County's third grade students participated in Kids Day events at the 2018 Barbour County Fair. Among the educational exhibits visited by the youngsters were: the cattle and horse barns, an antique tractor show, a functioning grist mill and a beekeeper demonstration. Among the "fun" activities were: a tasty lunch, wagon rides, samples of apple butter and time at the amusement park.

One of the most historic stations was the old Mouse Run School (circa 1940's) where classes listened to facts and stories about log school houses of many generations ago. Sponsored by the Barbour County Association of Retired School Employees, the annual tour was led by member, Sandy Lantz (above), who answered many questions about schools back in the "olden days."