



# The Bridge

**Volume 13, Issue 1**

**September, 2021**



## Important Dates

- Sept. 6 Labor Day Holiday:  
No School
- Sept. 13 Bd. Of Education Mtg.  
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Sept. 27 Bd. Of Education Mtg.  
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Oct. 1 Art Stroll—Philippi  
\*\*Postponed\*\*
- Oct. 1-2 Homecoming Days at  
Philip Barbour H.S.
- Oct. 11 Bd. Of Education Mtg.  
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Oct. 15 PLC Meetings and  
Faculty Senates
- Oct. 18 End of 1st 9-Weeks  
Grading Period
- Oct. 25 Bd. Of Education Mtg.  
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Oct. 25 Report Cards Are  
Distributed
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day  
Holiday: No School

Greetings Everyone,

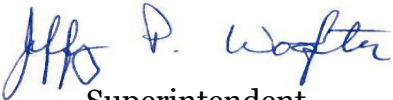
During our opening ceremony, I told all Barbour County School employees that the operation of the school system was subject to change. Little did I know that we would be moving to mandatory masking the very next day and that we would move to fully remote learning for the four days before the Labor Day weekend break.

It appears that our short move to remote learning paid off as we went from the county with the highest infection rate (over 112) and we have dropped to just over 51 today. Twenty-two counties have infection rates over 100 while 49 counties have higher infection rates than us. We are far from being in the clear and we must stay vigilant in an effort to keep each other safe.

My prediction during the opening ceremony that we would rise to 38th or 39th in the state rankings was also inaccurate. I am thrilled to report that we rose 17 spots in the rankings to 28th in the state. I know that all of us believe we can continue to get better and we are definitely heading in the right direction. These rankings are based only on test scores, which I hate to put a great deal of emphasis on. However, it does show that when compared to the other counties, we did better than 27 others and a majority of our individual schools showed a marked improvement from the last time we gave the General Summative Assessments during the 2018-2019 school year.

This school year is my seventh in Barbour County. I am so proud to be working with such an amazing group of people who are focused on doing the best they can to serve our students and prepare them to be valued members of society. While we are still in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, I am confident that we will continue to do the best we can to serve our community and its children.

I hope and pray that we all have a safe, healthy and productive year!

  
Superintendent

**Welcome  
Back!**



## Ashley Poling Named 2020-21 County Teacher of the Year

Ashley Poling was honored as Barbour County's Teacher of the Year for 2020-21 during a special ceremony at the Opening of Schools program in mid-August. Ms. Poling has spent the past decade as an English/Language Arts teacher at Belington Middle School and has 14 years of professional service in Barbour County. She also became the first recipient of the \$1000 Dorothy Wolfe Scholarship, which will be presented annually to the Teacher of the Year in the future.



Ashley emphasizes the sense of "community" in her interactions with students and encourages youngsters to consider their short and long-term goals as global citizens. During the recent period of remote instruction, she collaborated with a science colleague to create innovative units that applied to students' everyday lives and futures.

Ms. Poling has a special place in her heart for students who feel "broken," urging them to use mistakes to become better and stronger decision-makers. In addition to state-mandated content in language, vocabulary and literature, she finds links to children's needs. Ashley feels that "the importance of empathy, compassion and forgiveness transcends all ability, background, gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality and status. That's when hurt fades and hope dawns for students."

## Kent Phillips Repeats Service Person of the Year Honors



During the Opening of Schools ceremonies held at Philip Barbour High School on August 12, Carl "Kent" Phillips was named Barbour County's Service Person of the Year for 2020-21. Kent received the honor for the second time in the past three years, due in part to his tireless volunteerism during periods of remote learning during the past 18 months. Always willing to step forward and offer service above and beyond his regular duties, such as distribution of meals for many weeks during the pandemic, his assistance has been invaluable to BCS & its students.

Now in his 14th year of service as a bus operator, and known for his strong work ethic, he previously worked at a local service center and Southern States Coop., rarely missing a day of work over some two decades.

Kent continues to serve as an unofficial mentor to newer drivers, answering their questions with patience and courtesy, and regularly offers a helping hand to fellow drivers who may be in need of advice or assistance. A native Barbour Countian, he is a Philip Barbour High School graduate and earned certification in both welding and electrical engineering while a student at the Fred Eberle Tech Center. He is shown above receiving congratulations by Transportation Director, Russ Collett, Board President, Joanne McConnell, & Superintendent Jeffrey Woofert.



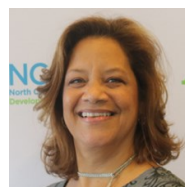
## School Personnel Are Welcomed to Barbour County for the New Term



The Barbour County Board of Education and staff members across the LEA extend a cordial welcome to the following nine new personnel and wish them the best for a pleasant & productive school year:

- ◆ Tammy Austin, PBHS, Cook
- ◆ Allison Byrne, PBHS, Special Ed.
- ◆ Michelle Fleming, BOE, Director of Fed. Programs & Secondary Ed.
- ◆ Felicia Fordyce, Kasson, Principal
- ◆ Jocelyn Humpe, BOE, Accounts Payable
- ◆ Abigail Layman, PMS, Interpreter, Aide
- ◆ Brissa Marshall, PES, Kindergarten
- ◆ Gregory Parker, BMS, Asst. Principal
- ◆ Crystal Sanders, Kasson, First Grade

## PBHS Hall of Fame Set to Induct Five Members to the Class of 2021



The Philip Barbour High School Hall of Fame Committee congratulates the five members of the Class of 2021 HOF honorees. Announced during the spring, the honored group includes, alphabetically from above left: Van Hammack, Jr. ('73); Cecil Holbert ('91); Susan Shaw McBee ('84); Melissa Swartz ('85) and Patty Webster Pecora ('84).

Individual inductee profiles for members of the Class of 2021 have appeared alphabetically in the Barbour Democrat throughout the summer. The group joins 28 other honorees on the Colt Wall of Fame since the program's inception in 2017. Although the planned ceremonies were temporarily postponed during September due to high COVID rates, the committee plans to reschedule the events to a safer time later in the school year.

## PMS Bulldog Band to Feature New Uniforms During Performance Season

Joseph Bowen, former Band Director at Philippi Middle School, expressed appreciation to all for their recent support of the PMS Bulldog Band. The new assistant principal at PBHS announced that, through successful fundraising efforts, the school was able to purchase new band uniforms. Mr. Bowen gave special thanks to Weyerhaeuser-Buckhannon for their charitable donation, Mr. Woofert, Mrs. Heinbaugh, Mr. Daugherty, the Barbour County Board of Education, parents, students and community members who contributed to the project.



## High School Group Promotes Positive Thinking and Support



During the second semester of 2020-21, a group of caring students and adults joined hands to form a support group for teens at Philip Barbour High School who are facing various challenges that may be interfering with their success at school and happiness in life. The team of 15 students, the school counselors and a retired school employee have met several times to consider ideas that can help reach fellow students in need and provide them with tools and resources to overcome barriers to their personal goals.

One resulting project involved the design, purchase and installation of several positive mail boxes to be placed across the campus. Students will be able to anonymously post compliments, notes of encouragement or requests for help on behalf of themselves or their friends. The contents will be reviewed regularly by the counselors, with positive messages immediately forwarded to those named and cries for help or support addressed within 24 hours. The positivity boxes will be placed in the PB commons area, the CTEC lobby and at locations on all three floors in the academic wing of the high school.

## PMS Conducts Successful STEM Based Summer School Project

Philippi Middle School was excited to offer a summer learning opportunity for students during the month of June 2021. The school adopted a STEM theme for this in-person experience using the book *Hidden Figures* for many engaging, cross-curricular activities.

*Hidden Figures* tells the story of the life of Katherine Johnson, an African-American West Virginia native who was employed as a NASA 'Computer' and takes place during the space race and civil rights movement. It was used to get students excited about STEM by using a compelling historical event and major motion picture. The lessons learned during the summer activities demonstrated that there are opportunities for everyone in STEM. Using this theme during this fun-filled summer program, students launched rockets, built land rovers, read the book and watched the movie.



State pre- and post-data for ELA and math demonstrated that this was a valuable learning experience for PMS students as nearly all participating students increased their scores in both subjects. In addition to the academic core content, students had opportunities to participate in clubs and other activities including: Martial Arts, Photography, Scrapbooking, Puzzles & Games and Cooking. The summer school activities concluded with a water day and pool party.



## 2021 Junior Elementary School Open House Is Well Attended

More than 90% of Junior Elementary School families attended the school's opening celebrations. Students and family members visited teachers to gather school supplies and met with the principal and staff to get class information. They then went out front for ice cream treats and reading materials from the food truck (below). Family support and involvement is always appreciated by the JES staff throughout the school year.



## Your Best

If you always try your best  
Then you'll never have to wonder  
About what you could have done  
If you'd summoned all your thunder.

And if your best  
Was not as good  
As you hoped it would be,  
You still could say,  
"I gave today  
All that I had in me."

## Meet Michelle Fleming: New Secondary Education Director



"After spending more than 1/4 of a century away from home, it is wonderful to return to Barbour County where my parents still reside along with many family and friends. I began teaching in 1990 in Winchester, Virginia, and after 7 years in the classroom as a Business Education Teacher, I began my administrative career in Morgan County, WV. After several years working with many amazing folks in both Berkeley Springs and Paw Paw, I then was able to return to WV in 2014. Since returning home, I have watched my two beautiful girls, Laken and Autumn, grow into amazing professionals with my oldest graduating from Alderson Broaddus this Fall from the PA program and my youngest begin her last years in the Pharmacy program at WVU. My oldest daughter is also getting married in October to an amazing young man, Dillon Meadows, from Paradise, Texas.

"My husband, Curtis, of more than 30 years is also continuing his success with our nationally televised series, *Fly Rod Chronicles with Curtis Fleming*, which is now airing on the Discovery Channel as well as streaming on many channels. We are now able to tout my fly-fishing success with two world records from the IGFA. My mother and father, Helen and Leon Bibey, still reside in Barbour County and are very proud to have me back in the county as an alumnus of 35 years from Philip Barbour High School.

"In my spare time, I enjoy biking and hiking the amazing trails in Almost Heaven, WV. I enjoy reading and spending time with my two Brittany Spaniels, Remi and Brookie. Remi is a priceless purchase from the dear, late Jeff Kittle line of Brittany's."

## — Odds 'N' Ends —

### ➤ **County Art Stroll Is Postponed:**

The 2021-22 Barbour County Art Stroll, scheduled for October 1, has been postponed once again due to local business availability and concerns related to COVID. Coordinator, Connie Mundy, has announced that the event will be moved to the spring, with new plans shared as soon as they are established.

### ➤ **PBHS Hall of Fame Events Are Postponed:**

Due to the high COVID infection rates in Barbour County and the region, the Philip Barbour High School Hall of Fame Induction Program has been postponed indefinitely. Originally set for September 9-10, the dinner and ceremonies will be rescheduled by the HOF committee when safer conditions return for early winter or next spring.

### ➤ **Parent-Teacher Conferences Set:**

First nine-weeks parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled for late-October. Elementary meetings will take place after school on Tuesday, October 26, while middle schools meet on Wednesday, October 27. High school conferences are set for Thursday, October 28.

## Board Meeting Dates Announced for 2021-22: To Be Held at BOE Office

The Superintendent's office has announced that until further notice, all of the Board of Education meetings in 2021-22 will take place at the Board Office beginning at 6:00 p.m. All school presentations will occur at the BOE this year. If the dates, locations or format (e.g. Zoom) change, personnel and the public will be notified accordingly. Regular board meeting dates currently include:

<i>September 13</i>	<i>September 27</i>
<i>October 11</i>	<i>October 25</i>
<i>November 8</i>	<i>November 17</i>
<i>December 13</i>	<i>December 20</i>
<i>January 10</i>	<i>January 24</i>
<i>February 14</i>	<i>February 28</i>
<i>March 14</i>	<i>March 21</i>
<i>April 11</i>	<i>April 25</i>
<i>May 9</i>	<i>May 23</i>
<i>June 13</i>	<i>June 27</i>

