



*The Historic Philippi Covered Bridge*

# The Bridge

**Volume 1, Issue 1**

**October, 2009**



## Important Dates

October 6	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Philip Barbour HSC)
October 13	BOE Meeting at Philippi Elementary School
October 26	BOE Meeting at Kasson Elementary/Middle School
October 28	End of 1st Nine-Weeks Grading Period
October 28	ISE Day at All County Schools
November 4	Report Cards Distributed
November 4	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary Schools)
November 5	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Middle Schools)
November 11	Veterans Day: No School

## Communication Is the Key!



Dear Colleagues,

'Tis the season of harvest and thankfulness. I am thankful for many things. But I am most thankful to work with the employees of Barbour County Schools - people who are excellent in their chosen field, people who are dedicated to the work of ensuring our students are healthy, happy and successful in our classrooms, at school, and in life.

Of all of the things I could write about, I chose that statement as the first piece of information to share with you. I chose it because it is the most important thing I can share with you, since I do not get the opportunity to say it to each of you face-to-face as often as you deserve to hear it. I chose it because it is true. I chose it because I believe it. You deserve to hear that I know you have worked tirelessly to implement the changes that keep us moving forward. You deserve to hear that I know these changes have not been easy. You deserve to hear how impressed I am with your "we can do this" attitude regardless of the hardship change brings in the short term. You deserve to hear that I see your cars in school parking lots late into the evening making sure lessons are planned and schools are ready for tomorrow; I see you supervising after school events; I see you taking that extra step to ensure all students are connected. You deserve to hear that I believe you have performed admirably, and that I have faith that you will continue to do so for our children. I want you to know that I am proud of Barbour County employees, who you are and what you stand for - our children. Thank you!

I am also thankful to be able to write this in the first edition of the "resurrected" publication *The Bridge*, a communication tool we will use monthly to inform our employees about the happenings in Barbour County Schools. Thank you to Mr. Schiefelbein for agreeing to be *The Bridge's* editor and publisher. I look forward to working with him to share information with you every month. I wish you a happy Fall!

## ARC Renewable Energy Project Approved *PBHSC Site Is Selected for Demonstration Initiative*

The Appalachian Regional Commission announced during September that Barbour County Schools has been awarded a \$45,000 competitive energy efficiency grant for implementation during the 2009-10 school year. Entitled "Renewable Energy from the Sky," the demonstration project will involve the installation of a wind turbine tower and a solar panel system on the campus of Philip Barbour High School Complex.

Because of its excellent exposure to the sun and wind currents, the new equipment will be mounted and monitored at the Barbour County Career and Technical Education Center.

While the incorporation of the turbine and panels into the school's energy grid will produce modest energy cost savings, the greater benefit will be the rich educational opportunities created for the high school students, their teachers and the community in

the science and economy of renewable energies. The use of special monitoring software will further promote application learning and problem-solving skills, along with expanded employment opportunities for local students.

With the technical assistance of expert partners in the field, and support from the school staff, Barbour County Schools will produce a 21st Century learning program that is worthy

of replication in many other rural Appalachian school systems.



**Veda Daugherty Named Barbour County's Teacher of the Year**



Veda Daugherty, third grade teacher at Philippi Elementary School, represented Barbour County as its 2009 Teacher of the Year during the annual West Virginia TOY Awards Ceremonies held on September 9 in Charleston. As a faculty leader and a 30-year veteran of elementary education, Veda is regarded by her colleagues as a “warm, caring and conscientious” member of the school team.



**Shirley Louk Honored as 2009 Service Person of the Year**

“Dependable and dedicated” were among the words of praise used to describe Shirley Louk, who was named Service Person of the Year at the Opening of School ceremonies. Shirley served for 18 years in several county schools, most recently at Philippi Elementary. A recent retiree, she plans to continue helping children as a school volunteer.



**Kasson Rededication Held Sept. 28th**

“It looks like a brand new school!” commented one of several dozen attendees during the rededication ceremonies held in the Kasson School gymnasium on September 28. Closed for repairs and renovation for most of the 2008-09 school year, the thirty-year old elementary and middle school structure was officially re-opened in ribbon-cutting ceremonies before a crowd of students, faculty and staff, state and county school officials, project architects, parents and community members.

Refreshments were provided and tours of the building and grounds were conducted follow-

ing the program. Current members of the board of education were joined by several representatives from the BOE of 1979-80, which had overseen the facility’s original construction and its first dedication.



Dr. Mark Manchin, Executive Director of the School Building Authority of West Virginia, was on hand to congratulate the school system and the community. He is shown (center) completing the outdoor ribbon-cutting. Kindergarten class members had earlier cut the ribbon in the gymnasium.

The project, which was completed within its \$2.9 million dollar budget, and was made possible through SBA and local funding. Kasson Elementary-Middle School currently serves as the educational home to 186 pupils in grades PK-to-8 in northeastern Barbour County.

## Professional Learning Communities Organized at PBHS Complex



The faculty and administration at the Philip Barbour High School Complex began the new school year by establishing and organizing Professional Learning Communities. The faculty is currently meeting as a entire group, as well as within departmental content areas.

Early PLC activities centered on analyzing school WESTEST data and creating individual data folders for each of some 820 students. During the next step, each content area group determined 5-8 specific objectives that more than 50% of students answered incorrectly on the WESTEST. Teachers are now collaborating to create formative assessments and, in turn, related lessons that will re-teach and assess each deficient objective.

Teachers will follow this process again at the beginning of the second semester with 5-8 additional objectives. Feedback thus far has been very encouraging. Several teachers who have participated in this “Backward Design” process in the past stated that “it was very successful and helped to raise student achievement.” The high school PLC’s hope that the program will lead to great things this year and beyond.

### — Odds ‘N’ Ends —

➤ Finance Office Reminder: As part of the new state legislation mentioned in the opposite column, all personnel planning to qualify for the early retirement bonus must notify the superintendent no later than December 1, 2009.

➤ Remember to check the Barbour County Schools website for the most current Staff Development opportunities available for CE credit or professional development. It is located and regularly updated at <http://www.barbourcountyschoolssd.com/>

➤ “Testing...testing...1,2,3: The assessment calendar for 2009-10 has just been updated as well. The schedules are also posted on the Barbour County Schools website.

➤ The process of repairing the blue roof on Philip Barbour High School is approaching its final stages. Materials have been ordered and actual work is expected to be underway by the end of the month. As a safety precaution, roofing on the entire academic facility is scheduled for replacement in coming weeks.

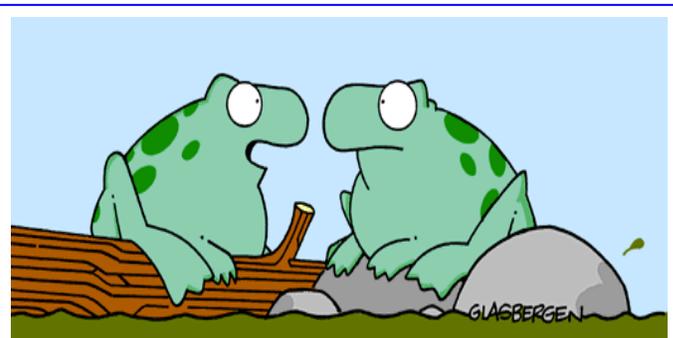
★ A Gold Star goes out to the Barbour County Career and Technical Education Center and PBHSC staff. Director, Lisa Heinbaugh, notes that the first month enrollment reflects an increase of some 90 secondary students in CTE programs from last year.

### Superintendent’s Note

As you may have heard, a change in the WV Code regarding when RIFs and transfers must be completed was recently enacted. WV Code 18A-2-6 and 18A-2-2(c)(1)(a) now state that the Board of Education must vote on or before February 1 of each year to RIF employees. WV Code 18A-2-7(a),(b) states that all hearing for transfers must be completed by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

In order to ensure these timelines are met, notices for RIF and transfers will be handed out much sooner than they used to be, probably early in January.

Like other superintendents around the state, I am very unhappy with the timing of the new law. Please feel free to contact me, your principal, faculty senate chair or your association representative if you have questions.



**“Looks aren’t everything. It’s what’s inside you that really matters. A biology teacher told me that.”**

## Rationale and Guidelines for “The Bridge”

**Purpose:** “The Bridge” is designed to further improve communication by providing a regular forum for news and information that is of importance or interest to Barbour County’s school personnel. The newsletter was originally published in the early-1980’s at a time when a means of open and timely sharing of information (a bridge) within the school system and among colleagues was deemed essential.

**Frequency of Publication:** It is anticipated that “The Bridge” will be produced ten (10) times annually, beginning with a September edition and ending with a June edition. Generally, the newsletter will be distributed during the first week of each month. Occasional “special editions” may be produced in cases where all personnel need to receive the same message at the same time (e.g. H1N1 virus update, urgent State Department information, etc.).

**Contributions:** “The Bridge” will usually be from two-to-four pages in length. Contributions from school personnel are welcomed. They should be submitted through building principals or department administrators. Articles or announcements should be as concise as possible, containing the essentials such as who, what, when, where, why and how, as appropriate. The newsletter will be approved by the superintendent prior to distribution. (Note: administrators who have/receive submissions should forward them to [dschiefe@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dschiefe@access.k12.wv.us) with a “Bridge” tagline). Otherwise, please send hard copies through school mail to Doug Schiefelbein by the due date.

**Submission Deadlines:** Please observe the following submission deadline dates during the 2009-2010 school year:

*September 28 (for Oct.)	*October 28 (for Nov.)	*November 20 (For Dec.)
*December 22 (for Jan.)	*January 27 (for Feb.)	*February 24 (For March)
*March 26 (for April)	*April 28 (for May)	*May 26 (For June/Summer)

**Distribution:** In an effort to save resources (paper, ink, etc.) and utilize available technology, “The Bridge” will be forwarded via e-mail to all staff members with “access” accounts. This will ensure a timely distribution to all such staff members at the same time. Personnel without e-mail accounts may access each edition of “The Bridge” through a link that will be established on the Barbour County Schools website, which will also be available to the public. A few extra black-and-white paper copies will also be sent to each work location.

**Content:** The newsletter will usually be comprised of several short articles on information and news related to the school system. In addition, each issue will feature a “*Dear Colleagues*” message from the superintendent on a topic of importance or interest to staff members. Another feature will be a *listing of important dates* for the upcoming month (e.g. BOE meetings, programs, public forums, etc.). Events in this category should be of general interest to the entire county. And, a “*Gold Star*” section will be included to provide brief, bulleted listings of noteworthy accomplishments or to congratulate deserving students or staff members. Other regular features may be added as identified or appropriate.



### Need a School E-Mail Account?

All employees of Barbour County Schools are eligible for “access” e-mail accounts through the WV Department of Education. If you do not have an educational e-mail account and would like one, see your school technology contact or department administrator for the appropriate form. Simply submit it and it will be processed through the county and state levels. You determine your own personal password. Within a couple of weeks, your “access” account will be available for your use!