



# The Bridge



Volume 6, Issue 1

October, 2014



## Important Dates

- Oct. 13** Bd. Of Education Mtg.  
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Oct. 15** Last Day of 1st Nine-  
Weeks Grading Pd.
- Oct. 16** CE Day—All Staff  
Report (Fac. Senate)
- Oct. 22** 1st 9-Week Report  
Cards Are Distributed
- Oct. 27** Bd. Of Education Mtg.  
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Nov. 4** Election Day:  
No School
- Nov. 10** Bd. Of Education Mtg.  
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Nov. 11** Veterans Day Holiday  
No School
- Nov. 17** Bd. Of Education Mtg.  
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Nov. 24-26** Out of Calendar  
Days: No School
- Nov. 27** Thanksgiving Day  
Holiday: No School
- Nov. 28** Out of Calendar  
Day: No School

Hi Folks,

It's hard to believe, but with school starting so early, the first nine weeks of the school year are almost over.

Much has happened in that time span: our students are in full academic mode; our fall athletic teams are in the thick of their seasons swing with the Colt golf team qualifying for the state tournament and cross country enjoying another strong year; we have submitted another Innovation Zone Grant for Philippi Middle School; and we have some new student faces and staff members in all our schools, along with a couple of new principals. In addition, the Office of Educational Performance Audits just completed its Accreditation and Accountability visits to all of our schools in relationship to the individual School Monitoring Report. Needless to say, we are glad that is now over and, while the initial exit interviews were for the most part good, we recognize and welcome the opportunity to improve.

Regarding the Innovation Zone Grant, if you will remember last year at this time, I informed folks that we had submitted a 2<sup>nd</sup> one for the high school, which we did receive. The new grant, the 3<sup>rd</sup> one for the county, this time will focus on 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Philippi Middle and, if we are successful, will bring \$300,000 earmarked for the school to implement a middle school version of the New Tech Schools model for the delivery of the curriculum. If successful, it will increase to \$900,000 the competitive funding that we have been awarded to help reduce our drop-out rate, improve academic performance and positively impact school climate. We will know in December about our application's status.

It is with a sad note we are reminded of the tragic loss of one of our students at the high school. I am sure I speak for all of us by saying our prayers and sympathies are with and for James and his family and that their faith can guide them in their healing.

Again, I thank you for your support of our kids, staff and programs and, as always, I welcome your input; my door is open to all.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Dr. F. L. Luper".

## Barbour County Schools' New Five-Year Plan Core Beliefs, Mission Statement and Goals Submitted for Approval

On September 23, Barbour County Schools' Five-Year Plan Committee met at the county office to finalize recommendations for the district's 2014-15 annual proposal in the areas of Core Beliefs, Mission Statement and LEA Goals. The draft will be presented to the Board of Education for final approval at the October 13 board meeting. While the comprehensive document includes scores of action steps and staff development strategies, the main components include:

### Core Beliefs:

- 1) We believe our highest priority is to provide an accessible, clean, safe environment in which students can maximize their learning potential;
- 2) We believe our schools should embrace a positive school culture and promote academic, professional and personal integrity;
- 3) We believe the educational process is a partnership among students, schools, parents and community;
- 4) We believe clear communication is vital to the success of the system.



### Mission Statement:

The mission of Barbour County Schools is to provide educational excellence with a commitment to learning for all so that students may be college and/or career ready in preparation for responsible citizenship.

### Goals:

- 1) All students will meet or exceed individual growth projections on state and national curriculum standards and all schools will meet their target Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) scores on the WESTEST 2 and the comparable measures on the Smarter Balanced Assessment on an annual basis or by the year 2020 through the acquisition of skills to be college and/or career ready;
- 2) All students will develop the personal skills and dispositions of wellness, responsibility, cultural awareness, self-direction, ethical character and good citizenship in an environment that is caring and safe as evidenced by: attendance rates that are 98% or above on the WVAI; attendance rates that increase by 0.5% for Low SES students as measured by WVEIS data; and suspension rates that decline by 1% for the county as measured by WVEIS data;
- 3) A minimum of 88% of the 4-year and 90% of the 5-year cohort groups will graduate from high school prepared for college and/or career success through personalized pathways and guidance that focus students on productive and satisfying lives.

## New Electronic Application Process Unveiled for 2014-15 School Year

Barbour County Schools has implemented an electronic application process for all vacant positions as of July 1, 2014. The new user-friendly system, called Applitrack, is available at the Barbour County Schools website under the "Job Vacancies" tab:

<http://www.wvschools.com/barbourcountyschools/postings/Vacancies.html>

Applicants who do not have Internet access or need assistance with the electronic application process can still apply or receive help at the Barbour County Board of Education Office during regular business hours. A computer will then be made available to complete the application process. Job candidates can now access a listing of current vacancies and check the statuses of their applications on line at any time. More information can be obtained about the streamlined application process at the Board of Education Personnel Office at 457-3030.



## Junior Elementary PTA Hosts Back-to-School Celebration

On Friday, September 19, the Junior Elementary School PTA sponsored a Back-to-School celebration that featured food, fun, games and prizes. Landon McFarlen won a mini I-Pad during the event, and Cindy Wilmoth won a DVD player. D.J. McFarlen was the lucky winner of the back-to-school student basket, while Shirley Cassidy won the parent basket. This year's PTA officers at JES include Iowana Swick, president; Michelle Poe, vice-president; Lisa Haller, secretary; and Charlene Zimmerman, treasurer. The next PTA meeting will take place at Junior Elementary School on October 9 at 6:00 P.M.



## Student Government Elected at JES



Students at Junior Elementary School had a chance to experience an example of civic engagement during September when they elected their student council officers for the 2014-2015 school year. Darcy Knight was voted in as president, while Kara Fox was elected Vice-President. Zack Bennett will serve as the fourth grade representative, and the third grade representatives are Zane Wilmoth and Jorjalynn Ward.



## Draft Schedule for October 16th CE Day Sessions Announced

Group	Topic	Time	Location	Notes:
<b>Teachers</b> (Except Kindergarten)	Office 365 Edivation/PD360 Lunch School Improvement <b>or</b> Assessment Training* Faculty Senate	8-9 9-12 12-1 1-2 2-4	School Sites	PBHS teachers may be displaced from their school due to a planned power outage. *8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers will receive training on ACT Explore. *10 <sup>th</sup> Grade teachers will receive training on ACT Plan and; *11 <sup>th</sup> grade teachers will receive training on Compass.
<b>Teachers</b> Kindergarten	Early Learning Assessment for Kindergarten Lunch and Travel Faculty Senate	8-12 12-2 2-4	Philippi Elementary	
<b>Aides</b>	Office 365 Edivation/PD 360 Lunch School Improvement Faculty Senate	8-12 9-12 12-1 1-2 2-3:30	School Sites	
<b>Cooks</b>	New Recipes, New Regulations, Menu Development	7:30-1:30	Philippi Middle	
<b>Bus Operators</b>	Bus Rodeo	8-2	Philip Barbour HS	
<b>Custodians/ Maintenance</b>	Office 365 Asbestos Awareness Lunch Regular Duties	8-9 9-1 1-2 2-3:30		Custodians and Maintenance will need to travel from their home school to ___TBA___. Allow about 30 minutes.
<b>Secretaries</b>	Office 365 Student Demographics Lunch Student Demographics	8-9 9-12 12-1 1-4	School Sites	



## MORE FUNNY (AND TRUE) STUDENT ANSWERS...

