



The Bridge

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Winter, 2020

Greetings Everyone,

As we wind down the most unusual ten months of my fifty-eight years on this earth, I wanted to try to convey to each of you how much I appreciate what you have done over the past ten months to serve our students and your fellow employees.

We are truly living in unprecedented times and the efforts that a vast majority of you have put out to make the most of a difficult situation are, in a lot of ways, heroic. We all know that there is no substitute for face-to-face instruction, but many of you have been innovative in the ways you have pushed out assignments, met with your students on various social platforms, and worked with students that don't have the benefit of quality internet access.

The service personnel have done everything we have asked of them and many have gone above and beyond the call of duty. I would like to take the time and acknowledge all of those individuals, both professional and service personnel, but I know I would forget someone and I don't want to risk doing that.

We have asked the students who have worked hard all semester to stay on pace with their classes, to take the next two weeks to spend time with their families and to decompress from the stress they have encountered throughout the past months. For those students who are behind, we have asked them to work to get caught up with their classmates.

I want to encourage all professional and service personnel to gear down into Christmas break mode, effective immediately, enjoy time with your families (not as teachers and students), and take the time you desperately need to recharge your batteries for whatever the new year holds for us.

The pandemic of 2020 is something that we will never forget. I hope we can put it into our rearview mirror and get back soon to our old normal. This year we have also had many staff who have suffered through hard times, have lost loved ones, and had family fighting through illness or tragedy. We need to keep those people in our prayers while still acknowledging the many blessings that we have all been given.

I hope and pray that you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and that each of your prayers is answered!

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeff P. Waples". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Important Dates

Dec. 22	Faculty Senate: Two-Hour Early Dismissal
Dec. 23	Non-Traditional Day: Student Learn/Home
Dec. 25	Christmas Holiday: No School
Dec. 24 thru 31	Out of Calendar Days: No School
Jan. 1	New Year's Holiday: No School
Jan. 4	Students Return to Learning Settings
Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday: No School
Jan. 25	End Second 9-Wks and First Semester
Feb. 1-2	Report Cards: Groups 1 and 2 Respectively
Feb. 17	Faculty Senate: Two-Hour Early Dismissal
Mar. 26	End of Third 9-Week Grading Period
April 1	Non-Traditional Day: Student Learn/Home
April 2	Out of Calendar Day: No School
April 5	Non-Traditional Day: Student Learn/Home
April 8-9	Report Cards: Groups 1 and 2 Respectively



PB's Victor Iapalucci Inducted into the West Virginia Band Director Hall of Fame

Colt Marching Band Earns Runners-Up Honors

Philip Barbour High School's veteran band director, Victor Iapalucci, was honored in ceremonies at the 2020 West Virginia Marching Band Invitational recently with his induction into the Mountain State's Band Director Hall of Fame. The award was presented as part of the festivities at Cabell Midland High School on November 7 during the annual event. Victor is now in his 22nd year at the helm of "The Pride of Barbour County" and his selection had been a well-kept secret until the announcement was made.



Mr. Iapalucci is shown here accepting the award with his wife, Allison Clark Iapalucci and their daughter, Juliet Sistine.

During his tenure at PBHS, the band has grown from fewer than 50 members in 1999 to over 100 strong each year, including 123 student-musicians in the current class. He becomes the 26th West Virginia bandmaster to be recognized for Hall of Fame status. Under his leadership, the local band has been stellar ambassadors for Barbour County, winning scores of awards and recognitions during the past two decades.

Upon receiving the award, Mr. Iapalucci commented: "There are so many other band directors who are just as deserving of this honor, and many of them are people I know well and work with, both inside and outside Barbour County. I can only say I am so humbled by this honor and can only point to the alumni of "The Pride of Barbour County" for this success, and feel so honored to join Arnold Weese, our former director, in earning this distinction."

At the event, Philip Barbour concluded its unconventional, but highly successful, fall marching season by claiming Runners-Up honors in a field of 13 bands across all classifications. The Colts overcame a campaign filled with unprecedented challenges to bring yet another trophy back to Barbour County following its traditional halftime show performance, to the applause of all supporters in attendance.

BCS Prepares for Second Semester of WV Virtual School Participation

Parents and students enrolled or interested in WV Virtual School for the second semester of 2020-21 should take note of plans announced in early-December. Those who are planning to *continue* with virtual programming for the spring semester do not need to complete any new forms or notifications. These students will be enrolled for their classes automatically.



If, however, students or parents want to drop the virtual school option and return to the brick-and-mortar instruction, they will need to *complete the virtual*

school drop form that can be found on the Barbour County Schools website. Also, those who wish to enroll their children for virtual school classes should complete and submit enrollment forms as soon as possible to begin the second semester classes which will begin during January.

PBHS Hall of Fame Nominations Open

Nominations will be accepted by the Philip Barbour High School Hall of Fame Committee from January 1 to February 15 for candidates for the HOF Class of 2021. Up to six new members will be selected in early spring to join 30 previous classmates or colleagues for the prestigious honor. More information is available on the nomination forms, which are available at the main office at the high school or on the front page of the Philip Barbour High School website.

Kindergarten – PK Registrations for 2021-22 to Begin January 4

Kindergarten registrations for the 2021-22 school year will be made by appointment only this year in accordance with CDC guidelines. Parents may download and print enrollment packets from the Barbour County Schools website from the top left listing. The information required includes items such as: birth certificates, immunization record, health checks, social security and insurance. Parents or guardians may then contact their child's school to make an appointment to enroll him/her for the new school year at the following phone numbers:

Belington Elementary: (304) 823-1411 or 823-1670

Junior Elementary: (304) 823-1200

Kasson Elem/Middle: (304) 457-1485

Philippi Elementary: (304) 457-4229 or 457-1262



Pre-Kindergarten registrations for the 2021-22 school year will also begin on January 4 and can be made by appointment only by parents calling Karen McDonald at (304) 614-6525. Once again, enrollment packets may be accessed at the BCS website at the upper left of the main page.

Required information for PK is included in the areas of: income verification, state-issued birth certificates, immunization records, health and dental checks, social security cards and insurance cards. Completion and submission of all required documents will count as 10 points in the county's selection criteria process as posted on the Barbour County Schools website.

JES Students and Families Again Spread Holiday Cheer



Junior Elementary School students and their families have made a recent tradition of adopting Good Samaritan residents during the holiday season. Each student is linked to a resident, for whom their families shop to spread cheer. This year has been more special than most since extra happiness is needed everywhere.

Through their participation, the students learn about kindness and giving, and can take pride in their gifting each year. During 2020, because of COVID precautions, the students couldn't hand-deliver their gifts and sing their traditional Christmas program songs to the residents, but the gifting portion was still carried out to its fullest as 110 smiling kids brought their gifts to school for special delivery in time for holidays.



PMS Leadership Team Completes Training for School Improvement

School leadership team members at Philippi Middle School recently participated in a virtual conference for CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement)



schools. The keynote speaker was Joe Sanfelippo, a superintendent from Fall Creek, WI, and the author of several popular educational

books, including *Hacking Leadership: 10 Ways Great Leaders Inspire Learning That Teachers, Students and Parents' Love* and *The Power of Branding: Telling Your School's Story*.

His presentation was followed by a work session for the PMS team to develop an action plan. The group is excited to lead the school in some of the ideas shared in Mr. Sanfelippo's presentation and to join teachers, students and parents in a collaborative effort to improve student achievement in all areas..

Philippi Teacher Uses Donors Choose to Fund a Variety of School Projects

PMS Science Teacher, Angie McDaniel, has been busy getting various projects funded through the Donors Choose Program this fall. Examples include: a Cricut Air Explore machine and two presses and supplies for her STEM and science classes. She has also received planes for her Flight & Space course, wood burning tools, a grant for Teacher Pay Teachers materials, and masks to design on. She was also selected as a mentor for the Next Generation Science Teaching Project receiving \$2500, and has renewed her NBCT certificate.

Certification Renewal Reminders Issued for 2021-22 School Year

Staff members whose teaching certification is due to expire on June 30, 2021, are reminded that the coursework required for renewal and an application for renewal must be submitted to the Personnel Office prior to the opening of the 2021-22 school term. Teachers are encouraged to contact their credentialing colleges with any questions.

Also, those who have completed hours making them eligible for advanced salary classification are urged to submit all paperwork as soon as the class is completed. The county's state aid funding is based in part on current salary information. More importantly, the state will generally backdate salary increases only up to three months. Questions on this topic may also be directed to Homer Talbott at the Board Office at 304-457-3030 (ext. 1031).

"Kids Connect" Up and Running in BCS

The WV Kids Connect initiative is available to county students who wish to access the Internet from the comfort and safety of their own vehicles. These Wi-Fi hot spots are now available to students 24/7 without sign-in credentials. The technology tools are located at all county schools, public libraries and the BOE office, with each labeled with signage.



Board of Education Meeting Dates Set for Winter Months

Following are the established meeting dates for the Barbour County Board of Education during the winter of 2020-21. All sessions are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. and **will conducted via Zoom unless otherwise notified.** Link information will be provided on each agenda as it is released:

- **December 28— Via Zoom (or at BOE)**
- **January 11— Via Zoom (or at BOE)**
- **January 25— Via Zoom (or at BOE)**
- **February 8— Via Zoom (or at BOE)**
- **February 22— Via Zoom (or at BOE)**
- **March 8— Via Zoom (or at BOE)**
- **March 22— Via Zoom (or at BOE)**

Early Retirement Bonus Guidelines Set With March 1 Deadline

County school personnel are reminded that the date for **classroom teachers** to submit early written notification of their intent to retire in order to receive the \$500 bonus authorized through WV Code 18A-2-2(g) this year is Monday, March 1st.

In accordance with WVC 18A-2-5a, county boards have the authority to pay, strictly from local funds, up to a \$500 bonus to professional personnel other than classroom teachers or service personnel who provide written notification of their intent to retire at the end of the school year by March 1.

Questions about these guidelines or the notification process for Barbour County Schools may be directed to either David Neff (ext. 1011) or Homer Talbott (ext. 1031) at the Board of Education office at (304-457-3030).

Grant Funding During Fall Semester Help to Supplement School System Needs

Barbour County Schools has received direct and indirect funding through several successful grant proposals during the fall semester, with others still pending. Among those already approved are:

The school system will benefit from its partnership in the \$1 million Bright Futures federal HRSA grant to address opioid and substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery in the community and among youth. The local coalition is led by the Belington Community Medical Services Association, Inc.



Grants totaling \$6000 from Highmark Foundation have allowed the school system to complete the process of equipping all school facilities with water bottle-filling stations, an important sanitary upgrade in the age of COVID and other transmittable diseases.

A Juvenile Assistance grant of \$15,000 has been approved to help fund the salary of Philip Barbour's Prevention Resource Officer for 2020-21 in partnership with the county commission.

A \$322,000 award has been received from the Department of Education for Barbour County's project in the COVID-19 Re-entry Grant competition. It is designed to supplement student support services and technology in the schools.

More than \$18,000 has been received in the WVDE Substance Abuse Prevention initiative to be used for a library of supplies, materials and resources across the county for grades K-12.

Philip Barbour High School will be able to offer after-school tutoring and parental support services during the second semester thanks to a \$7500 WVSAN grant partnered between BCS and World Vision as part of REACH U program.



The Older I Get...

***The longer I hold onto a
holiday hug...***

***The more I realize that
Christmas is a matter of the
heart...***

***The tighter my throat gets
when I sing Silent Night...***

***The more I enjoy giving
than I do receiving...***

***The more I try to see
Christmas "through the eyes
of a child"...***

***The longer I sit at night in
the glow of a Christmas tree...***

***The more wondrously beau-
tiful the Christmas Story is...***

***The deeper my awe is at
God's infinite love...***

The more I love Christmas.