

West Virginia Professional Educators

A Student's Mind Is Too Precious To Be Bargained For

Website: wvprofed.org



NEWS

Spring 2020

Educators in 2020: Resourceful and Resilient

By Libby Surface

No one could have predicted the effects of the COVID19 pandemic on America's school systems, or the closing of West Virginia's schools for the remainder of this academic year. WVPE members and their coworkers proved up for the challenge, however, and we thank all teachers, counselors, nurses, and administrators for the incredible work they have done to provide instruction, communication, and meals for West Virginia students.

If there is a "silver lining" at this time, it may be the expansion of ideas and use of technology tools for future years. In this article, WVPE members share some of the tools used for distance learning and for communicating with students and their families.

Terri McCann of Upshur County has been utilizing conference calls, Office 365, and Google Classroom with her students at Buckhannon Upshur Middle School. One week in April she had students read an article on narrative poetry and read or listen to "Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll. Students then created their own Jabberwock using items found in their homes.

Many educators around the state are doing read aloud sessions online. Kayla Morris, Tyler County, reports that she created a school YouTube channel with a daily video by staff members so that students could listen and see their teachers. At her school, the art teacher uploads a daily art challenge, the music teacher has online

Many educators learned to balance online instruction with family time. Wood County teacher Deborah Guthrie was working on her school work when her young son needed some cuddle time!



music lessons, the STEAM teacher posts home activities, and the librarian provides a weekly video and activities. The YouTube channel is open to the public so that other students in the county or elsewhere could benefit from the videos.

Amanda Meadows of Raleigh County is providing her students with distance learning supplies through a Donors Choose grant of \$1000. Each student will receive a variety of art supplies, a 100 piece floor puzzle, sidewalk chalk, UNO and a board

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Resourceful (Continued from page 1)

game, and 3 or 4 chapter books based on their reading levels and interests. She will then deliver the materials to their front porches.

Wood County teacher, Deborah Guthrie, created daily and weekly activities for her third graders using Class Dojo and Google forms. She sent them reminders on topics like subtraction strategies, parts of speech, and she was available to help them when needed. Along with daily “shout outs” to those who completed assignments, Deborah videotaped a weekly drawing for those with work completed and delivered their prizes to their homes.

WVPE Treasurer Alicia Mullins teaches high school Geometry and Statistics. Earlier this year, she found that the Remind app was a valuable tool for connecting with her students and have conversations about their homework. Students in her Statistics class even created a group chat where they could help each other and connect with the teacher. When schools were closed due to the pandemic, her classroom seamlessly continued communication with Remind. In a secondary setting, teachers may have 150 students. This app, in conjunction with digital learning, has allowed Alicia to connect with students individually. Alicia says, “I miss my “work kids” terribly, but being a text away has made things much more bearable.”

Please feel free to send in more of your ideas, strategies, tools and success stories. Let’s share the positive outcomes that this challenge has produced!



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Be sure to “like”

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President’s Message

Jackie McDaniels

Hello WVPE Members,

Ever plan a birthday or anniversary party then have to cancel due to some unforeseen circumstances? Ever have to cancel before you even got a chance to invite anyone? I think you may see where I am heading with this. WVPE is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2020. We did have a kickoff celebration at the Capitol during the legislative session, see photos in this newsletter. Members of the Executive Board were solidifying plans for a larger celebration to include you and your family at the end of June when unforeseen circumstances caused us to pause and cancel.

Whether we have a large celebration with a crowd of people or not, we still

have cause to celebrate 40 years of providing members with outstanding services! I would like to thank you for choosing WVPE as your professional organization.

Jackie McDaniels,
WVPE President

P.S. You can help us celebrate now by remembering our goal of 2,020 members by the end of 2020. We have about 900 members to go and you can benefit each time you share why you are a member. When you get a colleague to join WVPE, make sure they write your name on the application as a referral. You will receive back \$25 on your dues for each new member you refer.



From the Desk of the Executive Director:

David Gladkosky

During this Covid19 pandemic, the task of educating our students rolls on, thanks to you, our teachers, school nurses, administrators and counselors. Your innovations and adaptability in remote learning are to be commended! This has been a learning experience for all of us! I also thank the WV Department of Education and Superintendent Burch for guiding us all through this process. They have developed some very helpful webpages which you’ll see listed in this newsletter.

WVPE began 2020 displaying a strong presence at the legislative session. With guidance from our lobbyist Johnna Gaunch, WVPE sponsored a successful Lobby Day on Monday January 21st. We met with several delegates and senators, and hand delivered our 2020 goals to all legislators. WVPE also presented our 2020 goals to the State Board of Education. One goal, returning to full day faculty senate, was met with favor by the board, and was even introduced in the House as HB 4841. It gained no further ground, but we will continue to promote its passage in future legislative sessions.

WVPE commemorated 40 years of advocating for teachers on February 18th

with a WVPE Day at the Capitol. We celebrated with cake, cupcakes, and a prominent display of our organization. We had a great time as we promoted our goals and philosophy and spoke with many interested people.

Here are highlights from recent WV State Board of Education meetings: The Dept. of Education presented their 2020 Strategic Plan which maps out priorities for pre-K-12 student achievement, social-emotional support and college and career readiness. The WVDE will focus on the 3 E’s: Educational Pathways, Employment, and Enlistment.

There was further discussion on the results from the Board of Education Listening Tour last fall. Students expressed the desire for more input in planning their academics, and want to focus on the positives in their schools. We also need to reach out to lower performing students more effectively. In discussions about Policy 2510, which is referred to as the education flagship policy, public comment indicated that high school social studies credits should not be reduced as proposed. Supt. Paine later made the official statement

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Executive Director

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On WVPE Day at the Capitol, Jackie McDaniels and Alma Page prepare to cut the anniversary cake to share with legislators and the public on February 18, 2020.

in February that they will remain at 4 credits.

The board also approved Policy 3300, Public Charter Schools. As presented, this policy seems to address every component to be ready for any scenario, but there are concerns from at least one board member about its implementation.

A partnership between the WVDE and a group called Families Leading Change WV are working on revitalizing Local School Improvement (LSIC) Councils. They are currently working with 26 counties to help make them more effective. They will be looking to revamp Policy 2322 concerning LSICs.

There have been separate discussions about expanding CTE programs to middle schools, and about chronic student absenteeism. For example, the current absence rate for pre-k through 3rd grade is 11.80%. In response, the WVDE has created an attendance toolkit available on their website.

As Superintendent Burch took the helm this spring, the WVDE focus has been on the school closure, and its plan for the rest of the academic year.



Beth Post discusses the work of WVPE and legislative goals with a state legislator at WVPE Day.

WVPE 2020-2021 Ballot

Deadline: June 15, 2020

Ballots can be completed online using the link sent to your email or the link here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020WVPEElection> OR by

President: _____

Jacqueline McDaniels, Upshur County

Write In: _____

Vice-President: _____

Jane Yokum, Hardy County

Write In: _____

Recording Secretary: _____

Beth Post, Upshur County

Write In: _____

All other officers and positions are appointed by the WVPE President.



Pictured here in front of WVPE's display at the Capitol are left to right, Beth Post, Jackie McDaniels, Johnna Gaunch, David Gladkosky, and Libby Surface

All waivers have been reviewed and approved to be sure that the state is in compliance, and Supt. Burch has been given the flexibility to approve future waivers.

As always, WVPE encourages you to consider becoming a county contact,

or helping to start a county chapter. We now have willing county contacts in several counties, and organized chapters in a very few. Since we have members in nearly every one of our 55 counties, we would like to expand our presence. Think about it!!

For Your Information: Websites

Reclaim West Virginia: <http://wvde.us/reclaimwv/>

This site contains many resources for coping with the opioid epidemic in WV.

Love My WV School: <http://wvde.us/lovelywvschool>

This resource is for sharing positive stories, information innovative lessons, student successes, and education at work.

COVID19 Information Page: <http://wvde.us/covid19>

News, guidance, and resources to aid in dealing with COVID19 are posted here. This includes an Educators Hub at which ideas, lessons, strategies, solutions and the Leaders of Literacy podcasts can be found.

Office of the Governor: <http://governor.wv.gov>

This site contains updates on the COVID19 virus and information on press conferences.

Teaching Opportunities in West Virginia: <http://teachwv.com>

This web resource is designed to guide individuals beginning educational career paths to become teachers.

Free Summer Professional Learning: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/elearning/>

For more information on courses offered contact WVDE Division of Teaching and Learning at 304-558-8098.

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Important Announcements!

Please Read!

Legislative Updates and Desk Calendar Option

Beginning in 2021, Legislative Updates will be sent by email. It is important that we have your current email address so that we can get these updates to you in a timely manner. If you have not been contacted recently, please your preferred email to Jackie McDaniels at Jackie@wvprofed.org.

In addition, please contact WVPE if you have moved or have changed phone numbers.

In another effort to reduce waste, WVPE members may now opt out of receiving a desk calendar each year. Please send a brief email to Sue Atkinson at info@wvprofed.org if you no longer wish to receive a desk calendar.

Thanks in advance for your help! We want to stay connected with you!

CONGRATULATIONS!

The WVPE members listed below have earned or renewed their National Board Certification for 2019. Congratulations for completing this challenging endeavor.

Laura Brown, Harrison County
Early Childhood Generalist

Sherri Butler, Upshur County
Early and Middle Childhood Arr

Jessica Haynes, Harrison County
Early Childhood Generalist

Amanda Meadows, Raleigh County
Early and Middle Childhood Literacy

Jenna Williams, Harrison County
Early and Middle Childhood Literacy

If you or a fellow WVPE member have earned or renewed your national board certification, please contact us so that you may be recognized!
Email Libby Surface at Libby@wvprofed.org.