



THE Drum • Beat

OF THE PIQUA CITY SCHOOLS



Family and community members show overwhelming support for the class of 2018.

Congratulations to the class of 2018! Piqua City Schools and the Piqua community are proud of this new class of graduates that will be joining past accomplished Piqua alumni.

With 57% of our graduates going to college, 3% joining the military, and 40% heading into the workforce, we can be assured that the future paths of our graduates will lead them to continued success.

On behalf of the Piqua City Schools Board of Education and district staff, I would like to sincerely thank the community of Piqua for the support you continue to provide each year. With your help and continued partnerships we can provide students with strong foundations that lead to successful futures. Thank you!

Dwayne Thompson,
Superintendent

JUNE 2018

Piqua Community Salutes Graduates

With the flip of a tassel 222 Piqua High School seniors were conferred graduation diplomas June 1 during commencement exercises in Alexander Stadium.

With family, friends and district staff cheering along the sidelines, graduates left with inspiring words from Valedictorians Cameron Brown and Darby Bulp and Salutatorian Leanne Price.

Brown, who is Harvard bound, is the son of Kimberly and Clayton Brown and has a 5.2 GPA. Throughout his career at PHS, he has participated in a myriad of extracurricular activities, served as class president for all four years and is a National Merit Scholar.

Brown challenged fellow grads "Don't hesitate to explore change and new ways forward; don't hesitate to challenge preconceived ways, to destroy contentment. Never hesitate to ask why."

Bulp, daughter of Maria and Bradley Bulp, has a 5.2 GPA and will attend Georgetown University. Bulp has been involved in numerous activities including Youth in Government and attended the 2017 and 2018 Congresses on National Affairs in North Carolina.

Bulp acknowledged those who helped by "pushing me to be myself and to never stop striving to be the very best that I can be."

Price, daughter of Jeff and Linda Price, has a 5.14 GPA and will attend Butler University. As soccer team captain, she encouraged grads to "journey out of your comfort zone" and not be afraid "to make tough choices".

This year's graduates were awarded \$2,339,430 million in scholarships.

Piqua Mayor Kazy Hinds extended her congratulations adding "What a milestone this is for YOU! Your hard work has paid off and know that I, along with many here in Piqua, am very proud of you. Continue to reach for your goals and never stop dreaming."

It's Academic Signing Day

Whether you are a parent and/or administrator like PHS Vice Principal Darrell Hite it's a proud moment watching your child sign a certificate of intent to further their education. Forty-five members of the Class of 2018 participated in the May 14 Academic Signing Day.

The annual ritual -synonymous to a sports-signing ceremony- recognizes students for their hard work in the classroom. Amidst cheers and hugs, students and parents are called on stage to sign a letter of intent. This year's class earned nearly \$1,705,362 in academic scholarships from colleges and universities for college tuition next year.



The ten recipients of the Piqua Promise plan to attend Edison State Community College next fall, tuition-free.

The Piqua Promise = College tuition-free

Ten members of the PHS Class of 2018 will be afforded an opportunity to further their education thanks to the combined efforts of the Piqua Education Foundation (PEF) and

Edison State Community College.

An innovative program known as The Piqua Promise enables graduating seniors to each receive \$2,500 from PEF with that amount matched by Edison State to cover a full year of tuition.

The scholarships are renewable providing that eligibility requirements are met. PEF Board Member Dr. Jim Burkhardt anticipates The Piqua Promise will "expand to include other schools and institutions" with the long-term goal to provide a "life-changing opportunity for ALL grads by giving

them the financial resources they need to take advantage of additional education/training beyond high school."

This year's recipients were

announced at Class Night and include Brianna Fuller, Kylie Emrick, Morgan Ford, Mackenzie Jessup, Hannah Lambert, Spencer Lavey, Ashley Sowers, Gavin Strevell, Grace Strevell and Ashley Furbee.

In addition, the PEF has announced 144 scholarships worth an estimated \$298,700 were distributed at Class Night thanks to the generosity of numerous donors.

Other members of the PEF board, in addition to Burkhardt, are Elly Snapp, Sue Yannucci, Soha Shah, Dr. Doug Hulme, Kelly Hostetter, Troy Ouhl, Stephanie Friend, Sam Robinson, Dale Davis, Matt Cox, Ken Magoteaux, Dwayne Thompson and Kelly McMaken.

Anna Baumeister is the newly-appointed PEF manager. Donations-which are tax deductible-can be mailed to the Piqua Education Foundation, 215 Looney Road, Piqua, OH, 45356.



Members of the "greatest generation" gave congratulatory handshakes to the Class of 2018 during commencement sharing front row seats with PCS staff. Class of 1948 celebrated their 70th and final class reunion. Bob Fosnight, Paul Staley and Chuck Alexander represented the class.

When asked his advice for new grads, Fosnight, 89, retired Air Force veteran, didn't hesitate. "Education is a very important thing. Today's students need to make the best of their education."

EDUCATORS, STAFF, FRIEND OF THE SCHOOLS

Awards for Outstanding Work

Twenty-five year teaching veteran **Stacy Patton** has been named the PCS Teacher of the Year after being nominated by several peers and presented with a bouquet of flowers by Superintendent Dwayne Thompson and Board of Education President Andy Hite.



Teacher of the Year, Stacy Patton.

Patton, described as having "a great passion for helping her students", has taught different grade levels at different buildings and currently teaches fourth grade social studies at PCIS.

"We are, as teachers, givers of hope," commented Patton. "We provide young people with an understanding that their current circumstances do not define them. These circumstances are possibly necessary to make them stronger, more resilient and have the ability to persevere with whatever life may bring. As givers

of hope, we must be the model of positivity, flexibility, and delight in the small miracles in our daily lives."

Other finalists included Debbie Allen, PHS; Jared Askins, PJHS; George Crickmore, Springcreek, and Holly Peoples, Washington.

Support Staff Member of the Year **Beth Rosenkranz**, PHS counselor, is completing her 19th year as a PCS educator having started as a sixth grade



Friends of the Schools, Anna Baumeister and Ruth Koon.



Support Staff Employee of the Year, Beth Rosenkranz.

teacher at Bennett. Several co-workers described Rosenkranz as "one of the hardest workers I have had the pleasure of being with and who always goes beyond what needs to be done."

Support staff finalists included Sarah Patrizio, PJHS; Robin Phipps, PCIS; Keri Scott, Springcreek; April Vosler, Washington; and Susan



Golden Apple Award, Casey Denlinger.

DeBrosse, central office.

Casey Denlinger, better known as "Mr. D", was honored with the Golden Apple Award. Denlinger, a substitute teacher at both PHS and PJHS, is described as someone with a "great rapport with students and who always has a smile on his face and a positive attitude."

The **Piqua Garden Tribe** received the Friend of the Schools Award for their innovative garden project. It consists of 13 raised beds located on the site of the former Nicklin School. The Garden Tribe consists of Ruth Koon, Anna Baumeister, the Piqua Garden Club, and Mark Casto (landscaping).

Employee Retirements and Service Awards

Nine exemplary staff joined the ranks of retirees during the End of Year Staff Celebration on May 31 at the Hartzell Center for the Performing Arts at PHS. As Superintendent Dwayne Thompson presented each of the honorees with a clock for a combined 208 years of service, the auditorium resounded with applause as colleagues celebrated their achievements.

Retirees and their respective years of service include the following: Rick "Clap" Clapgood,

14 years; Susan L. DeBrosse, 25 years; Linda DeWeese, 22 years; Charles Flaharty, 34 years; Brenda M. Galley, 33 years; Becky Jenkins, 33 years; Cheryl Jones, 25 years; Adele Penrod, 18 years; and Connie L. Strehle, PhD, four years.

Years of Service Awards were distributed as part of the celebration. Those individuals recognized included Kathy Graeser, Lori Huebner, and Jane Peck, 30 years; Susan DeBrosse, Jill Hughes, Cheryl

Jones, Stacy Patton and Dwayne Thompson, 25 years; Marcie Anderson, George Crickmore, Kristie Dankworth, Jennifer Everett, Mindy Gearhardt, Terry Hess, Vicki Keller, Judith Nicholl, Carolyn Pearson, Lori Smith, Jackie Thase-Burch and Melody Voisinet, 20 years.

Also, Kathy Booher, Amy Davis, Kim Dyar, Kendra Krouskop-Smith and Katie Motter, 15 years; Jared Askins, Terri Burkholder, Erika Butler, Ami Fashner, Dan Hathaway, Abbey Hewitt, Mick

Leffel, Libbey Leininger, Brandon Lightle, Michelle McNeill, Mike Schaefer, Paula Schmiesing, Keri Scott and Tiffany Williams, 10 years.

And Angie Ahrens, Sarah Coppock, Jade Green, Tara Hall, Chip Hare, Jeremie Hittle, Alexandra Johnson, Katie Meece, Alexa Miller, Casey A Potts, Brittney Robbins, Christine Seitz and Macarena Studebaker, five years.

Piqua City Schools
215 Looney Road
Piqua, OH 45356
937-773-4321
www.piqua.org

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Top Graduates Share their Honors with their Teachers

Three PCS teachers were recently lauded by Piqua High School's two valedictorians and salutatorian at the Miami County Educational Service Center awards night.

The dinner honors the county's highest academic achievers along with teachers who inspired them along their journey. While students portray their role models as "kind and caring", the teachers have proven turnabout is fair play.

PHS Teacher Courtney Downs describes **Valedictorian Cameron Brown** "as the type of student you hope for when you decide to become an educator. How he has managed his coursework, athletics and social life is well beyond anything an average 17-year-old can handle. Taking one look at his resume, this is apparent. What doesn't show up on paper is the compassion he shows to others."

"On more than one occasion (Cameron) has worked with classmates to help them understand difficult concepts. In the Big Brothers/Big Sisters partnership with Springcreek, he works with a second grade student weekly



Darby Bubb (left) with teacher Troy Ouhl.

Valedictorian Darby Bubb, notes AP Government teacher Troy Ouhl, is among his "best and brightest" students. "She is hardworking, driven and dedicated to achieving at a high level. What sets Darby apart from other students I have taught is that she is a kind, genuine young lady. She cares about others and treats her peers with respect and kindness that I have never experienced before as a teacher. She brings an energy to the classroom that makes me want to perform at my highest level possible. It has been a pleasure

to have her in my class and I look forward to seeing all the greatness Darby will achieve."

Teacher Elly Snapp describes **Salutatorian Leanne Price** as an exemplary student and amazing leader. "When Leanne entered my Algebra class in seventh grade, she was shy, quiet and not wanting to be in the spotlight." As time evolved she witnessed a young lady "who was gaining confidence in and out of the classroom." Leanne became captain of the soccer team, and learned



Cameron Brown (right) with teacher Courtney Downs.

and previously volunteered with PCIS Run Club. This is someone that gives BACK to others. He brings academic prowess, leadership and heart everywhere he goes."



Leanne Price (left) with teacher Elly Snapp.

to speak publicly "delivering her message with grace and eloquence. It's been a pleasure watching Leanne grow into a strong, self-assured woman."