

THE Drumbeat

MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

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 tremendous support you provided us this past school year. It is only with your continued partnerships that we were able to be unstoppable with the many roadblocks that surfaced due to the pandemic. I am beyond proud of how the Piqua City Schools staff, students, and their families relentlessly worked to discover solutions for each challenge we faced. The persistence shown by all allowed us to open schools in the fall on time and remain open – not shutting down once this school year for COVID related issues. This is the ‘Piqua way!’

I would like to wish the class of 2021 a successful transition as they follow the paths they have chosen as their next steps forward. Finally, I wish all students, their families, and members of our community a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing everyone this fall!

#wearepiqua

Dwayne A. Thompson

Superintendent, Piqua City Schools

PIQUA CITY SCHOOLS CELEBRATE THE CLASS OF 2021



With the flip of a tassel two hundred fifty-two seniors were confirmed at the one hundred fifty-eighth Piqua High School Commencement Ceremony at Alexander Stadium/Purk Field. A stadium full of family, friends, community members and district staff cheered for the graduates and celebrated their many achievements.

Valedictorian, Decker Jackson, praised his peers for their resilience and celebrated the positive changes many have made while attending PHS since their freshman year. Decker is the son of Laura and Jeff Jackson. At Piqua High School Decker has been involved in Show Choir, Student Council, Model UN,



Valedictorian, Decker Jackson

National Honor Society, Academic Challenge, Concert Choir and Men’s Choir. Decker has held a lead role in each of four musicals while he was at Piqua High School. He was also a member of the golf team, an active volunteer at the Greene Street food pantry, a volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters, a participant in Link Leaders and a member of the Piqua High School Hope Squad.

Next fall Decker will be pursuing an Ivy League education by attending Dartmouth College in Hanover New Hampshire. He will be double majoring in Economics and Music.

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*"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."
 ~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

(Piqua City Schools Celebrate the Class of 2021, continued)



The class of 2021 celebrates with the traditional toss of their graduation caps at the conclusion of the commencement ceremony at Alexander Stadium.

Salutatorian, Stephen Dolder, reminisced about his high school years and encouraged his peers to continue their journey to success. He is the son of Doug and Bethanie Dolder. Along with his academics, music has been a primary focus for Dolder. He has been involved in marching band, symphonic band, jazz bands, and pep band for all four years while attending Piqua High School. Dolder is a member of the tennis team and the National Honor Society.

Next fall Dolder will be pursuing his nursing degree at the Ohio State University.



Salutatorian, Stephen Dolder

This year's graduates were awarded a total of \$2,331,961 in scholarships.

Academic Signing Day was held at Piqua High School on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, recognizing



Katherine Hanes, daughter of Rick and Beth Hanes participated in Academic Signing Day at PHS. Hanes will be attending the University of Cincinnati majoring in Engineering.

seniors that were awarded over \$400,000.00 in renewable scholarships from colleges and universities they will be attending next year.

Class Night was held at Piqua High School on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. The Neils and Ruth Lundgard Scholarships continue to provide amazing support to graduates by issuing over \$25,000.00 in scholarships to seniors this year. The Piqua Education Foundation (PEF) has been awarding scholarships to Piqua graduates since 1985. This year PEF celebrates awarding over \$5 Million in scholarships to more than 3,000 outstanding graduates of Piqua High School. This year alone, they distributed over \$300,000 to 159 Piqua High School graduates in the Classes of 2018-2021.

Local organizations such as The American Legion, Kiwanis, Piqua Optimist, and the Rotary Club provided scholarships along with a number of other generous donors that were recognized at Class Night and at graduation. Board president, Clint Bostick, said, "The many scholarships awarded our seniors this year and in the past is a true testament to the devotion our community has for our students. We are truly blessed." ■



Athletic Director, Chip Hare congratulates Jerell Lewis as one of the outstanding Senior Athletes of 2021.



Piqua Education Foundation Executive Director, Katie Neubert congratulates Ca'ron Coleman for earning a Scholarship.

*The most reliable way to predict the future is to create it.
 ~ Abraham Lincoln*

#Wearepiqua

2021 END OF THE YEAR STAFF CELEBRATION

On Friday, May 28th the 20-21 school year wrapped up with the Piqua City Schools End of the Year Celebration where staff members gathered to be recognized for milestones and special accomplishments. Superintendent, Dwayne Thompson, thanked the staff for their dedication to the students and community they serve. Thompson complimented the staff by saying, “You were simply unstoppable this

of school districts in the state that opened on time and did not close one day due to COVID related issues. Thompson summed up his thoughts at the event by saying, “I will remember a great deal about this year. What I will remember most however, is your tremendous work ethic and determination to serve our students.” At the conclusion of the event, all staff members were treated to ice cream from Susie’s Big Dipper.

“...Piqua City Schools was one a very small group of school districts in the state that opened on time and did not close one day due to COVID related issues.”

year. While other schools closed in the fall, we opened. When other schools extended holiday breaks from fear of COVID cases rising, we closely watched local data and you said please keep our students in person with us. When other sports programs shut down, our coaches asked when is our first game?”

In addition to remaining open for students to attend in-person classes, the district also offered a remote learning option due to COVID that required the district to shift some personnel to different positions. Thompson shared, “There was no district operation that was unaffected by the pandemic. We had to reinvent how we prepared and served food, cleaned and sanitized our facilities and buses, transported students, educated our students, participated in extracurriculars, provided professional development for staff, and engaged with the public. These changes had to take place quickly and while staying within our budget.” Thompson noted that due to their great work and alliance with parents and students, Piqua City Schools was one of a very small group



Piqua City Schools District Teacher of the Year 2021, Sally Ellis, Piqua Jr. High School
Mrs. Ellis has taught in Piqua for 31 years. During her tenure, she has taught at High Street, Favorite Hill, Wilder, Springcreek, and PJHS while working with students that have individual educational plans (IEPs). Nominations by her colleagues describe Mrs. Ellis as an excellent teacher and outstanding coworker!



Outstanding Educator Finalists for each building include

- Washington Primary School, Hope Davis
- Springcreek Primary School, Erin Monnier
- Piqua Central Intermediate Sch., Angela Woods
- Piqua High School, Courtney Downs



Piqua City Schools District Support Staff Member of the Year 2021, Liana Michaels, Piqua High School and Piqua Junior High School

Liana has been a nurse in Piqua for 9.5 years. She has served in this position at Springcreek, Wilder, PJHS, and PHS Schools during her tenure. Nominations for Liana repeatedly mentioned how she does her work faithfully, with confidence, and a smile on her face.

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Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

(2021 End of the Year Staff Celebration, cont. from Page 3)



Support Staff Employee of the Year Finalists for each building include

- Central Office, Alicia Hare
- Washington Primary Sch., Courtney Drees
- Piqua Central Intermediate Sch., Heather York
- Springcreek Primary School – Keri Scott



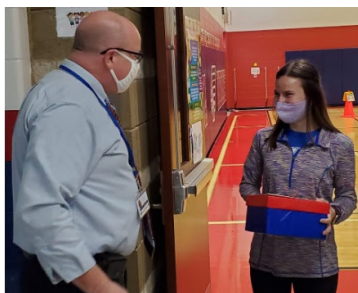
Piqua City Schools Coach/Advisor of the Year 2021, Mitch Mahaney, Marching Band/ Pep Band, Piqua High School

Mr. Mahaney began teaching in Piqua in 2006. In the many nominations submitted by his peers, students of all age levels, and their parents, it is evident that fifteen years later he continues to have a significant impact on his student musicians. His nominations include a common thread of the following sentiments: “Patient” “Kind” “Committed” “Encouraging” and “Role Model.”



Piqua City Schools Friend of the Schools 2021, Ben Gover

Mr. Gover was nominated for his work to secure warm clothing for students in need. After seeing many children waiting at their bus stops in the mornings without coats, hats, and gloves, Gover took on the task to raise enough money through donations so bus drivers and all schools were supplied with enough coats, hats and gloves so any and all students could be warm outside in cold weather as they prepare to go to and from school daily.



Piqua City Schools Substitute Teacher of the Year 2021, Sarah Pond

Having great substitute teachers is paramount to support student learning when a teacher is absent from the classroom. Miss Pond was one of many great individuals that regularly filled in during a difficult year with COVID. One of her many nominations read, “She does not come in to just fill a position, she comes in and makes a difference.”



Staff Retiring

- Joyce Moubray, Intervention Specialist at PJHS – 15 years of service
- Susan Bollinger, Aide at PJHS – 27 years of service
- April Vosler, Library Aide at Washington Primary School – 30 years of service
- Elly Snapp, Math Teacher at PJHS – 34 years of service
- Kathy Perreira, Cook at PCIS – 17 years of service
- Donn McCoy, Custodian at Washington Primary School – 5 years of service

Years of Service to the Piqua City Schools Awards

5 YEARS

Becky Adams, Claudia B. Adams, Sarah Ammon, Maddie Armstrong, Karen B. Bensman, Sarah Bensman, Rachael Bissett, Scott Bloom, Michelle Bonifas, Beth Cain, Janet Chaney, Jordan Drake, Sally Venis Ellis, Mandy Ferncez, Nancy Frohne, Ashley Garrett, Melinda Glazier, Dana Gwinn, Amy Holden, Jodi Jenkins, Cara Koon, Heather Langston, Ross Loudenback, Donn McCoy, Leslie Mitchell, Tracy Mumaw, Carol Palmer, Abby Peepels, Kate E. Roberts, Amy Todd, Donnelle Walling, Deanna Williams, Mark Wiltshire.

(continued on page 5)

*O Alma Mater, Piqua High, our hearts all turn to thee.
 Thou inspiration of our lives, through all the time to be.
 The many lessons learned from you, will guide our footsteps right;
 May all thy days be filled with praise, and all thy ways be bright.
 ~ Piqua Alma Mater*

LOOKING BACK 100 YEARS TO 1921

Despite a number of setbacks the class of 2021 faced due to the COVID 19 Pandemic since March of 2020, they have captured our attention. Their unwavering efforts to succeed and accelerate forward has been remarkable. Despite Governor DeWine's closure of Ohio schools last spring and all the health mandates, orders, restrictions and guidelines, they continued to progress with their academic studies, perform their amazing talents, and fiercely compete on the athletic courts and fields. The endurance shown by these seniors with their studies as well as on the stage and athletic fields has been tremendous. Superintendent, Dwayne Thompson, wondered how graduates responded 100 years ago when they experienced a world-wide pandemic during their high school years.

1921 Senior, Ruth M. Wells, noted of their sophomore year that they had, "scarcely settled to enjoy its single session and new cafeteria lunch room when the 'Flu' epidemic came." Her written history of the class of 1921 indicated they had, "four weeks of unwelcome vacation, which necessitated



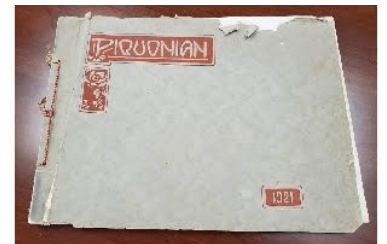
the shortening of regular vacations in order that the semester's work might be finished." Another student wrote that, "Several individuals who had the disease were forced to stay out of school the remainder of the semester while others were compelled to give up school work completely." Miss Wells noted that upon students' return to school, the Armistice was signed ending World War I. She recalled, "The whole school participated in the Armistice Day Parade, and this will no doubt be one of the lasting memories of the Class of 1921."



In an attempt to encourage students to work harder when they returned, the new high school principal, Mr. Sims, introduced an 'honor roll' for students that received four A's. It was noted in the 1921 Piquonian that the honor roll, "proved a success for it resulted in better work on the part of the students." Mr. Sims also started a new custom of high school parties. The class of 1921 wrote that this, "provided pupils with a social side to school life as well as the intellectual." It was noted that their second party was extra special because they no longer had to

'mask up.' They described their years in high school as, "one of the epoch making times in the history of the world." The 60 member class of 1921 proclaimed they, "lived up to every expectation of what a senior class should be." It was noted that, "each and every lower classmate held them in awe and with great respect."

This brings us back to the class of 2021. Individually and collectively, they set a high standard for all future PHS graduates and classes to bring a great focus with their efforts to overcome any challenges they may face. There is a quote in the year book to the class of 1921 that reads, "Give the world the best you have and the best will come back to you." Piqua City Schools wish the



1921 Piquonian

class of 2021 the very best their futures have to offer. Thompson said, "I believe when individuals look back on this class of graduates in 100 years, they are going to admire their character and see them as a positive example of determination and great success." ■

(2021 End of the Year Staff Celebration, cont. from page 4)

10 YEARS

Lisa Feitshans, Maria Grassbaugh

15 YEARS

Teresa Arp, Lacey Ashton, Jennifer Blankenship, Annette Bollheimer, Lisa Butt, Kim Didier, Angie Ford, Alicia Hare, Martha Lyons, Tony Lyons, Mitch Mahaney, Amanda Manson, Joyce Moubray, Jaimi Sparks-Baker, Lori Westerheide

20 YEARS

Megan Askins, Roger Bateman, Josh Burns, David Fogt, Pam George, Sylvia Jacobs, Karen Jenkins, Teri Kent-Herron, Heather Monroe, Troy Ouhl, Robin Phipps, Katie Sarver, Katie Smith, Karen Wood

25 YEARS

Kim Bean, Scott Foster, Kristin Gephart, Amy Honeycutt, Bonita Jackson, Jana Krogman, Christie Schneider

45 YEARS

Congratulations to Sarah Deavours for reaching 45 exemplary years of service to the Piqua City Schools. Treasurer, Jeremie Hittle said, "Sarah has been invaluable to our work over the years and we are pleased she will continue to serve in her current role." ■



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Congratulations Piqua High School 2021 Graduates

Isaac A. Abbott, Nasteho A. Abdi, Austin T. Agee, Xavier R. Alderton, Airean A. Allen, Phebe N. Allread, Julia C. Anderson, Cassie F. Arnett, Spencer M. Arnett, Lilyn C. Azbell, Wyatt O. Baker, Ashton G. Baldwin, Layne R. Banning, Lexus Z. Banning, Malaya F. Barker, Chloe J. Barnes, Lillie G. Battson, Zachariah H. Baughman, Trenton S. Billet, Rowen G. Bird, Alyse R. Blain, Hailey M. Bollinger, Kennedy L. Booker, Christopher A. Bowers, Silas P. Bragg, Aubrie C. Brandon, Ramsey D. Branson, Nakia S. Brooks, Steven M. Brown, Deacon C. Buechter, Asianek A. Burge, Austin E. Burns, Isaac R. Bushnell, Jared M. Callahan, Clayton M. Campbell, Gavin V. Carey, Lauren N. Carr, Malia G. Casey, Aubri A. Cathcart, Logan D. Cavender, Ke'Anna M. Chambers, Dylan M. Chaney, Cooper J. Clark, Grace E. Clark, Ca'ron A. Coleman, Jazmyn L. Cook, Logan E. Coulter, Colleen M. Cox, Andrew D. Cremeens, Hailey E. Cremeens, Jamie L. Crull, Dylan E. Crusoe-Price, Colton P. Curtis, Kameron I. Darnar, Haiden A. Davis, Shayelynn R. Davis, Nichole L. Delacruz, Mattyson D. Dempsey, Stephen L. Dolder, Ashtin B. Douglas, Isaac T. Drzewiecki, Jessica E. Dunaway, Howard D. Edwards, Alicia M. Elliott, Courtney N. Elliott, Stormie R. Engley, Jeremiah N. Hall Estep, Brady S. Evans, Whitney N. Evans, Williams H. Evilsizor, Kennedy M. Fashner, Maysa J. Feltner, Davis A. Feniello, Haley M. Fisher, Annelise K. Foos, Matthew A. Foos, Angel S. Forrest, Maddox C. Forrer, Jacob R. Fugate, Donte B. Gardner, Alexis R. Gilardi, Shawna M. Gill, Oakley M. Gilmore, M. Griffith, Siara J. Grinstead, Austin G. Jadin S. Harmon, Kayleigh D. Harris, Haley N. R. Henby, Jacob B. Hepner, Lyric J. Hereford, Higgins, Cameron L. Hines, Paige M. Hinkle, R. Honeycutt, Robert N. Huber, Brandon C. Hunter, Collin W. Hutton, Decker R. Jackson, Spencer D. James, Karley E. Johns, Tania R. Karn, Veronica J. Keebler, Chase A. Keith, Landers, Melanna R. Langston, Gavin A. A. Lenninger, Terrea D. Lester, Jerrell A. Naomi N. Madden, Keri N. Marion-Davey, McClelland, Damian A. W. McClure, Kyle L. McName, Kaitlyn M. McNutt, Isaiah G. Jacob R. M. Millet, Kathleen E. Miracle, Mueller, Alyssa A. Murphy, Mickayla E. Kylee A. H. Orndorff, Blane M. Ouhl, Draven Penkal, Austin R. Penny, Crystal L.L. Penny, Phillips, Zurie A. Pope, Hannah L. A. Popp, Daniel A. Poth, Ashleigh E. Powis, Christian M. Proffitt, Hannah E. Ramirez, Justin J. Randall, Lance T. Reaves-Hicks, Lane A. Reedy, Jessie A. Richards, Ian S. Riehle, Hayden E. Ritchie, Caitlyn M. Roberson, Anna E. Rohrbach, Rebecca M. Rosier, Aleigha D. L. Ross, Drake B. Ross, Ava N. Rowley, Noah M. H. Ruley, Kyjuan R. Sano, Brianna Jaileen Santos, Jeremy X. Santos, Lillie A. Schaeffer, Karly J. Schisler, Karly J. Schlagetter, Jordan T. Schmidt, Nolan I. Schoepflin, Cassie E. Schoonover, Garrett M. Schrubbs, Cole M. Schwartz, Paige N. Schwartz, Chaz J. Scott, Loraine K. Seipel, Samantha E. Selhorst, Aireana L. Senkowski, Devon J. Sever, Dylan J. Sever, Coby L. Shepard, Alyson G. Sherman, Logan T. Sherman, Nickolas C. D. Sherwood, Bryse A. Short, Brooke K. Smith, Hunter A. Smith, Shawn U. Smith, Bryce D. P. Sowers, Roland B. Stahl, Jesse R. Strevell, Paige R. Stumpff, Cheyanne M. Swayne, Gabriel E. Switzer, Michael E. Switzer, Roy L. Tanner, Dennis R. Teets, Abriel L. Thompson, Levi B. Tilton, Izahya M. T. Tipps, Kamora I. Tipton, Adrian J. Tory, Madison E. R. Trissel, Jonathan M. G. Tucker, Rhylee M. Tufts, Isaiah M. Vinson, Grayson T. Walker, Devin N. Ware, Kylie E. Weber, Talon A. Weger, Adrienne M. Weigel, Gavin A. Weigel, Micah D. Wellman, Kara R. Went, Mia G. Whitsell, Connor J. Williams, Brian W. Wintrow, Dylan J. Wintrow, Nathaniel R. Wintrow, Damien G. Woods, Dylan J. Woods, Brooklynne P. Wright, Donovan C. Wright, Riley C. Wright, Dylan M. L. Wynn, Bryce L. Young, Colin R. Zube-Smith.



DATES TO REMEMBER

June 14
Summer School Begins

June 20
Father's Day
~Thank you Dad!

August 27
Class Lists Posted at
Elementary Buildings

September 7
First day of School

For more information about dates and times for 'Indian Days' open houses and the 2021-2022 school year, please visit:

www.piqua.org