

An Abbreviated History of Parkersburg South High School  
Compiled by Ken Davis

**1967-68**

Jack Simon, first principal (1966-68)  
1200 students enrolled  
Rodney Sams was the first Student Council President  
David Murray was the first Patriot  
Steven Llewellyn was first Senior Class President

The school flag imprinted with school seal. The flag was designed by Danny Fawcett. The school song was composed by John Borger with a committee that included Larry Poe and Judy Hess. The music is "Hail to the Hills of Westwood," the UCLA alma mater.

Officially dedicated on February 16, 1968, West Virginia University President, James Gindling Harlow, was the guest speaker.

The initial SPOT Day (Special People of Tomorrow) was held. The acronym was suggested by Angela Staats.

South won its first football game, a 7-0 win over Point Pleasant.

The first graduating class numbered 330.

**1968-69**

Herbert Palmer was named principal (1968-83).

Larry Poe was the Student Council President  
Michael Province was the Patriot

WPAR Radio features "South Sounds Out," featuring PSHS students.

Steve Swisher, who would go on to a Major League Baseball career, served as co-Captain of the football team and captain of the basketball team.

The second graduating class numbered 374  
The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas stands 704

**1969-70**

John Patrick Smith was Student Council President  
Kent Brown was the Patriot

The Patriot baseball team won both the sectional and regional titles.

The third graduating class numbered 350.  
The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 1,054

**1970-71**

Carl Radcliff was Student Council President  
Steve Freshour Sr. was the Patriot

The PSHS school newspaper, The CONTINENTAL CLARION, won its first of at least seven consecutive Best Class AAA newspapers in West Virginia.

Parkersburg South welcomed its first foreign exchange student, Ruediger Weidhaas of Germany.

The major Thespian production was 1984.

The fourth graduating class numbered 441 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas stands at 1,495.

### **1971-72**

Terry Denham was Student Council President<sup>(SEP)</sup>; Gary Flowers was the Senior Class President<sup>(SEP)</sup>; James Leach was the Patriot

The first Spirit Day was held; Kathy Ball was named Miss Spirit.

The Patriot Marching Band wins first place in Black Walnut Festival.

1100 students attend Senior Variety Show.

The fifth graduating class numbered 345 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 1,840.

### **1972-73**

Keith Burdette, future state senator, was Student Council President<sup>(SEP)</sup>; Samuel Smith was the Patriot

The Parkersburg South school population numbers 1579 students and 70 faculty members.

Sam Foggin was named High School All-American in basketball.

The Patriots score first track win over PHS.

The sixth graduating class numbered 389 and 2,229 Patriots with PSHS diplomas.

### **1973-74**

Roger Lockhart was the Student Council President<sup>(SEP)</sup>; Steven Flinn was the Patriot

The Freedom Shrine was presented to PSHS.

Building 400/4000 was completed.

Girls could compete for the first time in track.

Because of school construction in Wood County, Freshmen attended PSHS.

The seventh graduating class numbered 431 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas stands at 2,660.

### **1974-75**

Bill Litton was the Student Council President<sup>(SEP)</sup>; Rick Olcott was the Patriot

The "round" music building on the front campus was completed.

This was the first year girls could compete in basketball and volleyball.

The Patriot Palace, now referred to as the Rod Oldham Athletic Center, was completed and PSHS could now host basketball, volleyball and wrestling on its own home floor.

Parkersburg South captures its first State Title when the Patriot wrestlers claim the Class AAA State Championship.

Parkersburg South wins the Class AAA State Baseball Championship with a win at City Park against Tridelphia.

The eighth graduating class numbered 470 and there are now 3,130 Patriots with PSHS diplomas.

### **1975-76**

Stephen B. Heater was the Student Council President<sup>(SEP)</sup>; David Monroe was the Patriot

The Wood County Vocational Center, on the front campus, was opened.

The PSHS football team reaches the state post-season playoffs for the first time.

The ninth graduating class numbered 458. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 3,588.

### **1976-77**

Tammy Powell was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Robert Travis was the Patriot

The PSHS reading lab was one of two in the nation to win an exemplary award.

Horticulture became a part of the PSHS curriculum.

The drama department present its first musical...You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown.

Students protest against a "Junk Food" ban.

The 10th graduating class numbered 510 and 4,098 Patriots have received PSHS diplomas. **1977-78**

Mike Bargeloh was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> David Smith was the Patriot

The Willow Island disaster in Pleasants County was the big news story of then year, and 35 inches of snow leads to 11 days of "No School."

The Forensic team qualifies for its first National Tournament appearance.

New steps to the patio between Building 1 and the Cafeteria were completed.

Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Golf Championship.

Parkersburg South adds Tennis to its sports lineup.

The 11th graduating class numbered 515 and Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 4,613.

### **1978-79**

Craig Williams was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Lisa Barnette was the Senior Class

President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> David Young was the Patriot

The WV State Legislature extends the school day by 15 minutes—a response to the large number of days missed the previous year due to snow.

Parkersburg South's Air Force Junior ROTC unit, the West Virginia 781st, is established on campus.

A Future Farmers of America group is organized.

A school fund raiser sold 25,000 candy bars.

Patriot football quarterback Tim Stephens sets two state passing records—293 pass thrown during the season and 1,879 yards passing.

The 12th graduating class numbered 476<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 5,089.

### **1979-80**

Robin Powell was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> David Wilson was the Patriot

Construction of the Green House, Building #9, was constructed by Horticulture and Building Construction students.

This was the first year for an official homecoming, a Student Handbook, S-O-U-T-H spelling led by Billy Hall, The RAT by Rick Rhodes and the adoption of RATS (Rough and Tough South) with shirts designed and printed by Ken Brady and his Art classes.

Bryan Hively was Parkersburg South's first male cheerleader.

The 13th graduating class numbered 513 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas stood 5,602.

### **1980-81**

Angela De Anderson was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Robert Crowder was the Patriot

The PSHS student population grew to 1800.

The Patriot Marching Band won its first-ever Grand Champion Trophy in Oakland, Md, and competed in the Grand Nationals in Knoxville.

The school was decorated with Yellow Ribbons in support of hostages being held in Iran.

For the first time, the Air Force JROTC students had the opportunity for a helicopter ride.

Parkersburg South boys won the state Cross Country championship and this was the first year for girls' softball.  
The 14th graduating class numbered 494 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 6,096.

### **1981-82**

Becky Tennant was the Student Council President. Timothy Suder was the Patriot.  
New West Virginia drivers license now include a photo.  
This was the first year for the Southern Belles dance team.

The 15th graduating class numbered 515 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas is 6,611.

### **1982-83**

Gregory Cooper was the Student Council President. Kevin Cottrell was the Patriot.  
It was a big sports year as Parkersburg South wins the Boys and Girls Cross Country Championship. Parkersburg South wins and the Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.  
The 16th graduating class numbered 520 (largest ever) and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 7,131.

### **1983-84**

Robert Butler was named Principal of PSHS.  
Robert Hendrickson was the Student Council President. Christina Detamore was the Senior Class President. Dana McKnight was the Patriot.  
A computer dating sheet fund raiser was conducted in support of AFS.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Boys Cross Country Championship and the Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.  
The 17th graduating class numbered 469 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 7,600.

### **1984-85**

Catherine Houck was the Student Council President. David Staats was the Senior Class President. John Wade was the Patriot.  
President Ronald Reagan visits Parkersburg.  
The prestigious National Honor Society is established at PSHS.  
The first computer labs on campus, housing IBM and Apple computers are opened.  
The Patriot Mascot is painted on field house wall by South Art Teacher, Ken Brady.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State championships in Wrestling and Boys Cross Country.  
The 18th graduating class numbered 466. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 8,066.

### **1985-86**

Michael Snodgrass was the Student Council President. Brett Hissam was the Patriot.

Parkersburg South girls win the state Cross Country championship.

The 19th graduating class numbered 469. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 8,535.

### **1986-87**

John Wilcox was the Student Council President. Lisa Vincent was the Patriot (first female Patriot)  
Parkersburg South celebrates its 20th Anniversary.

Borg-Warner becomes South's first Partner in Education.

Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Girls Cross Country Championship.

The 20th graduating class numbered 468 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 9,003.

### **1987-88**

Bob McCloy was the Student Council President. Eric Parsons was the Patriot

Parkersburg South wins WTAP's TV Honor Society competition.

Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Boy Track Championship and the Girls State Cross Country championship.

The 21st graduating class numbered 469. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas stands at 9,472.

### **1988-89**

Michael Boggs was the Student Council President. Eric Davis was the Patriot

Parkersburg South is awarded the Exemplary School designation.

Taking advantage of the state's "early retirement incentive," 13 staff members retire.

Advanced Placement classes are offered at PSHS for the first time.

Soccer teams compete for the first time at PSHS and the girls volleyball team wins Class AAA State Championship.

The 22nd graduating class numbered 443. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 9,915.

### **1989-90**

Tim Swarr was named Principal of PSHS.

Kasey Trimble was the Student Council President. Stephen Freshour II (only father-son Patriot duo...1970-71) was the Patriot.

Five AFJROTC students were killed in a lunchtime car accident on Route 95 near the I-77 ramp.

A state teacher strike takes place. South students walk out in support of teachers.

Brenda Brum, PSHS librarian, is elected to State House of Delegates.

Parkersburg South wins the Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.

The 23rd graduating class numbered 405. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 10,320.

### **1990-91**

Cynthia Louise Davis was the Student Council President. Stephen Freshour II was the Patriot (the first 2-time Patriot)

In the late summer, the Persian Gulf War begins.

Parkersburg South wins WTAP's TV Honor Society competition.

General Electric sponsors a Foundation grant to encourage an increase in college bound numbers.

Channel One debuts in PSHS classrooms to start each day.

The Drama Department presents Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

Student Council's "Secret Pal" program begins.

Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.  
The 24th graduating class numbered 410 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 10,730.

### **1991-92**

Marcy Leeann Randolph was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>Michael Broschious was the Patriot  
Parkersburg South celebrates its 25th Anniversary.  
The Spring Faculty Talent Show, entitled "Silver Threads..." in honor of 25th anniversary is presented.  
GE Foundation grant has improved PSHS college bound numbers by 22%.  
The Faculty Senate sponsors Russian Exchange programs. Students and staff from Russia visit South for a week and later in the year South students and staff go to Russia.  
The 25th graduating class numbered 372. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 11,102.

### **1992-93**

Brian Bollinger was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>Kris Davis was the Patriot  
The 26th graduating class numbered 377<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 11,479.

### **1993-94**

Amy Lynn Brown was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>Kris Davis was the Patriot (the second 2-time Patriot)  
Parkersburg South wins the Class AAA Golf Championship and the Class AAA State Girls Track Championship.  
On Spot Day (May 27), the Shell Chemical plant in Belpre experienced an explosion that led to national news coverage. Many students were pulled from school, from which the blaze was visible, for fear of further and larger explosions. Late in the day Blennerhassett Junior High School (now a middle school) was evacuated to Parkersburg South.  
The 27th graduating class numbered 349 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas stands at 11,828.

### **1994-95**

Aime Metz was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>Ross Whitacre was the Senior Class President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>Shane Freshour was the Patriot (Only father-son-son trio--1970-71/1990-91) and ...he passed the job off to Dan Davis at the end of football season.  
The new Student Union opened in the ROAC offering students an alternative lunch possibility. Items available included pizza, nachos and cheese, hot dogs, chips and popcorn.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.  
The 28th graduating class numbered 355 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 12,183.

### **1995-96**

Roy McCase was named Principal of PSHS.  
Anna Miles was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>Jolie Wilson was the Senior Class President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>Brian Wilson was the Patriot  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Wrestling Championship and the girls basketball season switches from the fall to the winter.  
The 29th graduating class numbered 336. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 12,519.

### **1996-97**

Kristina Bush was the Student Council President. Kelly Kibble was the Senior Class President. Tim McCloy was the Patriot.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.  
The 30th graduating class numbered 331. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 12,850.

### **1997-98**

Abbie Burge was the Student Council President. Pete Elza was the Senior Class President. Chad Modesitt was the Patriot.  
Kristina Wise receives a Yeager Scholarship—the highest academic honor awarded to an incoming student by Marshall University.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Volleyball Championship.  
The 31st graduating class numbered 372 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 13,222.

### **1998-99**

Christina Dawson was the Student Council President. Jared Young was the Senior Class President. Brian Dowler was the Patriot.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Volleyball Championship.  
The 32nd graduating class numbered 360. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 13,582.

### **1999-2000**

Heidi Adams was the Student Council President. Talia Jo Fenoglietto was the Senior Class President. Bradley (B.J.) Hess was the Patriot.  
The Class of 2000 was the first-ever to experience an outside graduation...Held at the Erickson All-Sports Facility.  
On Sept. 24, 1999, Parkersburg South played its first-ever HOME football game at the Erickson All-Sports Facility.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.  
The 33rd graduating class numbered 379 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas stands at 13,961.

### **2000-2001**

Erin McGinnis was the Student Council President. Adam Smith was the Senior Class President. Adam Myers was the Patriot.  
Gov. Bob Wise visits Parkersburg South to discuss the Promise Scholarship.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.  
The 34th graduating class numbered 367. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 14,328.

### **2001-2002**

Tom Eschbacher was named Principal of PSHS.  
Katie Molinari was the Student Council President. Jessica Olcott was the Senior Class President. Steve Semenik was the Patriot.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Wrestling Championship and the Class AAA Boys Track Championship.  
The 35th graduating class numbered 345 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 14,673.

### **2002-2003**

Skylene Montgomery was the Student Council President. Luke Frazier was the Senior Class President. Zach Enoch was the Patriot.  
Parkersburg South wins the Class AAA Girls Soccer Championship and the Class AAA State Boys Basketball Championship with a win over Martinsburg.  
The Patriot football teams advances to State Championship game.  
The 36th graduating class numbered 349. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 15,022.

### **2003-2004**

Micah Malhotra was the Student Council President. Scotti Wilkinson was the Senior Class President. Micah Malhotra was the Patriot.  
President George W. Bush visits Parkersburg South. After speaking to the community in the ROAC, he surprised the assembled students by speaking to them in the auditorium.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA Football Championship, defeating Martinsburg. The 37th graduating class numbered 375. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 15,397.

### **2004-2005**

Ginger Minner was the Student Council President. Erica Goldsmith was the Senior Class President. Ashley Deem was the Patriot.  
Construction begins on the South campus. After demolition of part of the old building new construction will include a new main building as well as new science and music wings. The construction will result in most of the building now being under one roof.  
The Parkersburg South yearbook, for the first time, was in all color.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.  
The 38th graduating class numbered 380 and 15,777 Patriots have received PSHS diplomas!

### **2005-2006**

Megan Deel was the Student Council President. Heather Riffle was the Senior Class President. Meghan Kelley was the Patriot.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA Golf Championship and the Class AAA State Girls Basketball Championship.  
The 39th graduating class numbered 361. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 16,138.

### **2006-2007**

Katey Deem was the Student Council President. Jaclyn Peters was the Senior Class President. Matthew Munching was the Patriot.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Golf Championship.  
The 40th graduating class numbered 395. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 16,533.

### **2007-2008**

Rikki Knotts was the Student Council President. Sam Kelch was the Patriot.  
Sam Kelch receives a Yeager Scholarship—the highest academic honor awarded to an incoming student by Marshall University.



The PSHS Thespian Troupe captures WV State Title and represents West Virginia at International Thespian Conference at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Girls Basketball Championship.  
The 41st graduating class numbered 399 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 16,932.

### **2008-2009**

Laurel Sloan and Kayla Ware were the co-Student Council Presidents<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Laurel Sloan was the Senior Class President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> James Pfaff was the Patriot  
Construction ends at Parkersburg South with an addition of a new main building, a science and music wing and a link that allows the entire building to be under one roof.  
The new construction brings freshman to PSHS on a permanent basis.  
All students are required to stay on campus for lunch as the Open Lunch Policy is rescinded by the Wood County Board of Education.  
Principal Tom Eschbacher is awarded the honor of “West Virginia Principal of the Year,” by the West Virginia Association of Secondary Principals.  
“DEAR,” Drop Everything and Read,“ is implemented into the South schedule with 15 minutes a day set aside for everyone in the building to read for pleasure.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.  
The 42nd graduating class numbered 385 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 17,317

### **2009-2010**

Cassie Baylous was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Jennifer Wheeler was the Senior Class President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Chelsea Schroeder was the Patriot  
Parkersburg South wins the Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.  
The 43rd graduating class numbered 392 with the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas reaching 17,709.

### **2010-2011**

Taylor Cox was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Kayla Varndell was the Senior Class President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> James Rexroad was the Patriot  
Hannah Smith receives a Yeager Scholarship—the highest academic honor awarded an incoming student by Marshall University.  
Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.  
The 44th graduating class numbered 371. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 18,080.

### **2011-2012**

James Liebau was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Eli Tracewell was the Senior Class President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Alex Burdette was the Patriot  
Parkersburg South added a Criminal Forensics class to its curriculum.  
Parkersburg South wins the State Wrestling Championship and the first Class AAA team to win State Title four consecutive years.  
The 45th graduating class numbered 358. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 18,438.

### **2012-2013**

Hayley Genger was the Student Council President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Maggie Lemon was the Senior Class President<sup>[[SEP]]</sup> Jesse Lemon was the Patriot  
Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin signs the “Musket Bill” on the front campus of PSHS giving the Patriot the right to carry and fire the musket at Patriot athletic event anywhere in the state.

A \$200,000 allocation is awarded by the Wood County Board of Education to resurface and re-stripe the EASF track.

Ritchie Regional Health Center opened on the backside of the campus with Susie Carr, ASPRN (PSHS, 1991) serving as the nurse practitioner.

Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Girls Basketball Championship.

The 46th graduating class numbered 353. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 18,791.

### **2013-2014**

Tom Eschbacher, principal, passed away shortly after the school year ended.

Alexa Anderson was the Student Council President. Jesse Lemon was the Patriot (the third 2-time Patriot).

The 47th graduating class numbered 374 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 19,165.

### **2014-2015**

Tim McCartney was named Principal of PSHS.

Jessica Poling was the Student Council President. Anna Gordon was the Senior Class President. Noah Grogg was the Patriot.

Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.

Student Council presents its first Lifetime Achievement Award to Ken Davis, the voice of Parkersburg South.

The 48th graduating class numbered 350 with 19,515 Patriots now holding PSHS diplomas.

### **2015-2016**

Jentre Hyde was the Student Council President. Lily Wright was the Senior Class President. Landon Lawrentz was the Patriot.

Student Council presents its second Lifetime Achievement Award to Mary Wyers Donahue. Mrs. Donahue was the first PSHS secretary (starting in that position in 1966 before the school opened), and would eventually retire after finishing her career here.

Parkersburg South wins Class AAA State Boys Swimming Championship and the Class AAA State Wrestling Championship.

The 49th graduating class numbered 379. The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 19,894.

### **2016-2017**

Parkersburg South celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Betsy Patterson was named Principal at PSHS.

Madison Matheny was the Student Council President. Jackson Starkey was the Senior Class President. Griffin Bradley was the Patriot.

Student Council presents its third Lifetime Achievement Award to Bill Camp, who spends countless hours working with the Patriot basketball teams and readily available to help with anything for the betterment of our school.

Despite a wrestling tournament that has three weight classes delayed for over two weeks because of skin issues, Parkersburg South wraps up its 21st state wrestling championship.

Parkersburg South, with a total of 46 state championship teams, is now 6th on the list of schools in the number of state championships it has earned.

The 50th graduating class numbered 332 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 20,226.

### **2017-2018**

Kaylyn Smith was Student Council President  
Ian McKnight was Senior Class President  
Seth Seebaugh was the Patriot

A teacher work stoppage began on Feb. 22, 2018 and extended for nine days with schools closed throughout the state. The work stoppage was created by a need for a pay increase and concerns over the PEIA insurance program. All state workers benefited from the efforts of teachers.

An industrial fire at the IEI Plastics Warehouse (the old Ames Plant) on old Camden Avenue, led to a week-long shutdown of all Wood County Schools.

Speech teacher Michelle Dye Talbott was named by the National Speech and Debate Association as the West Virginia Educator of the Year. The Patriot Speakers placed 2nd at Yale University in Oral Interpretation of Literature and 3rd in the same category at the Tournament of Champions.

Student Council named Larry "Mad Max" Maxwell as the 4th recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Maxwell has been the longtime spirit leader of Parkersburg South and was a retired senior class British Literature instructor.

Dan Carder, Class of 1988 and now a mechanical engineering professor at WVU, spoke at the annual Awards Assembly for seniors. Carder, was named one of TIME Magazines Top 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2016 for uncovering the Volkswagen scandal of failing to meet government emission standards.

Ian McKnight received a Yeager Scholarship—the highest academic honor awarded to an incoming student by Marshall University.

Academic awards activities were held each nine weeks and South's Partner in Education, Chemours, recognized students and teachers for their efforts.

The Parkersburg South wrestling team captured its 22nd State Championship to become the winningest wrestling team in state history. In the process the Patriots crowned six individual champions and amassed a team record point total of 288 points. The team finished the season ranked 21st in the nation.

Graduation the EASF was one for the books as a 15-minute wind and rain storm followed by a rainbow was then interrupted by a 20-minute power outage. The audience made the best of the circumstances and the senior students entertained the crowd with songs, cheers and chants.

The 51st graduating class numbered 349.  
The number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 20,575.

### **2018-2019**

Clay Burrows was the Student Council President, following in the steps of his Mother who served in that position during the 1990-91 school year.

Hannah McKain was the Senior Class President  
Dylan McCoy was The Patriot

The Parkersburg News & Sentinel published "PSHS 50," a 127 pictorial history of Parkersburg South's 50th Anniversary.

The PSHS Speech and Debate program had its greatest success ever as two students won National Championships. Cole Dixon won two titles at the University of Kentucky in Oral Interpretation of Literature and Programmed Oral Interpretation of Literature while Ethan Shaffer snared top honors in Oral Interpretation of Literature at Yale University.

The Parkersburg South Patriot Marching Band held the first-ever Patriot Band Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 20, with 13 schools competing in two divisions. The PSHS band performed in exhibition.

For the second consecutive year, Parkersburg South students answered children's letters to Santa. Justin McKown's 9th grade English and the Creative Writing classes, teamed up to respond to these letters that numbered well in the 300s.

A teacher work stoppage occurred for the second year in a row. The strike began on Feb. 20 and lasted for two days when Senate Bill 451 died in the House of Delegates. Among concerns voiced by educators were the creation of educational savings accounts and the possible creation of charter schools—both of which would have taken money away from public schools. During the summer of 2019, a special session of the legislature passed a form of Bill 451 despite teacher concerns and over 80% disagreement with these changes as reported in public polling.

Tim McCartney, who had served as teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal, became the 5th recipient of the Parkersburg South Lifetime Achievement Award.

In the biggest comeback in school history, the Patriot Boys Basketball team overcame a third quarter 24-point deficit to defeat Parkersburg, 80-77.

Parkersburg South won its 5th consecutive Class AAA state wrestling championship while crowning six individual champions. The Patriots have now won 23 state wrestling titles—more than any school in the state.

This year's wrestling championship gives Parkersburg South a total of 48 state championships...the sixth most among all schools in West Virginia.

The 52nd graduation class of Parkersburg South numbered 348 and the number of Patriots with PSHS diplomas numbers 20,923.

## **2019-2020**

**Student Council President** was Ella Hardman.  
**Senior Class President** was Emily Yanok

Patriot was Dylan McCoy, the third two-time Patriot.

Juliet Wanosky was awarded a Bucklew Scholarship, the highest academic honor awarded by WVU. New athletic coaches at PSHS was highlighted by the fact that there were seven new coaches on the payroll for 2019-20 school year. They included:

- Nathan Tanner...Football; Brett Rector...Boys Basketball; Rick Dobson...Girls Basketball; Jamie Whitlatch...Boys Soccer; Billy Holland...Boys Tennis; Matt Emerick...Baseball; Jason Jones...Boys Track

The week of September 13-20 was a solemn week for Parkersburg South and the entire state of West Virginia as we joined together to memorialize the life of Roane County football player Alex Williams. While South's colors are blue and white, many maroon-colored t-shirts were purchased and worn by South students in memory of the fallen gridder.

In early November, Wood County Schools suffered an attack of a RYUK virus that shut down the entire school system's computer operations. Assistance from community businesses as well as Wood County Schools "IT" personnel managed to create minimal usage opportunities, but the effects of the virus was evident throughout the year.

On Friday, March 13, 2020 West Virginia Governor Jim Justice issued a statement announcing that because of the corona virus outbreak all schools in West Virginia would be closed indefinitely. The closure began on March 16 and eventually was extended through the scheduled end of the school year.

With a work force of less than 50 students, under the tutelage of Justin McKown, Parkersburg South delivered roughly 475 elementary students a personalized letter from "Santa Claus" this Christmas season. This is the third year of what has become a tradition at Parkersburg South.

In December, 2019, Parkersburg South signed an agreement to accept Hino as a Partner in Education. Hino, which recently relocated from Williamstown to the Mineral Wells area, joins Chemours as a "Partner in Education" with PSHS.

Parkersburg South won its sixth consecutive class AAA state wrestling championship and its 24th overall state title in that sport. South's final score was 271.5, easily outdistancing second place Wheeling Park with 195.1. Shaun Smith was named coach of the year and Braxton Amos was voted the most outstanding wrestler! Congratulations to Braxton Amos (220), Brayden Roberts (152), Gavin Quiocho (145), Brayden Johnson (132), and Brady Roberts (106)!

Braxton Amos became the most decorated wrestler in the illustrious history of that sport at Parkersburg South. He was Intermat, Flo Wrestling, and Wrestling USA's Pound for Pound Wrestler of the Year. His big award was the Dave Schultz High School Wrestler of the Year

Amos became a two-time winner of the Robert Dutton Award as the most outstanding wrestler in the state; won three West Virginia State individual titles; was a three-time OVAC titlist; captured 3 Ironman and 3 Powerade crowns; went unbeaten (142-0) against high school opponents; did not give up an offensive point in his career; and was selected as the top wrestler in the country in his weight class (220)!

This year's wrestling championship gives Parkersburg South a total of 49 state championships...the sixth most among all schools in West Virginia.

Parkersburg South experienced an exceptional football season under first-year coach Nathan Tanner. The Patriots finished with an 11-2 mark and reached the Class AAA semifinals for only the third

time in school history. Individually, South received major recognition when Brandon Penn was awarded the J.R House Award selected as the best quarterback in the state.

Under new head coach Brent Rector, the Parkersburg South boys basketball team won its eighth consecutive regional title earning a visit to the state basketball tournament. In doing so South kept alive a 19-year streak of not losing a tournament game at the ROAC. And, with eight consecutive trips to the state tournament, South leads all class AAA schools in length of attendance at the tournament. Sadly, none of that came about when the tournament was postponed on March 13 as a result of the corona virus pandemic!

While most end-of-year activities became the victim of the corona virus, Wood County Schools and Parkersburg South worked diligently to make sure a graduation ceremony did occur. And, on June 25, 2020, the 53rd PSHS graduation ceremony took place at the EASF.

A total of 342 diplomas were distributed during the 53rd raising the number of Parkersburg South graduates over the course of school history to 21,26

2020-2021

Student Council President was Kendal Mader.

Senior Class President was Corietta Faith Davis.

Patriot was Dylan McCoy, the first time ever 3-time Patriot

Governor Jim Justice delayed the start of the school year in attempt to fend off any issues that might be created by the COVID19 virus. School systems around the state had their own models of school re-entry. Wood County utilized the "blended" model which split the students into two groups based on the alphabet and each group attended face-to-face classes two days each week. This format was in place until mid-November. At that point rampant state-wide infections led to the closure of in-person instruction in many counties. Justice also kept school on remote instruction for a period of time after the Thanksgiving break. Finally, in late spring, schools were fully opened!

In early April, South students were eligible, with parental permission, to immunized for COVID19 by the on-campus office of Ritchie Regional Health Center.

Senior Nick Murphy was recognized as one of 161 students nationwide to be recognized as part of the 57th class of 2021 U. S Presidential Scholars. Murphy, with numerous Advanced Placement classes and college courses from North Dakota University on his transcript, was the 2021 Parkersburg South High School Valedictorian with a 4.38 GPA. He will attend Stanford University and major in chemical engineering.

Scott Stephens, who coached the Parkersburg South Lady Patriots to three Class AAA State Basketball championships, became the 6th recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented posthumously and was accepted by his wife Linda, and his mother Betty!

Sports were impacted greatly by the COVID pandemic! Among the issues that arose during the year: --South may have been the first school in the state to schedule an opponent, literally on a moments notice when University turned around on its way to the EASF during the first week of the season.. Coach Nathan

Tanner got on the phone and just a few hours before game time convinced Cabell Midland to replace the Hawks;

--The 54th annual cross-town battle between Parkersburg South and Parkersburg was cancelled for the first-time ever as the Patriot gridders were in quarantine;

--Gov. Justice stopped all winter sports practices and games until at least Jan. 11;

--A Parade of Champions was held near the end of the school year. Those honored included:

\*The Patriot wrestling team won its 7th consecutive Class AAA champions and winners of 25 state titles. Individual titlists were Gavin Quicho, Brayden Johnson and Gage Wright;

\*Jordan Claypool, a state swimming champion;

\*Ainsley Dixon and Macie Watkins, 2020 West Virginia State Twirling champions;

\*and the Parkersburg South AFJROTC, the 2021 West Virginia state AFJROTC Drill Team...the 8th consecutive year winning that title.

Two Parkersburg South students, Grace Pederson and Rebekah Rowan were nominated by Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito for inclusion to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Pederson wants to study computer technology and become involved in cyber-security while Rowan has expressed an interest in animal science and envisions a career in veterinary medicine.

During the 54th Parkersburg South graduation ceremonies, 322 diplomas were awarded. There are now 21,587 Patriots in possession of Parkersburg South diplomas.