November
2025

The Eagle Examiner

Our mission is to inspire and guide each student to his or her maximum potential

Spooky October becomes Thankful November

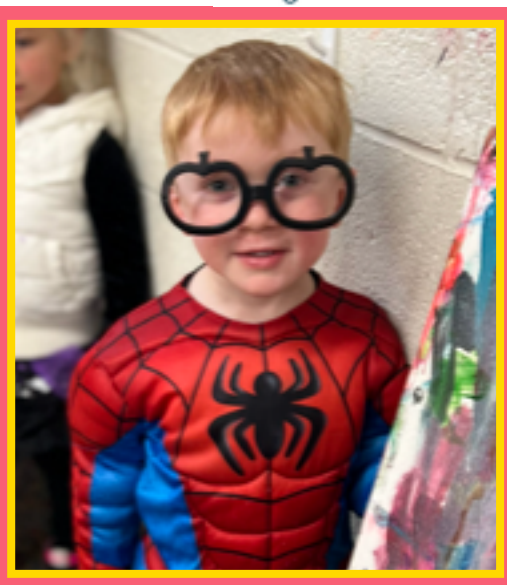
Message from the Superintendent

Ryan McLane

Once again, it seems like we went from summer to winter with about one week of fall weather. Penny the Puppy is getting amped up for the weather prediction time of year. Hopefully, that holds off for a little while longer.

Our students have had banner seasons up to this point. Our girls soccer and volleyball teams both advanced to the Regional Finals, placing them among the top eight in the state in their respective sports. Our girls cross country team qualified as a team for the state cross country meet and placed 19th. Our boys soccer team made it to the Regional Semifinal, losing a heartbreaker in overtime. The football team is still playing, having locked up the number one seed in the region and beginning the state playoffs at home this Friday night.

But it is not just success on the playing fields. Our FFA Food Science and Technology team repeated by winning *another* national title last week. Our high school drama students had a great performance of *Hollywood on Broadway*. Our elementary students had fun during their Harvest parties. And in my time visiting a kindergarten class when there was a power outage, a little guy was able to tell me all of the letters on his paper, and then asked me, "Why did you turn off the lights?" It doesn't get much better than that. Big Walnut continues to be a great place to be.



BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

GENERAL ROSECRANS ELEMENTARY	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH 9:00-10:00 AM
BIG WALNUT ELEMENTARY	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH 1:30-2:30 PM
HYLEN SOUDERS ELEMENTARY	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 9:15-10:00 AM
PRAIRIE RUN ELEMENTARY	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH 9:15-10:00 AM
BIG WALNUT INTERMEDIATE	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH 10:15-11:00 AM
BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH 9:15-11:00 AM
BIG WALNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH 8:15-9:45 AM

Common ¢ent$

Scott Gooding
Interim Treasurer/CFO

Cash Reserve Policy – What is it and Why is it important?

Purpose and Scope

The Big Walnut Local School District maintains a formal Ending Cash Balance Policy (po6220.01) to guide the establishment, management, and use of General Fund reserves. Adopted in 2016 and last revised in May 2025, this policy underscores the district's commitment to financial stability, prudent fiscal management, and long-term planning.

The policy applies to the General Fund operating cash reserves and is designed to ensure fiscal resilience against revenue fluctuations, timing gaps in state and local funding, and unforeseen expenditures. Maintaining healthy reserves supports uninterrupted operations, responsible levy planning, and favorable credit ratings.

Target Reserve Range

The district aims to maintain an operating cash reserve equal to 25%–50% of annual General Fund expenditures. This target provides:

- Adequate cash flow between tax collections and state funding cycles
- Protection against economic volatility, inflation, and legislative changes
- Capacity to manage one-time revenues and unfunded mandates
- Flexibility to respond to emergencies without disrupting educational programs
- Support for capital improvements and long-term financial stability

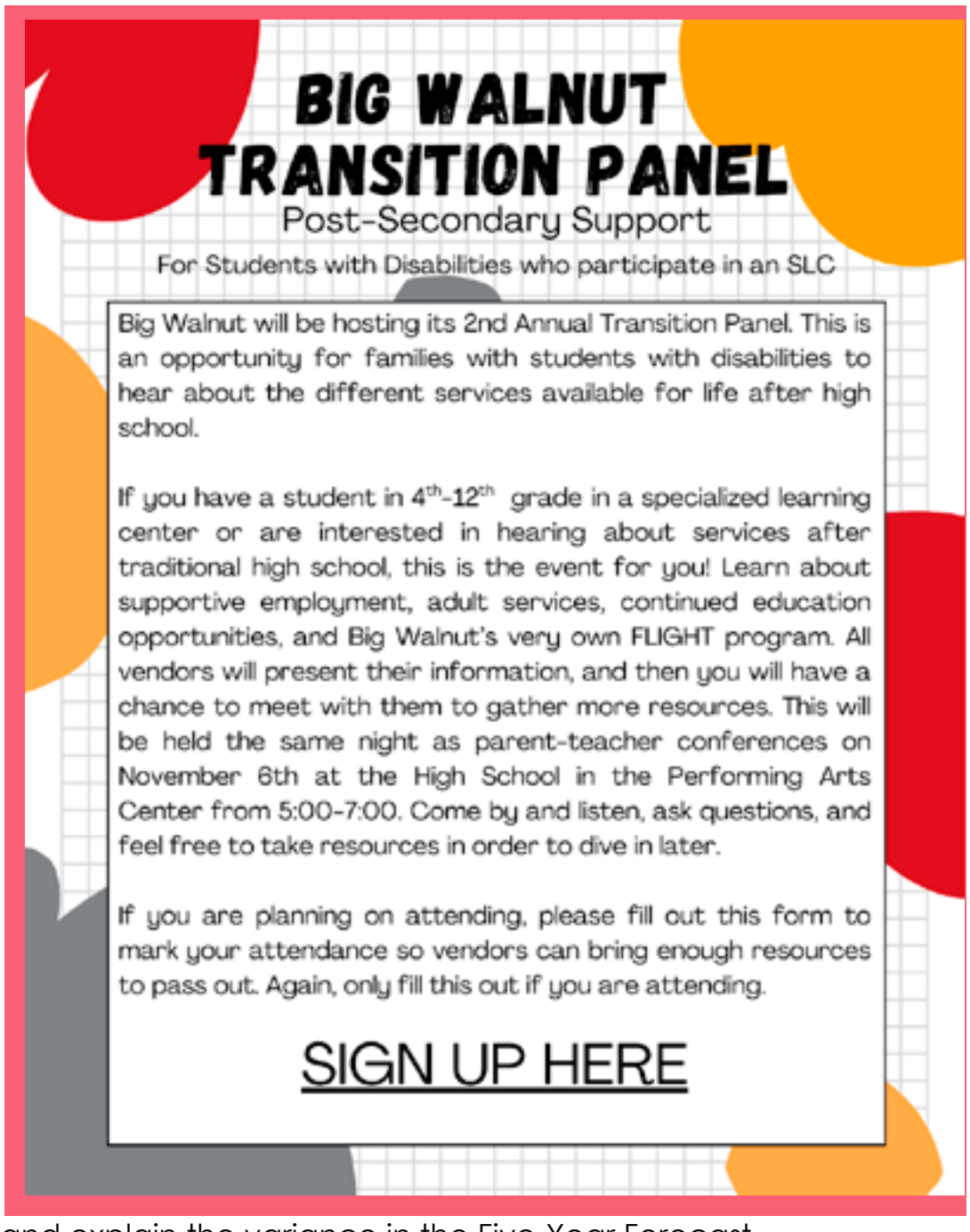
Triggers and Required Actions

If Reserves Fall Below 25%:

- The Treasurer/CFO must notify the Superintendent and Board in writing and include an analysis in the Five-Year Forecast.
- Within 90 days, a recovery plan must be developed to restore reserves, which may include expenditure reductions, revenue acceleration, or levy considerations.
- Quarterly progress reports are required until compliance is reestablished.

If Reserves Exceed 50%:

- The Treasurer/CFO must notify the Board and explain the variance in the Five-Year Forecast.
- The Board may consider strategic uses for excess funds such as one-time capital projects, debt reduction, contingency funds, or tax relief, provided sustainability is maintained.



Oversight and Review

The Superintendent and Treasurer/CFO review the policy annually, recommending updates as necessary to reflect financial conditions, state funding changes, or new regulations. Any revisions require formal Board approval.

Conclusion

Big Walnut's cash reserve policy exemplifies responsible fiscal stewardship and proactive planning. By maintaining reserves within the established 25%–50% range, the district safeguards operational continuity, supports long-term solvency, and reinforces community confidence in its financial governance.

Around the District

Beautifying Big Walnut Elementary

Mrs. Estep's STEM classes at Big Walnut Elementary took their learning outside this week to add a little beauty to the school grounds! Students worked together to plant tulip bulbs near the front entrance, learning firsthand about soil, plant structure, and what bulbs need to thrive through the winter months.

This hands-on activity will not only brighten up the landscape but will also tie into future classroom lessons—Mrs. Estep plans to revisit the project in the spring as part of a science unit on growth, observation, and data collection. With a little patience (and plenty of sunshine), students will get to see the results of their efforts bloom right before their eyes!

Mixing Fun and Functional Skills in the SLC

Students in the Specialized Learning Center (SLC) at Prairie Run Elementary recently enjoyed a festive fall activity that blended fun, creativity, and learning through a variety of therapies.

The event brought together physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language therapy, all incorporated into a hands-on holiday life skills session. Students practiced coordination, communication, and motor skills through themed games, crafts, and cookie decorating—while also celebrating the season together.

From ring tosses and spider web walks to icing cookies and bowling challenges, each activity was designed to strengthen functional skills in an engaging, inclusive way. The smiles said it all—it was a day full of laughter, teamwork, and growth for every student involved.

Around the District

Celebrating our Occupational Therapists for World OT Day

Big Walnut Local Schools is proud to recognize our amazing team of Occupational Therapists (OTs), who work behind the scenes every day to help students succeed. From fine motor skills and sensory regulation to classroom participation and independence, our OTs make a powerful difference. Ensuring every student can fully engage in learning and life at school.

Anne Aziz

Anne brings a kind, compassionate, and student-centered approach to her work. Known for her attentiveness and thoughtful care, Anne makes sure each child's needs are carefully understood and supported. Within the team, she serves as a mentor—someone her colleagues trust for insight, collaboration, and calm encouragement.

Kate Mueller

As the most seasoned OT on the team, Christie brings a wealth of experience and steady leadership. Her peers describe her as the group's "informal leader," guiding with humor and heart. Christie has a gift for bringing out laughter in any room, while knowing exactly when to get serious to ensure students receive the highest quality of care.

Christine Johnson Stuber

Now in her second year at Big Walnut, Kate has already made a lasting impression. She is knowledgeable beyond her years and highly collaborative, partnering with teachers and staff to support each student's unique needs. Kate's dedication shines in her direct work with students, where she skillfully blends creativity, structure, and compassion.

Together, Anne, Christie, and Kate are essential members of our student support network. They help students build confidence, independence, and essential life skills—quietly empowering every Eagle to thrive in their own way.

Big Walnut Staff Spotlight!

Melissa Evans
Prairie Run Elementary

While her title is "Building Secretary," anyone who spends time at Prairie Run Elementary knows that Melissa Evans is so much more. She's the heartbeat of the school, the calm in the chaos, and the glue that holds it all together. Ms. Evans keeps the building running smoothly day after day, juggling countless responsibilities with efficiency, warmth, and a smile that never fades. When the nurse is out, Ms. Evans steps right in to care for students; when Mrs. Castiglione wants a fun thing to be purchased for their Merry Prairie, she's already on it and always finds the perfect addition; when something is amiss in the building, she already knows about it and is there to give her perspective.

Behind the scenes, Ms. Evans quietly ensures that every phone call and student need is handled with care and attention. She can help anyone, knows everyone, and is masterful at keeping everyone in line. She's known for her care, her humor, her kindness, and her knowledge- everyone knows who to come to when they've got questions. Ms. Evans prefers to hide from the lens and shine the spotlight on everyone else. Getting her in front of a camera is a rare achievement. Prairie Run wouldn't be the same without her steady presence and positive energy. Ms. Evans embodies what it means to serve with heart, and her dedication keeps "Merry Prairie" running like clockwork every single day.

Around the District

Spirit Shop Reopens with Student-Made Merch

The Big Walnut High School Marketing Applications class is back this year with a brand-new launch of merchandise for the Big Walnut community! The students are eager to learn how to professionally run a business while promoting school spirit. Under the guidance of Mrs. Brooke Moore, the class operates like a small business, where students explore a range of marketing strategies, maintain financial records, and manage daily operations of the Spirit Shop.

When the new Big Walnut High School opened in 2022, it welcomed a wave of creative minds ready to bring fresh ideas and new designs to the Spirit Shop. Each year since, students have produced unique, student-created merchandise tailored to what customers want.

So far this year, students have been busy communicating with vendors, collecting quotes, setting prices, and designing advertisements—all while working collaboratively in teams. They also visited ELK Promotions, where they toured the facility, learned about printing processes, and gained insight into client relations and how professional merchandise is produced.

Mark your calendars—the Spirit Shop Grand Opening is November 5, 2025, during lunch periods. This year, the Big Walnut Spirit Shop will also be open to the public more frequently.

With winter sports and extracurricular activities in full swing, the shop will open during select games and events. These dates will be posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Show your Eagle pride! Scan, click, or tap the QR code to follow the Spirit Shop and shop our new merch online starting November 6th!

Pumpkin Decorating Contest Winners Announced!

Our classrooms across the district got creative this fall during the annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest! Students and staff at Big Walnut Elementary, General Rosecrans Elementary, Prairie Run Elementary, and Big Walnut Intermediate designed and decorated pumpkins in every theme imaginable—from spooky to silly to spectacular.

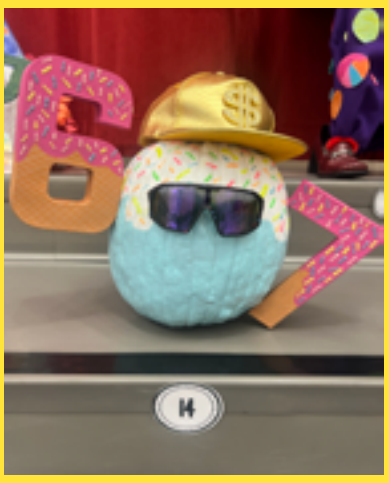
Each school's community voted for their favorites, and the results are in!

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this fun fall tradition such a success. Congratulations to all of our creative winners!

And a special thank you to Sambuca's for donating the pumpkins used in BWE's contest!

Big Walnut Elementary

General Rosecrans Elem.



Prairie Run Elementary

Big Walnut Intermediate

Around the District

Christmas Gift Assistance for Big Walnut Families

The holiday season is a time for joy, but it can also bring extra challenges for families. To help ease the stress and spread a little cheer, we are working together to make sure Big Walnut children experience the magic of Christmas. Whether your family needs a little help this year or you know someone who does, these opportunities can make the season brighter.

A link to fill out your wish list is provided below. If you are unable to fill out your wish list with this link, paper copies are available! Please call Linda Johnston-Klamfoth at 740.965.7788.

For Families at All Big Walnut Schools – Big Walnut Holiday Wish List

Big Walnut Local Schools will again coordinate gift assistance for families with students in all Big Walnut schools.

Forms Due: Monday, November 10, - We've extended the deadline by one week!

Gift Pick-Up: Saturday, December 13, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Transportation Building (117 Kintner Pkwy)

Families will only be contacted if their Wish List *cannot* be fulfilled, so please provide a current phone number and email address.

Click here to sign up for the Big Walnut Holiday Wish List program!

If you have already completed a Wish List this year, please do not fill out a second list

If you have any questions about the program, or would like to help as a Wish Granter, please contact Linda Johnston-Klamfoth at 740.965.7788.

Let's come together as a community to ensure that every Big Walnut child enjoys a warm and joyful holiday season!

If you would like to adopt a family, please reach out to Linda Johnston-Klamfoth at 740.965.7788.

VEX ROBOTICS WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

9 AM - 12 NOON

WORKSHOP INCLUDES:

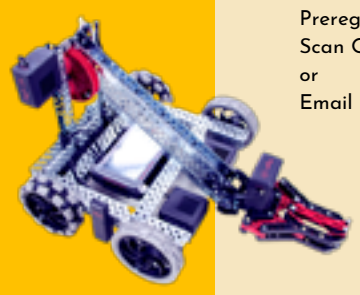
Registration open for Grades 5-6.
Limited spots *available.*
Workshop fee: $25 (payable on day of workshop by cash/check)

Big Walnut High School. Dropoff/Pickup at Main Entrance

- Introduction to VEX V5 Robots
- Introduction to coding with VexCode
- Robot Soccer Challenge
- Light Snack provided

Preregistration Required.
Scan QR Code
or
Email lisadanne@bwls.net

SCAN ME



Sponsored by: Big Walnut High School Competition Robotics Team

We Are
HIRING

Full-Time Positions :
- Bus Drivers
- Custodians
- Mechanic
- Tutors

Substitute Positions :
- Bus Driver
- Custodian
- Food Service
- Mechanic

Apply Now
See all positions at:
bwls.net/EmploymentOpportunities.aspx

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

Agricultural Science Program

BIG WALNUT FFA SHINES AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

From food science to floriculture, Big Walnut FFA members showcased the excellence, teamwork, and character that define our Golden Eagles. Congratulations to all the students, advisors, and mentors who made this historic week possible!

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS — FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Big Walnut's Food Science & Technology Team captured first place in the nation at this year's National FFA Convention, earning a gold rating and the title of National Champions. Each student will receive a $1,000 cash award and an all-expenses-paid trip to the International Production & Processing Expo in Atlanta this January, sponsored by the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association.

Team Members

- Joshua S. – Gold Rating, 1st Individual Overall
- Madi D. – Gold Rating, 15th Individual
- Riley N. – Gold Rating, 21st Individual
- Lainey S. – Gold Rating, 27th Individual

Special Thanks

Tamarack Dairy and Brian Snodgrass • Chris Dible • The Ohio State Department of Food Science and Technology faculty and staff • Mrs. Febes • Dr. Mary Kay Pohlschneider

GOLD-RATED — MILK QUALITY & PRODUCTS TEAM

The Milk Quality & Products Team earned a Gold Rating and finished 10th in the nation. Their professionalism and attention to detail stood out among hundreds of competitors.

Team Members

- Ava D. – Gold Rating, 21st Individual
- Jenna E. – Gold Rating, 29th Individual
- Landen L. – Silver Rating
- Aashvi S. – Gold Rating, 22nd Individual (Perfect Score on Problem Solving Exam)

Special Thanks

Rich Hill Dairy • Leonhard Family Dairy • Tamarack Dairy (Newark) • Dr. Mary Kay Pohlschneider • Larry Lokai • Mrs. Febes

GOLD-RATED — FLORICULTURE TEAM

Big Walnut's Floriculture Team earned a Gold Rating and finished 11th in the nation out of 47 teams and 188 individuals.

Team Members

- Gracie Y. – Gold Rating, 17th Individual
- Gabby B. – Gold Rating, 22nd Individual
- Paris A. – Silver Rating
- Jasmine B. – Silver Rating

Special Thanks

Alison Derringer • Jess Tracey • Alex Zimmer • Martha Jo Meadows • Felicia Stimmell • Megan Timmons • Carolyn Minutillo, AIFD • Mrs. Febes

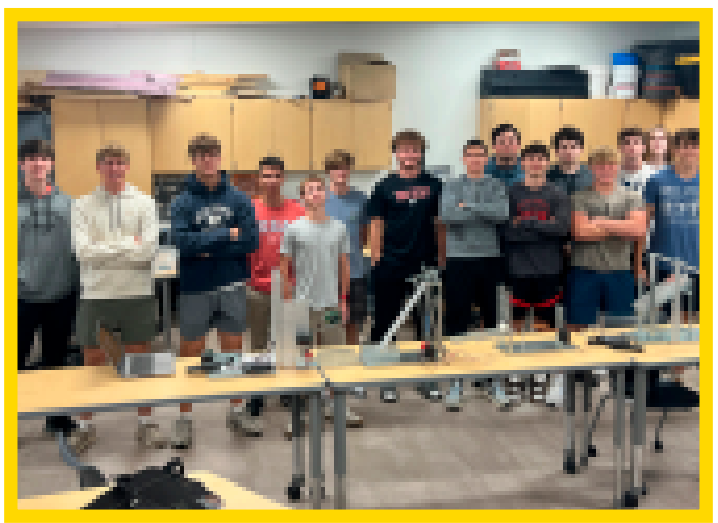
Engineering at Big Walnut

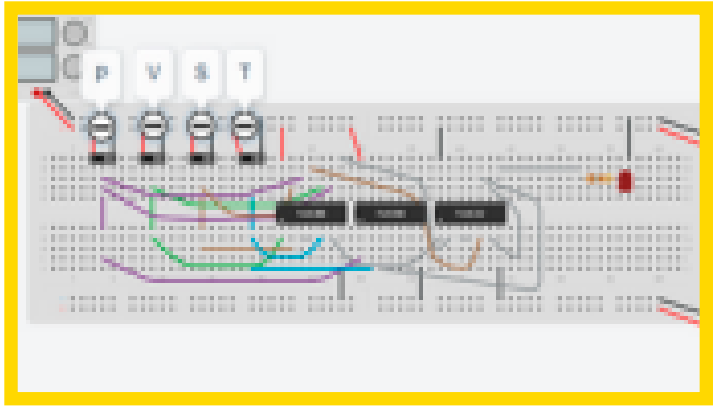
Intro to Engineering Design

Students in I.E.D. worked with Standardized Brewing (coffee shop in Lewis Center), whose owner asked them to design a custom donut box. Students met with the client and generated a 3D model using OnShape.
Through competition, students worked to print their model and present it to the client. Students worked through the design process from concept to presentation.

Principals of Engineering

Students in P.O.E. stand victorious! These students designed a Rube Goldberg machine in which their changes in motion triggered other events causing the computer to turn on and play their favorite song.
The only twist is that they were only able to put the whole machine together on the final day when it was tested. Great job guys!



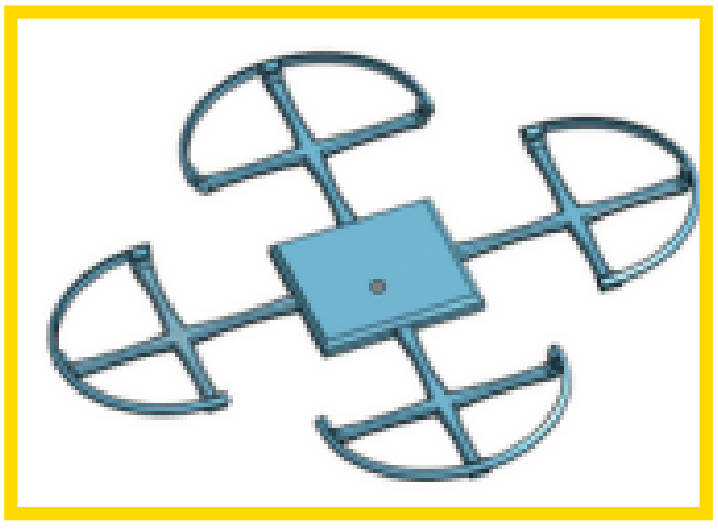


Digital Electronics

Students in DE are exploring basic digital signals and Boolean algebra. With voting season soon to come, students are designing a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer voting system. The circuit will help determine if a vote passes or fails based on the votes of the four leaders. Using AND, OR, and INVERTER gates, our students are able to produce desired outcomes in digital electronics design.

Intro to Flight & Aviation

Students in the NEW Intro to Flight & Aviation class have begun working within their Drone Racing Teams. Through the Drones In School Racing league, students build a real racing team in which they redesign, print, test, and modify their own drone. Later we will compete in virtual races with their drones with students from across the country!



Jacoby Hoehn
Senior
Big Walnut High School

Student Spotlight - Jacoby Hoehn

Jacoby Hoehn is this month's Senior Spotlight! He has worked through the entire engineering curriculum at Big Walnut and is now in Capstone. Jacoby is working to develop a tool that can make keyboard accessorizing much more convenient and efficient. He is designing a key cap remover that will remove every cap at once! His future sounds bright as he is going to Capital University for Music Business and Industry.

- Good luck, Jacoby!

High School Sports

Brian Shelton
Big Walnut High School
Athletic Director

BWHS Fall Sports: A Season of Champions!

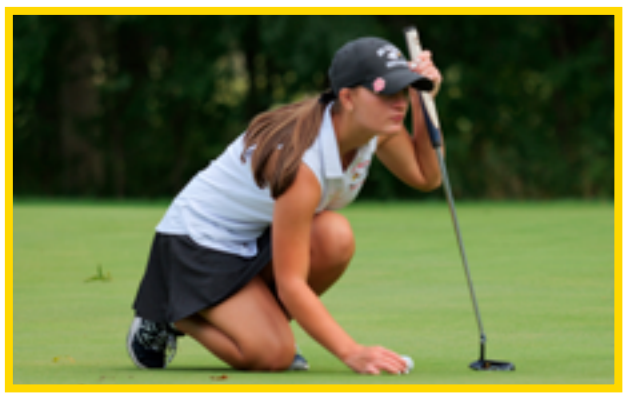
The Big Walnut Golden Eagles soared this fall, capturing conference titles, district crowns, and state-level honors across multiple programs. From the first kickoff to the final whistle, it was a season built on teamwork, pride, and excellence!

Boys Cross Country (111-26, 3rd OCC)

A record year! The Eagles won the London Invitational—their first in 20+ years—and qualified for Regionals for the first time since 2008. Seven runners broke 17 minutes, a program first.

Boys Soccer (12-5-3, 2nd OCC)

Showed grit and growth all season, finishing second in the conference and competing hard in every match.



Boys Golf (19-5 OCC, 196-61 overall)

Earned runner-up in the OCC and 31st in the state, closing another strong campaign of consistency and precision.

Girls Cross Country (112-32, OCC Champs, State 19th)

OCC Champions, District Runners-Up, and State Qualifiers. Four runners broke 20 minutes—the best depth in team history!

Girls Golf (108-33-1, 1st OCC)

Perfect 20-0 conference record. Advanced to Districts and ranked 27th in the state—one of the top seasons ever.

Girls Soccer (13-4-3, 3rd OCC)

Claimed back-to-back District Championships and finished Regional Runner-Up after another stellar run.

Girls Tennis (15-5, 5-1 OCC)

Second in the OCC with steady, competitive play throughout an impressive season.

Volleyball (19-7, 10-2 OCC)

District Champions and Regional Runner-Up after a thrilling postseason push.

Football (9-1, 6-0 OCC Champs)

Perfect in conference play and earned the #1 seed in Division II, Region 7, with a first-round playoff bye.

Big Walnut Athletics

Ralph Young Award Update

Big Walnut leads the standings to retain the Ralph Young Trophy as the top overall athletic program in the OCC Capital Division—aiming for a fifth win in six years.

Thank You, Big Walnut Community

This success reflects the dedication of our parents, volunteers, booster clubs, and community supporters — you are the heartbeat of Big Walnut Athletics!

Big Walnut Athletic Boosters

We Need Your Help.

The clocks have fallen back, joining the leaves and Mother Nature in embracing the change of seasons that is upon us all. That means fall sports are coming to a close, too, and with it, our winter teams are warming up for another season of rivalry matchups, new records, and personal and team successes.

Celebrating Our Fall Teams

What a season it has been! Our student-athletes have shown grit, growth, teamwork, and a whole lot of school pride along the way. Their combined record of success includes multiple back-to-back OCC championships and district and regional tournament berths. The postseason is still going for many teams, and we look forward to celebrating their continued success. To all the coaches, student-athletes, volunteers, parents, and fans — thank you for your dedication, supportive cheers, and commitment to greatness. Your efforts made this fall season one to remember.

Looking Ahead to Winter

Our winter sports teams are ramping up to hit the courts, mats, pools, and tracks. Know that Boosters is behind you 100%! Winter season tryouts are underway, and competition will start soon. We encourage our student-athletes to bring the same energy and Eagle spirit into this season as they did throughout the fall. We're ready to cheer you on at every game, meet, and tournament!

Help Support These Hardworking Student-Athletes

We need your help! One of the ways you can support our student-athletes is through advertising in our season sports programs, which highlight the teams, rosters, schedules, and more. Businesses, families, and community supporters can purchase full-page, half-page, quarter-page, or business-card-sized ads that will run in every program from the time of purchase. Our fall programs are currently available online or for purchase in the concessions stands. Take one home with you, and be on the lookout for the winter programs soon!

To our fall sports teams — well done, one and all.

To our winter teams — good luck!

And to the Big Walnut community — thank you for supporting these teams, because when we do, we all win together.

Here's to an outstanding winter season and a continued legacy of excellence for the Golden Eagles.

Big Walnut Boosters

Middle School Sports

The 2025 fall season has officially ended at BWMS, but not before our coaches and student-athletes experienced a tremendous amount of success.

A few highlights from the season would be our boys and girls Cross Coutry teams winning multiple Invitationals (both as a team and with individual winners).

The 8th grade girls Volleyball team ended the year with a tournament championship at Gahanna (only 1 loss on the season).

Both the girls and boys golf teams competed in state competitions where each squad had finishers in the top 25.

7th and 8th grade football teams both went 6-2 on the year while the cheerleaders brought tons of energy in front of varsity game sized crowds.

I could go on and on, but the biggest accomplishments were that our student-athletes all made growth, represented themselves and their school admirably and showed the rest of Central Ohio that Big Walnut athletics will continue to stay on top. Congratulations to all of our HS teams on an amazing fall season...BWMS is very proud of you!

Joe Rucker
Big Walnut Middle School
Athletic Director

Now, we move into the winter season. I cannot tell you how excited I am to watch our student-athletes get back into competition. All schedules have been posted to the athletic website and will begin around mid-November.

The following coaches will be leading our athletic teams this winter:

7th Grade Boys Basketball - Mark Adams
8th Grade Boys Basketball - Eric Myers
7th Grade Girls Basketball - Nicole Huffman
8th Grade Girls Basketball - Greg Saylor
Boys Wrestling - Ryan Coletta (HC) and Adam McCardle
Girls Wrestling - Jack Reall (HC) and Olivia DaLuz
8th Grade Cheer - Kaylee Yarnell
7th Grade Cheer - Brianna Lawless
Diving (Club) - Jen White
Indoor Track (Club) - Dave Ishler

Big Walnut Athletics

We will be continuing our podcast series into the winter season. Be sure to check out the MS Athletic Department grilling our coaches on the mic and in front of the camera! This will give you the opportunity to learn more about our coaches and the teams they are leading. You can find these podcasts on the BWMS homepage. Look for the icon on the left side of the page that reads - "BWMS Talk School Podcast".

As always, if you have questions, feel free to call BWMS at 740.965.3006. The best MS athletic secretary in the business, Stephanie Kreager, or myself will be happy to assist you.

GO EAGLES!!!

Big Walnut High School

Office: 740.965.3766
Fax: 740.965.1954
Guidance: 740.965.2243

713 N Miller Dr
Sunbury, OH
43074

Big Walnut Middle School

555 S Old 3C Hwy
Sunbury, OH
43074

Office: 740.965.3006
Fax: 740.965.6471

Big Walnut Intermediate School

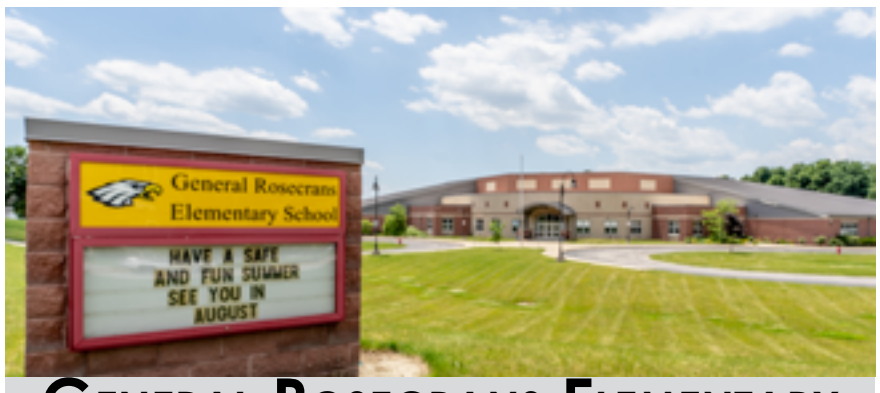
Office: 740.965.7800
Fax: 740.965.7801

777 Cheshire Rd
Sunbury, OH
43074

Big Walnut Elementary

940 S Old 3C Hwy
Sunbury, OH
43074

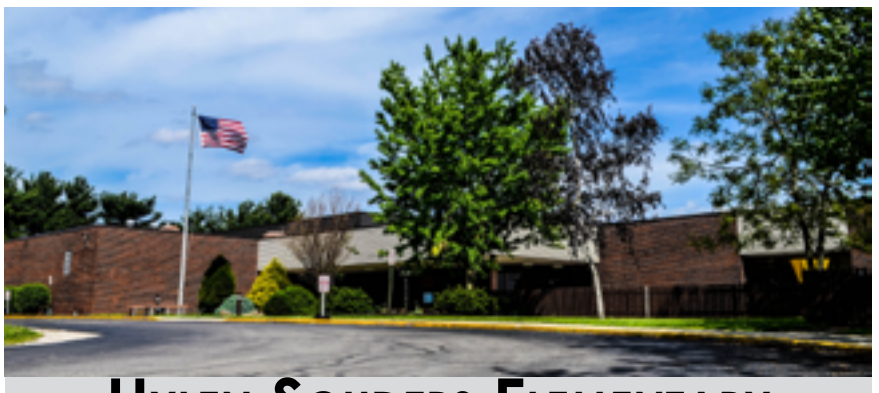
Office: 740.965.3902
Fax: 740.965.3168



General Rosecrans Elementary

Office: 740.965.8900
Fax: 740.965.8993

301 S Miller Dr
Sunbury, OH
43074



Hylen Souders Elementary

4121 Miller Paul Rd
Galena, OH
43021

Office: 740.965.3200
Fax: 740.965.3986

Prairie Run Elementary

Office: 740.965.7850
Fax: 740.965.7851

701 N Miller Dr
Sunbury, OH
43074

Early Learning Center at Harrison Street

70 Harrison St
Sunbury, OH
43074

Office: 740.965.7862