

June
2025

The
Eagle Examiner



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





MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT

Well, another school year has come to a close. I want to congratulate and thank the Class of 2025. You were a special group. I wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors, and I look forward to seeing what you all accomplish in life. I also want to thank each member of our dedicated staff for their steadfast commitment to supporting our students this school year. We are truly lucky to have the adults we do here in Big Walnut.

Finally, I would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU" to the Big Walnut community for your support throughout the past school year. We went through a big adjustment with the change in grade bands at our Elementary, Intermediate, and Middle School this year, and it went better than I could have imagined. I appreciate your cooperation in making that a successful endeavor.

I hope you all have a great summer break with your families. We look forward to seeing everyone in August.

Ryan McLane



Ryan McLane



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ALL THE IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS AROUND BIG WALNUT IN THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL!

- | | |
|---|--|
| MONDAY 11
EAGLES' FIRST FLIGHT
High School Freshmen get their first taste of BWHS | THURSDAY 14
STAGGERED START (L-Z)
First day of classes for the other half of our students |
| MONDAY 11
OPEN HOUSE
4:30-6:00 pm - BWMS, BWI, & ELC | FRIDAY 15
FIRST DAY - ALL STUDENTS
First day that all students K-12 attend school together |
| MONDAY 11
OPEN HOUSE
5:00-6:30 PM - BWE, GRE, PRE, & SOU | MONDAY 18
FIRST DAY - ELC
First day that all ELC Student begin classes together |
| WEDNESDAY 13
STAGGERED START (A-K)
First day of classes for half of our students | |



BIG WALNUT
LOCAL SCHOOLS



HAPPY RETIREMENT!



Kathie Bowman
Big Walnut Intermediate
Building Secretary
25 Years



Charles Brodhead
Big Walnut High School
Health Teacher
33 Years



Georgia Craig
Big Walnut High School
German Teacher
35 Years



Kathy Dawson
Big Walnut High School
Math Teacher
26 Years



Mike Denton
Big Walnut Intermediate
Physical Education Teacher
34 Years



Beth Grove
General Rosecrans Elem.
Head Cook
30 Years



Mark Inscho
Big Walnut High School
Custodian
18 Years



Jan Jones
Big Walnut Middle School
Career Exploration
10 Years



Lisa Koester
Transportation
Bus Driver
29 Years



Barbara Porter
Big Walnut High School
Art Teacher
28 Years



Karen Snyder
Prairie Run Elementary
3rd Grade Teacher
36 Years



Patricia Thompson
Big Walnut Middle School
Social Studies Teacher
27 Years



Wayne Thompson
Big Walnut Local Schools
Director of IT
26 Years



Mary Wolf
Big Walnut Elementary
STEM Teacher
33 Years



Thank you for your years of service to our Big Walnut students!

We appreciate everything you've done to Inspire and Guide each student to their maximum potential!



CONGRATS CLASS OF 2025!







COMMON CENTS



Scott Gooding
Executive Director of
Financial Services

Ohio School Foundation Funding

The Ohio school foundation funding system is a state-driven mechanism designed to ensure equitable financial support for public K-12 education across the state. It operates under a complex formula that addresses variations in local wealth, property taxes, and student needs, aiming to balance disparities among Ohio’s more than 600 school districts.

Key Elements:

1. Base Cost:

The foundation funding model calculates a base cost per student,

which represents the minimum amount required to provide an adequate education. This base cost is periodically adjusted to reflect changes in educational standards, inflation, and other factors.

2. Local Contribution:

The expectation is that each district will contribute a portion of the base cost based on its property wealth and income levels. Wealthier districts provide a larger share, while less affluent districts receive more substantial state assistance.

3. State Share Index (SSI):

The SSI determines the percentage of the base cost the state will fund for each district. It uses a formula that incorporates local property values and median incomes, ensuring that districts with lower fiscal capacity receive greater state support.

4. Categorical Funding:

Additional funding is provided for specific needs, including special education, gifted education, English language learners, and transportation. This additional funding ensures targeted support for students who require extra resources.

5. Recent Reforms:

In 2021, the Fair School Funding Plan was implemented to address longstanding inequities. This new model uses a cost-based approach, directly linking funding levels to the actual cost of education. It also incorporates a more accurate assessment of local wealth by considering both property values and income levels.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Despite its intentions, Ohio’s funding system has faced criticism for relying heavily on property taxes, leading to disparities among districts. The state’s reliance on biennial budget allocations means that funding levels are subject to political and economic fluctuations. However, ongoing efforts to refine the system, such as the Fair School Funding Plan, offer opportunities to improve equity and predictability.

Conclusion:

Ohio’s school foundation funding is a critical tool for ensuring access to quality education across the state. Continued commitment to equitable resource distribution and addressing systemic challenges will be essential to support the diverse needs of Ohio’s students and communities.

Now Accepting Bids: Baughman Building Re-Roof Project

Big Walnut Local Schools is inviting contractors to submit sealed bids for the upcoming Baughman Building Re-Roof Project. This important facilities update is part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining safe, functional, and efficient spaces across the district.

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and received by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2025. Proposals will be publicly opened and read immediately following the submission deadline.

For full bid instructions, required documentation, and project specifications, please visit our Facilities & New Construction page: [HERE](#).

We appreciate your interest in helping us build and maintain a better Big Walnut!



2025-26 TRANSPORTATION REQUEST FORM

Planning to use bus transportation next school year to or from Genoa Christian, St. Paul, DACC, or an alternate address?

You must submit a Transportation Request Form.

- ➡ Need to make changes to your current transportation? Please submit a new request.
- ✓ No changes? No action is needed.

DEADLINE: JULY 15, 2025

Late submissions may cause delays at the start of school.

[Click to Access the Form](#)

Thank you for helping us plan for a safe and efficient start to 2025-26!



SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

We are thrilled to announce the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce's Summer Food Service Program: SUN Meals! This vital program ensures no child goes hungry during the summer months.

Who is Eligible?

- **Children Ages 1-18:** All children in this age group are eligible to receive free meals.
- **Young Adults Ages 19-21:** Individuals who have been identified as having mental or physical disabilities and are following Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) through their current enrollment in educational programs are also eligible for free meals.

How to Participate:

Participating in the SUN meals program is easy! Simply visit any of the participating program sites during meal times to receive a free, nutritious meal.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call **1-866-3-HUNGRY (486479)**.

If you find a meal site listed that is not operating as expected, please contact the Office of Nutrition at:

Phone: (614) 466-2945 or (800) 808-6325

Email: Child.Nutrition@education.ohio.gov

Let's ensure every child and eligible young adult in our community has access to the nutrition they need this summer. Spread the word about SUN meals and help us make a difference!

KIDS EAT FREE!



- No Registration
- Age 18 or Younger



education.ohio.gov/KidsEat
866-348-6479



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

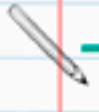


 **BIG WALNUT**
LOCAL SCHOOLS

 **BACK 2**
SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE 

AUGUST 11

4:00-6:00P - BWMS | 4:30-6:00P - BWI & ELC
5:00-6:30P - BWE, GRE, PRE, & SOU

 **CURRICULUM NIGHT**

AUGUST 20 6:30PM - BWHS

MEET YOUR TEACHER! **Save the Dates!!** 





AROUND THE DISTRICT

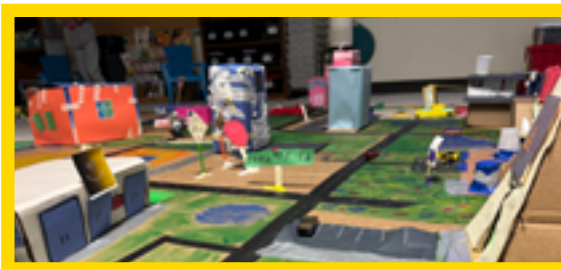
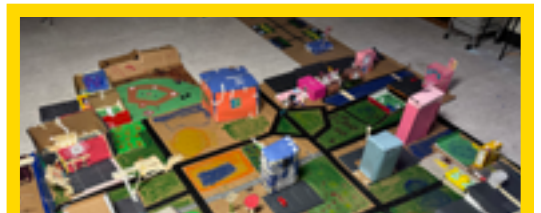
Eagleton: A 2nd-Grade Economy in Action

Mrs. Pyles' 2nd-grade class at Big Walnut Elementary wrapped up the year with a hands-on economics project that brought learning to life. Students designed and built their very own town, which they named Eagleton!

Each student created a business, complete with a custom logo made in Canva, flyers designed in Google, and a 3D model of their storefront or service built from cardboard and craft supplies. Once the town was constructed, other BWE classes were invited to "shop" at the stores. Each visitor was given five credits, which they could spend at the businesses of their choice.

From restaurants to service shops, toy stores to sports arenas, Eagleton had it all. Students learned about entrepreneurship, supply and demand, marketing, budgeting, and community planning. And had fun in the process!

It was an unforgettable way to end the school year with creativity, collaboration, and real-world learning.



BW 8th Graders Bring Math to Life with Community Math Walk



Earlier in May, Big Walnut Middle School officially opened its first-ever Community Math Walk! Modeled after the idea of a story walk, this outdoor experience replaces pages of a book with engaging, real-world math problems, all created and solved by our 8th-grade students.

Each display stand along the path features a unique math scenario, ranging from topics like sound waves to historical data analysis. Not only do these projects demonstrate students' mastery of mathematical concepts, but they also show how math connects to the world around us in meaningful ways.

The goal of the Community Math Walk is to take classroom learning beyond the four walls of the school and share it with our broader community. By doing so, students gain a deeper understanding of the relevance of what they're learning, and visitors get to explore math in a creative, hands-on way.

We're incredibly proud of the hard work and thoughtfulness our students put into these projects, and we invite everyone to take a walk, solve a few problems, and see how math really is everywhere!

The Community Math Walk is located on the trail behind General Rosecrans Elementary!





AROUND THE DISTRICT

Welcome Home Phoenix!

As we wrap up the school year, we want to take a moment to recognize the incredible strength and perseverance of one of our own — Prairie Run Elementary student, Phoenix.

Earlier this spring, Phoenix visited the doctor to check on what seemed like a small issue — one leg possibly being slightly shorter than the other. That visit led to further evaluation, where doctors discovered a tumor on his spine. Phoenix underwent successful surgery to remove the tumor and has spent the past two months in recovery and rehabilitation, working hard every day to regain strength and mobility. While he is still limited in his ability to walk, his determination and spirit remain unshaken.



On the day Phoenix finally returned home, the Sunbury community came together in the best way. Friends and classmates from Prairie Run Elementary lined up to welcome him back, joined by family friends, neighbors, and even members of the Sunbury Police Department and the BST&G Fire District. With lights flashing and cheers echoing down the street, Phoenix was greeted like the hero he is.

This was more than just a homecoming — it was a celebration of courage, community, and hope. Phoenix, your Big Walnut family is so proud of you. Welcome home!



BWHS Students Contribute to Olentangy River Festival with Painted Rain Barrels

Some of Mrs. Haer’s Painting 2 students at Big Walnut High School have been putting their artistic talents to work for a good cause. These talented students painted vibrant, creative rain barrels that will be auctioned off during the Olentangy River Festival on June 21 at Mingo Park (500 E. Lincoln Ave., Delaware, OH) from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Each barrel features a unique design, ranging from space-themed galaxies to colorful flowers and garden scenes, all while supporting a crucial environmental mission.

Rain barrels aren’t just decorative—they also serve a valuable role in managing stormwater. Benefits include:

- Reducing stormwater runoff
- Providing a free and sustainable water source for gardening
- Reducing the amount of pollutants entering local waterways
- Helping prevent ponding and flooding
- Lowering household water bills

We invite community members to attend the festival, enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities, and bid on one of these student-created barrels to support clean water efforts and take home a functional work of art.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

8th Grade Students Explore History in Washington, D.C.

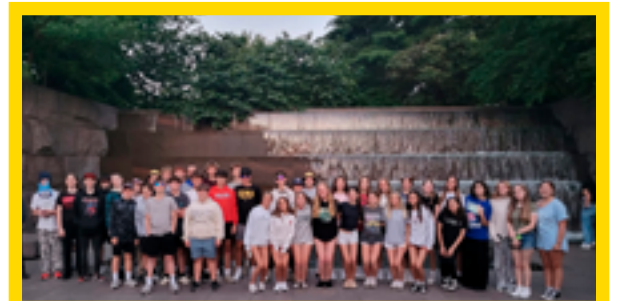
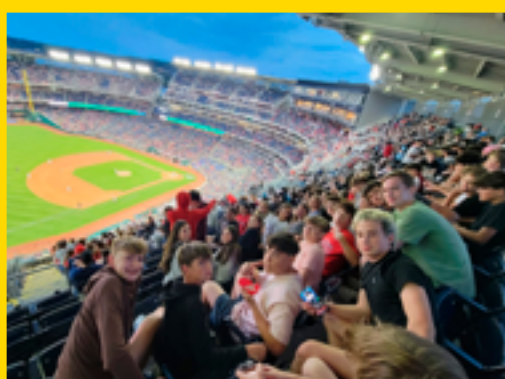
As the 2024–25 school year wrapped up, Big Walnut Middle School's 8th grade students took part in one of our district's most memorable traditions: the annual trip to Washington, D.C. Held during the last week of school, the trip provided students with an incredible opportunity to explore our nation's capital through both an educational and personal lens.

Tied closely to the 8th-grade American History curriculum, the experience helps students connect their classroom learning to the real world. Visiting national landmarks, historic memorials, and renowned museums gave students a powerful perspective on the people, events, and ideals that have shaped the United States.

Students participated in guided tours and received expert insights at each stop. This year's itinerary included the Lincoln Memorial, the Capitol Building, the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, and several Smithsonian Museums. Students also took time to reflect at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and enjoyed a night at Nationals Park for a major league baseball game, because you have to have a little fun with all that learning!

The D.C. trip marks a significant milestone for our 8th-graders, symbolizing the transition from middle school to high school. It's often remembered as a favorite moment of their time at Big Walnut Middle School, a trip filled with learning, laughter, and lasting memories.

We are deeply grateful to the staff members, parent chaperones, and the entire Big Walnut community for their continued support of this experience. Because of you, our students are able to engage with history in meaningful ways and take part in opportunities they'll remember for years to come.





HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Athletics Website

Big Walnut Wins Ralph Young All-Sports Award for Fourth Time in Five Years

Big Walnut High School is proud to announce that it has once again captured the prestigious Ralph Young All-Sports Award—marking the fourth time in five years that the Golden Eagles have earned the top honor in the Ohio Capital Conference (OCC), Capital Division.

This year’s race was one of the closest in recent memory. Big Walnut finished with a 2.640 average, narrowly edging out Worthington Kilbourne’s 2.800 average to reclaim the title.

The defining moment came during the OCC Track and Field Championships, where the Girls’ Track and Field team secured an OCC title, and the Boys’ team finished second, earning the final points needed to bring the award back home to Sunbury.

“This recognition reflects the full scope of what it means to be a Big Walnut Golden Eagle,” said Athletic Director Brian Shelton. “Winning the Ralph Young Award four times in five years is a reflection of our student-athletes’ commitment, our coaches’ leadership, and the support of our school and community. It’s about every athlete, every coach, and every supporter.”

Over the 2024–25 school year, seven Big Walnut teams brought home OCC Championships:

- Football
- Girls Golf
- Girls Cross Country
- Boys Bowling
- Baseball
- Girls Track and Field
- Boys Tennis

Seven other teams earned runner-up finishes, showcasing the program’s incredible depth and consistency.

And the momentum continues.

The Baseball team is still in the hunt for more hardware, competing in the Regional Semifinals on Wednesday, June 4. Should they win, they’ll advance to the Regional Finals on Thursday, June 5. Additionally, five Golden Eagle Track and Field athletes have qualified for the State Championships this Saturday, June 7.

The Ralph Young All-Sports Award is presented annually to the OCC school with the best average league finish across all sanctioned sports. This year’s win marks a fitting end to another remarkable year for Big Walnut Athletics, fueled by teamwork, determination, and community pride.

Congratulations to all our student-athletes, coaches, and supporters on an incredible year. Best of luck to those still competing!

Stay connected with Big Walnut’s championship tradition:

X (Twitter): [@bigwalnuteagles](#)

Facebook: [Big Walnut Athletics](#)



BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

ERIN HOOVER
HIGH JUMP
SATURDAY 6/7 10 PM

ASIAN JENKINS
HIGH JUMP
SATURDAY 6/7 3 PM

KARSYN KLAUS
LONG JUMP
SATURDAY 6/7 3 PM

NATALIE VRANCKEN
DISCUS
SATURDAY 6/7 12 PM

BRADEN MCCRUTER
HIGH JUMP
SATURDAY 6/7 3 PM

OHSAA STATE TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025
JESSE OWENS MEMORIAL STADIUM
AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

TICKETS: ONLINE AT
WWW.OHSAA.ORG/TICKETS
NO CASH AT THE GATE



BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL



Office: 740.965.3766 713 N Miller Dr
Fax: 740.965.1954 Sunbury, OH
Guidance: 740.965.2243 43074



BIG WALNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL



555 S Old 3C Hwy Office: 740.965.3006
Sunbury, OH Fax: 740.965.6471
43074



BIG WALNUT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



Office: 740.965.7800 777 Cheshire Rd
Fax: 740.965.7801 Sunbury, OH
43074



BIG WALNUT ELEMENTARY



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Sunbury, OH Fax: 740.965.3168
43074



GENERAL ROSECRANS ELEMENTARY



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Fax: 740.965.8993 Sunbury, OH
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HYLEN SOUDERS ELEMENTARY



4121 Miller Paul Rd Office: 740.965.3200
Galena, OH Fax: 740.965.3986
43021



PRAIRIE RUN ELEMENTARY



Office: 740.965.7850 701 N Miller Dr
Fax: 740.965.7851 Sunbury, OH
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EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT HARRISON STREET



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