

May
2025

The
Eagle Examiner



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

PROM 2025





MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

We are under two weeks away from celebrating the graduation of the Class of 2025. This class is special to me because they were 5th graders my last year as principal at BWI. Time flies by. It has been great to watch their progress, and I cannot wait to see what they accomplish in life.

A large project we completed this school year was a fairly extensive review process of ELA curriculum at the elementary and intermediate school levels. After examining several options and having multiple teachers volunteer to pilot the programs in their classrooms, we have made the decision to adopt Core Knowledge Language Arts by Amplify. These materials are approved by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and meet the requirements for the science of reading. This is an area we have made tremendous strides in improving over the past three years, and I am excited about the resources that will be in the hands of our students to improve literacy at Big Walnut.

I hope you all enjoy the last few weeks of the school year!



Ryan McLane



Explaining House Bill 920



Scott Gooding
Executive Director of
Financial Services

Ohio House Bill 920 is a legislative proposal that seeks to amend and improve the state's property tax laws. Its primary goal is to address concerns regarding the calculation of property tax rates, particularly in relation to the application of the "effective tax rate" mechanism. The bill is designed to provide greater predictability and transparency for homeowners, property owners, and local governments, ensuring that property tax increases are more manageable and understandable.

Under the current framework, when the value of real property increases, local governments often respond by raising tax rates to maintain revenue levels. However, House Bill 920 seeks to limit such increases by requiring more stringent oversight and adjustments to the rates, allowing for a cap on the revenue growth from property tax increases. The bill mandates

that local governments ensure property taxes remain stable and do not escalate beyond certain thresholds, providing a safeguard for taxpayers.

Additionally, the bill proposes clarifications to provisions that may affect local school districts and municipalities, ensuring that necessary public services can continue without overly burdening residents. House Bill 920 is intended to balance the need for local government revenue with the desire to maintain affordable property taxes for Ohio residents.

In essence, House Bill 920 represents an effort to enhance fiscal accountability and fairness in Ohio's property tax system, benefiting both taxpayers and local governments by promoting consistency and preventing excessive tax rate increases. If passed, this bill would fundamentally reshape the way property tax rates are determined, providing clarity and protection to Ohio's residents.



CLASS OF 2025



**BIG WALNUT
LOCAL SCHOOLS** | **INSPIRE
& GUIDE**

BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

MAY 17, 2025 | 7:00 PM



GRAD WEEK SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 9

**MONDAY, MAY 12 -
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14**

THURSDAY, MAY 15

FRIDAY, MAY 16

SATURDAY, MAY 17

LAST DAY OF CLASSES FOR SENIORS

SENIOR EXAMS

EAGLES' LAST FLIGHT

- Student-only senior celebration
- Seniors wear caps and gowns
- Buses throughout district for goodbyes

SENIOR BREAKFAST & GRADUATION REHEARSAL

- Seniors report at 8:00am
- Breakfast together
- Graduation ceremony rehearsal

GRADUATION CEREMONY

- Students report at 6:00pm for 7:00pm ceremony
- Celebrating 290 graduating seniors
- Student speakers, choir performance
- Military & academic honors recognition
- Diploma presentation by district staff

**BIG WALNUT
HIGH SCHOOL**



**BIG WALNUT
LOCAL SCHOOLS**



Can you believe it!?

The Class of 2025 is just days away from turning their tassels! Graduation Week at Big Walnut High School kicks off on Friday, May 9, and leads up to the big event on Saturday, May 17 at 7:00 PM.

The week includes final exams, senior traditions like the Eagles' Last Flight, and a special Senior Breakfast & Graduation Rehearsal. Then it all culminates in a ceremony to remember—complete with student speakers, musical performances, recognition of academic and military honors, and the long-awaited diploma presentation.

We're proud of our seniors and can't wait to celebrate all they've accomplished. So grab your caps, gowns, and tissues—it's time to honor the Class of 2025!





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!



Big Walnut is proud to recognize the newest members of the Spanish Honor Society! These outstanding students have demonstrated a strong commitment to academic excellence in Spanish language studies, as well as a passion for global awareness and cultural appreciation.

Induction into the Spanish Honor Society is more than just a certificate—it's a recognition of the students' hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm for language learning. ¡Felicitaciones a todos!

BIG WALNUT EAGLES ABROAD

Big Walnut students and families have two incredible international travel opportunities on the horizon—and you're invited to learn more.

We're excited to announce informational meetings for our upcoming 2027 trips to Costa Rica and Italy. These once-in-a-lifetime experiences are open to:

Costa Rica – current 4th–6th grade students and their families

Italy – current 3rd–5th grade students and their families

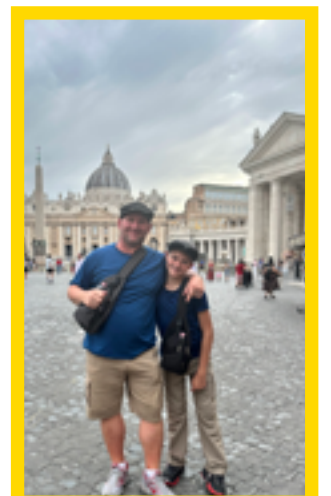


These trips go far beyond sightseeing. Students will build independence, experience new cultures, and develop lifelong skills through hands-on learning and adventure.



Informational Meeting

- Date: May 8
- Time: 7:15 PM (Starting after the BWI Play!)
- Location: Big Walnut Intermediate Media Center
- RSVP: <https://rsvp.eftours.com/d43bfsm>



During the meeting, we'll cover trip highlights, academic connections, pricing, and how to reserve your spot. We'll also open enrollment that evening—space is limited.

In the meantime, we encourage families to visit EF Tours to explore FAQs and learn more about our trusted travel partner.

We hope you'll join us on May 8 and take the first step toward a global adventure your child will never forget.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE DAY 2025



BIG WALNUT
LOCAL SCHOOLS

BWMS SERVICE DAY

2025

ROCK AROUND



the

AGES



Senior Citizen Dance

FRIDAY, MAY 9TH

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

*“No act of kindness, no matter how small,
is ever wasted.” –Aesop*

Refreshments Provided



SUNBURY BIG WALNUT AREA
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE



Delaware County
Foundation



United Way
United Way of Delaware County



YSA
YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA



United Way
United Way of Delaware County



Youth
Changing
the World



Village of
GALENA
FOUNDED 1890



OHIO
SUNBURY
Find them. Stop them. Shape them.

On Friday, May 9, Big Walnut Middle School students will step out of their classrooms and into the community for the annual BWMS Service Day. Service Day is a powerful and hands-on opportunity for students to connect with others, develop leadership skills, and make a positive difference.



This year's Service Day will see students volunteering at a wide range of locations across central Ohio, including Alum Creek State Park, Camp Lazarus, the Delaware County Fairgrounds, the Galena Square, Recreation Unlimited, multiple local nursing homes, and all Big Walnut school buildings. Whether they're picking up litter, spreading mulch, sweeping walkways, or simply spending quality time with others, students will be representing the core values of the Big Walnut community: kindness, responsibility, and service.



One special highlight of the day will take place at BWMS itself. Students will host a Senior Citizen Dance themed **“Rock Around the Ages.”** From 10:45 to 11:30 a.m., local seniors are invited to join students in the school gym for music, refreshments, and plenty of dancing. It's a heartwarming moment of connection across generations and a reminder that service often starts with a smile and a shared experience.



Service Day has become a beloved tradition at Big Walnut Middle School—and for good reason. It gives students the chance to see the tangible impact of their actions, and it gives our community the chance to see our students shine. We're incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, their work ethic, and their heart for service.





AROUND THE DISTRICT



Courtney Sabo
Early Learning Center

Big Walnut Staff Spotlight!

If you've ever visited the Early Learning Center, chances are the first smile you saw belonged to Courtney Sabo. As the ELC secretary (and unofficial jack of all trades), Courtney is the calm, caring force behind the scenes who keeps the day running smoothly.

Courtney juggles a million tasks with grace, patience, and positivity, from greeting families at the door to comforting little ones, answering phones, and jumping in to help in classrooms. She's the ultimate problem solver, a reliable communicator, and the go-to person for almost everything at the ELC.

But Courtney's impact doesn't stop at the front desk. She's present at every event, offering support, lending a hand, and making sure every detail is taken care of. Her commitment to our students and families is unmatched, ensuring children feel safe, loved, and seen.

Thank you, Courtney, for being the heartbeat of the ELC. Your hustle, heart, and unwavering dedication do not go unnoticed!



Big Walnut Robotics Shines at National Robotics Challenge



Big Walnut High School students recently showcased their talents at the National Robotics Challenge held in Marion, in early April. With over 500 robots in competition, our students impressed on the big stage!

Lily H. and Macie M. competed in the Rescue Robot Challenge, placing 4th overall out of 21 teams. Their innovative robot designs and ability to troubleshoot on the fly earned them a nomination for the prestigious Honda Innovation Award.



Other students proudly representing Big Walnut included:

- **Sumo Bot Team:** Josh A., Jack D., Matthew F., and Nick K.
- **Beetleweight Combat Bot Team:** William D. and Jacoby H.
- **Antweight Combat Bot Teams:** Aaron W. and Isaiah S.; Conner W.; Justin C.; Dalton S.; Davey M.; Trenton W.; Kaiden N.; Austin C.; TJ E.; Jacob S.; Jackson M.; Phinean B.; and Liam D.



- **Additive Manufacturing Challenge:** Matthew I., whose 3D-printed design, weighing just 40 grams, supported an incredible 380 PSI!

Congratulations to all of our competitors for their hard work, creativity, and success at this prestigious event!



Eagle Yearbook Named “Best-Of” in the Nation

They say you can’t judge a book by its cover—but when it comes to the 2024 *Eagle* yearbook, the judges did, and they loved every glossy, gold-lettered inch. Under the leadership of sixth-year advisor and instructor Christy Horton, the 2024 staff earned the coveted

honor of being named a “Best-Of” publication in the

country by Varsity Yearbooks. This is the highest recognition Varsity bestows, and the *Eagle* was selected from among 859 entries.

The award includes a featured profile in Varsity’s international portfolio and website, where the *Eagle* will serve as a model of best practices for yearbook programs across the country. Varsity representatives from the central office in Nebraska, flew in to surprise the staff with the award.

These students worked tirelessly to produce a high-quality publication for their community. In 2024, a staff of 18 students created the 192-page yearbook, which featured an impressive 97% of the school’s 1,284 students at least three times within its pages. This level of coverage demanded extensive time, organization, and planning, and reflects the staff’s deep commitment to telling the story of the year and celebrating every student in it.

Volume 54, the 2025 edition, is set to complete production this May and is already on track to match the coverage and quality of its award-winning predecessor. This is thanks to the efforts of the largest staff in school history—29 students. The program draws students with a wide range of talents and interests, fostering a close-knit team. In fact, the majority of students return to the course for multiple years—like 2024 editor and graduate Megan Stevens, who served on staff all four years of her high school experience.



6th Graders Take Learning Outside the Classroom at Camp Nuhop

Big Walnut 6th graders recently kicked off a multi-day adventure at Camp Nuhop, located just outside of Mohican State Park. Half the class visited on April 7, with the second group following on April 8. Students returned for a second day of programming on April 17 and April 21, giving everyone two full days of hands-on learning and exploration.

Camp Nuhop is known for its immersive outdoor education experiences, and our students made the most of it. From high-energy team challenges to science in the wild, the schedule included:

Ropes Course & Giant Swing – Confidence-building and teamwork in action

Canoeing – Water safety and paddling skills (with hot air balloon simulation and compass course as land-based alternatives)

Survival Skills & Geology – Real-world lessons in natural science

Stream Study & Geodomes – Hands-on environmental science

Axe Throwing – A safe and exciting way to build focus and coordination

The experience blended academic learning, outdoor adventure, and team-building in a way that brought curriculum to life.





Real-World Business Learning in Action at BWHS

Students in BWHS's Career Exploration courses are gaining real-world skills and insight into the business world through hands-on learning, engaging projects, and direct interaction with industry professionals.

Marketing Principles & Applications

In Marketing Principles, students have explored the foundations of marketing through an in-depth study of key concepts and strategies. From analyzing the marketing mix to understanding brand identity and consumer behavior, students have examined how companies position themselves in competitive markets. They've taken deep dives into real-world case studies, assessing how businesses adapt their strategies in response to technology, market trends, and customer needs.

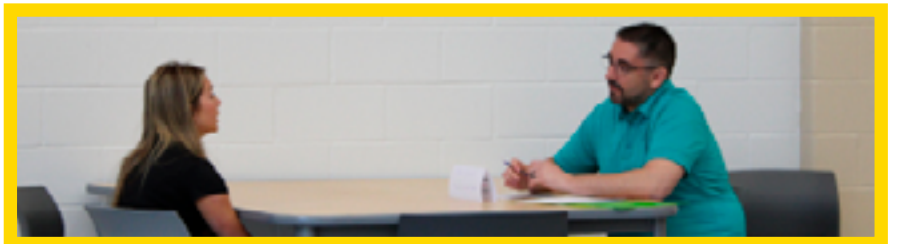
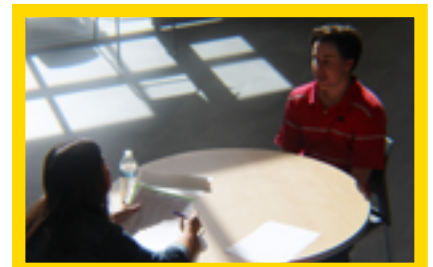
The Marketing Applications course takes learning even further by challenging students to apply their knowledge in practical ways. Throughout the year, students designed logos, developed promotional campaigns, and created advertisements. More recently, they've stepped into the role of product managers—developing enhancements to existing products to better meet consumer demands. These projects have helped sharpen their critical thinking, creativity, and innovation skills.

Students also help operate the Big Walnut High School Spirit Shop, gaining valuable experience in entrepreneurship, business operations, teamwork, and leadership. Be sure to follow along on Instagram at [@bwhs.spiritshop](https://www.instagram.com/bwhs.spiritshop) to see their latest offerings and shop online.

Mock Interviews Build Confidence and Career Skills

Last month, 132 students had the opportunity to participate in mock interviews with local business professionals. This experience gave students a chance to refine their interview techniques, boost their confidence, and receive real-time feedback from experts in the field. These mock interviews help students better understand workplace expectations and prepare for future employment opportunities.

We're grateful for the continued partnership between our Career Exploration program and the local business community. These authentic learning experiences—led by teachers Brooke Moore and Nate Van Niel—are preparing students for success in the classroom and beyond.



Big Walnut Eagles... and Ducks... and Chickens...



It's springtime at Big Walnut, and our buildings are bursting with baby birds — and we're not just talking about Eagles!

At Hulen Souders Elementary, students were egg-static to welcome newly hatched chicks into their classroom. With warm incubators and lots of eager observers, these tiny fluffballs have been stealing hearts left and right.

Meanwhile, General Rosecrans Elementary had a surprise visit from Mother Nature! Holly the Duck, who has made herself at home on school grounds, proudly paraded around campus last week with a whole row of waddling ducklings in tow. Quack-tastic!

Not to be outdone, Prairie Run Elementary also joined in the fun, recently welcoming their own batch of baby chicks. Tiny cheeps can be heard echoing through the hallways as students learn about life cycles — and fall in love with their adorable classroom guests.

At Big Walnut, we always say we're here to Inspire and Guide. Sometimes, that means guiding freshly hatched birds around the building too.





AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

Agricultural Science Students Shine at Ohio FFA State Convention!

The agricultural science program is bursting with pride as two exceptional students have achieved remarkable honors on the state level in scientific research and leadership.



Aashvi Soni
Senior, Big Walnut High School

Aashvi Soni Earns Top Honors at Ohio AgriScience Fair

Please join us in extending a huge congratulations to Aashvi Soni, Ohio's winner in Division 5 of the Plant Systems category at the Ohio AgriScience Fair! This outstanding achievement recognizes Aashvi's hard work and innovative thinking in her project, which tested the longevity of cut flowers using various preservation methods.

Adding to her impressive accomplishment, Aashvi's poster was also selected for two special honors: the Dean's Choice Award and an academic scholarship, both awarded by Dr. Cathann Cress, Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University.

Aashvi's exceptional application will now be forwarded to the National FFA Organization for further evaluation, showcasing her talent and dedication on a national stage. Congratulations, Aashvi, on this well-deserved recognition!



Paris Anderson
Senior, Big Walnut High School

Paris Anderson Elected as an Ohio FFA State Officer

In another momentous achievement, we are thrilled to congratulate Paris Anderson on being selected as an Ohio FFA State Officer! Paris was chosen as one of only 11 officers from a highly competitive pool of 60 candidates to lead the over 30,000 Ohio FFA members in the coming year.

This is a particularly significant milestone for Big Walnut, as Paris is the first student from our school to be elected to this prestigious honor since 1993. Her selection is a testament to her leadership qualities, dedication to the FFA organization, and passion for agricultural education.

The entire Big Walnut community looks forward to supporting Paris as she embarks on this exciting year of service, traveling across the state to represent and lead the Ohio FFA Association. Great work, Paris! We are incredibly proud of your accomplishments and the positive impact you will undoubtedly have.





MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

It has been a memorable spring season for BWMS athletics as all of our teams currently have winning records, shown a strong work ethic and displayed great sportsmanship. As the athletic director, I always love when a game or match ends and we are on the winning end. But it's the growth of skills and maturity that develops within each individual and team that really provides enjoyment. Kudos to all of our coaches for leading our student-athletes both in and out of the competitive arena. Those who played school sports

themselves, you know the lessons learned competing will be the ones you use throughout the rest of your lives.



Joe Rucker
Big Walnut Middle School
Athletic Director



The coaches have spent countless hours beginning in late February and early March preparing our student-athletes for what is always a crazy season at the end of the school year. From the days it was so cold that you had to practice inside, to the rain soaked outside practices where everyone is shivering when they reach the locker room, our coaches and student-athletes have weathered the storms (pun intended). I can't thank the coaches and players enough for the joy they give me, and I know all of you, and for all of their efforts. You make Big Walnut and the entire Sunbury community proud!



Before I sign off from the Eagle Examiner for the 2024-25 school year, I want to make sure I share one last thing. For those of you who have kids going through middle school, or have in the past, you know just how crucial Stephanie Kreager is to the entire foundation of BWMS athletics. She truly is the glue that holds it all together and does so much for our coaches and student-athletes that there is not enough room in this article to share. Despite her having to tackle unimaginable challenges this year, Stephanie has proven to be the ultimate symbol of what Big Walnut stands for...INSPIRE AND GUIDE. It is a privilege to work side-by-side with someone that inspires you each day with just how much character, courage and strength they continually display. Steph, I'm so lucky I get to call you my teammate and friend. Thank you for all that you do to make BWMS the absolute best! GO EAGLES!





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BIG WALNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL



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BIG WALNUT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



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