

March
2025

The
Eagle Examiner



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

FINAL FOUR BOUND!





MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT

Our winter sports seasons are supposed to be winding down, but I guess our kids did not get the message!

Our girls basketball team has advanced to the Final Four of the Division II State Tournament, while our boys basketball team is heading to the Regional Semi-Final. We’ve also had outstanding individual performances, with students qualifying for the state tournaments in girls diving, boys diving, boys swimming, and boys wrestling. Additionally, our cheerleading team earned state runner-up honors for the second consecutive year—an incredible achievement!

Beyond athletics, our high school and middle school music programs are competing in OMEA music contests, proudly representing Big Walnut. The high school theatre department is preparing to take the stage later this week with its production of Legally Blonde.

Looking ahead, the 4th Annual Big Family Read Aloud is just around the corner. This fun event fosters a love of reading in our students, and we hope you’ll join us!

Ryan McLane



Ryan McLane

NATIONAL SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DAY

This past week, we took the opportunity to show our appreciation for the incredible officers who help keep our schools safe every single day!

Our School Resource Officers (SROs) play a vital role in our schools, fostering positive relationships with students, providing a sense of security, and offering guidance and support when needed. Their presence ensures a safe and welcoming learning environment for all.

We are incredibly fortunate to have four outstanding SROs serving Big Walnut Local Schools:



Thank You!

To our wonderful School Resource Officers!



Officer Justin Whiteside



Deputy Dave Snyder



Deputy Matt Roy



Officer Maya Belcher

Deputy Dave Snyder – Delaware County Sheriff’s Office (Big Walnut High School, Prairie Run Elementary, Early Learning Center)

Deputy Matt Roy – Delaware County Sheriff’s Office (Hysten Souders Elementary, Prairie Run Elementary)

Officer Justin Whiteside – Sunbury Police Department (Big Walnut Elementary, Big Walnut Middle School)

Officer Maya Belcher – Sunbury Police Department (Big Walnut Intermediate, General Rosecrans Elementary)

These dedicated officers go above and beyond to build strong connections with students, staff, and families, ensuring that our schools remain a safe and supportive place to learn and grow. Their commitment and service do not go unnoticed, and we are truly grateful for their hard work and dedication.

Please join us in thanking our amazing SROs for all they do to protect and support our students and community!



COMMON CENTS



Scott Gooding
Executive Director of
Financial Services

Ohio School District Homestead and Rollback Program

The Ohio Homestead and Rollback program is a state-level initiative designed to provide property tax relief to homeowners, particularly for those in specific school districts. This program serves as a financial aid mechanism for eligible property owners, reducing their overall tax liability.

Key Components of the Program:

1. Homestead Exemption:

- The Homestead Exemption offers a reduction in property taxes for qualifying senior citizens, disabled individuals, and surviving spouses.

- Eligible homeowners receive a tax exemption on a portion of their property's market value, lowering the taxable value.

2. Rollback Provisions:

- The property tax rollback includes the 10% Rollback and the 2.5% Owner-Occupancy Credit:
 - 10% Rollback: Applied to all residential and agricultural properties, reducing the overall tax burden.
 - 2.5% Owner-Occupancy Credit: Specifically, for owner-occupied homes, further reducing property taxes.
- In 2013, changes to state legislation limited rollbacks to levies approved before the law's enactment. New levies no longer qualify for rollbacks, shifting more responsibility for funding to local taxpayers.

3. School District Impact:

- Ohio's school districts rely heavily on property taxes as a primary funding source. The Homestead and Rollback program affects school districts by:
 - Reducing the effective rate of property taxes paid by homeowners.
 - Shifting some of the financial burden from homeowners to the state for qualifying levies.
 - Creating funding gaps when state reimbursements for rollbacks are inadequate or phased out for new levies.

4. Recent Trends and Legislative Changes:

- Reforms have limited state reimbursements for newly passed levies, compelling school districts to engage voters directly for funding needs.
- Districts must increasingly explain the financial implications of levy approvals or renewals, as these directly impact both tax rates and local education budgets.

Implications:

The Ohio Homestead and Rollback program provides meaningful tax relief for eligible property owners, but it also places pressure on school districts to balance funding needs with taxpayer capacity. Changes to rollback eligibility have increased reliance on local funding, emphasizing the need for clear communication between districts and their communities regarding the financial landscape of public education. This program underscores the ongoing challenge of balancing equitable property tax relief with the sustainable funding of Ohio's public schools.

Legally Blonde: The Musical Takes the Stage at Big Walnut

Big Walnut High School's Performing Arts Department is bringing Legally Blonde: The Musical to life in a high-energy production filled with humor, heart, and plenty of pink.

Follow Elle Woods as she trades her California sorority life for the halls of Harvard Law, proving that staying true to yourself is the key to success. With lively music, witty dialogue, and an empowering message, this show is a can't-miss event for the whole community.

Showtimes:

- Thursday, March 6 – 7:00 PM
- Friday, March 7 – 7:00 PM
- Saturday, March 8 – 7:00 PM

Location: Big Walnut High School Performing Arts Center

BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical

PERFORMANCE DATES:
MARCH 6TH, 7TH & 8TH

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!
CLICK THE TICKET ICON TO PURCHASE YOUR SEATS!





ASL SNAPSHOT

Learning a new language is all about practice, and our American Sign Language (ASL) students are diving in with creative ways to reinforce their skills. Through interactive games, immersive challenges, and hands-on teaching, they're putting their knowledge to the test in fun and meaningful ways.

One of the new games introduced in ASL class is King Elephant, designed to help students practice their unit vocabulary in a fast-paced and engaging way. Students



form a circle, each receiving a card with an animal on it. One student is the "King" and starts by signing "elephant" followed by another animal. The student with that card then repeats their sign and calls out

another. The goal is to sign quickly and accurately to avoid being sent to the last seat. If a student makes an error or isn't paying attention, they move to the last seat while everyone shifts over and receives a new

animal card. It's quick, funny, and requires students to sign! The game will return in a few weeks when we introduce food signs, transforming into "King Bacon!"

Another challenge ASL 1 and 2 students are facing this week is SILENT WEEK. For an entire week, students cannot speak in class—or they lose points. This challenge, worth a major test grade (100 points), helps students experience firsthand the communication barriers that deaf individuals navigate daily. Each time a student speaks in English, they lose five points. Instead, they



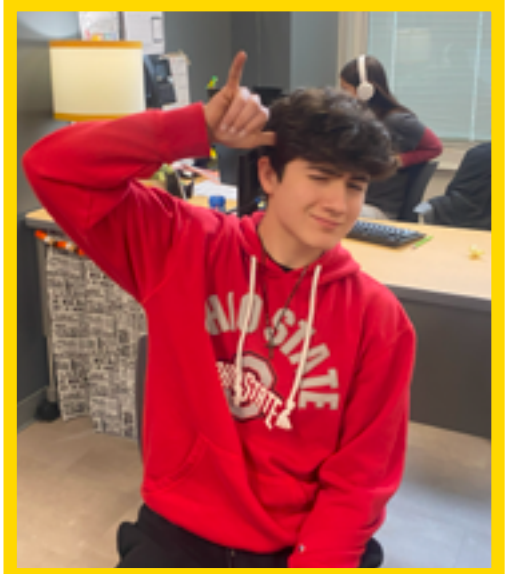
must rely on ASL, fingerspelling, or writing to communicate, just as a deaf person might in real-life situations like ordering at a restaurant. Some students are fully embracing the challenge, while others have already admitted that they are struggling. By the end of the week, we'll see who managed to hold onto all 100 points!

ASL students are also participating in the Elementary Instructional Program alongside students in French, German, and Spanish classes. Each week, high school students visit elementary schools from 2:30-3:00 p.m. to teach younger students the basics of their chosen language. This program, coordinated by German teacher Georgia Craig, provides high school students with valuable teaching experience while exposing elementary students to new languages. ASL students visiting Souders Elementary are teaching essential signs such as the ABCs, colors, introductions, animals, and opinions. This is the first year ASL has been included in the program, and it's exciting to see students engaging in this leadership opportunity.

From fast-paced games to immersive challenges and real-world teaching, our ASL students are taking their learning to the next level. It's inspiring to see them embrace these activities, and we can't wait to see their skills continue to grow!



Chelsea Baer
ASL Instructor - BWHS





AROUND THE DISTRICT



Jeff Van Arsdale
Hyllen Souders Elementary

Big Walnut Staff Spotlight!

At Souders, we are incredibly lucky to have Mr. Van Arsdale bringing energy and fun to our Physical Education program! He is always looking for ways to improve his space and provide the best experience for our students, from securing new equipment to bringing over the beloved rock wall from the old Big Walnut Intermediate. His passion for keeping students active makes a huge difference every day!

One of the many things that makes Mr. Van Arsdale stand out is his commitment to helping students stay engaged and focused. He organizes activity breaks throughout the day, giving kids the movement they need to return to the classroom ready to learn. His Eagle Extensions programs are always a hit, selling out quickly due to his creativity and dedication!

Beyond his role in the gym, Mr. Van Arsdale works tirelessly to make sure every student has the support they need. He has taken extra training to better assist students with sensory needs, communication challenges, and other developmental delays, ensuring that all students can participate and succeed.

Mr. Van Arsdale is the definition of a team player. He collaborates with staff, students, and families to create a positive and inclusive environment at Souders. His enthusiasm, kindness, and unwavering dedication make him an invaluable part of our school community.

Thank you, Mr. Van Arsdale, for all that you do! Souders wouldn't be the same without you!



First Graders Become Surgeons for a Day

In February, Mrs. Dunn's first-grade class at General Rosecrans Elementary transformed into young surgeons, diving into a variety of hands-on activities related to the human body. This engaging and educational experience allowed students to explore different body systems, apply math skills, and expand their vocabulary in a fun and interactive way.



Throughout the day, students pieced together body system puzzles, strengthening their understanding of how different organs work together. They also got creative with language by forming compound words using bones and molded various organs out of playdough to deepen their knowledge of human anatomy.

Math skills were also integrated into the activities. Students practiced addition by reading X-rays and adding three numbers together, and they reinforced their understanding of place value by using bandages to work on "10 more and 10 less." To further enhance their learning, they sorted organs and non-organs while also classifying different

foods into the appropriate sections of the food pyramid.

This hands-on approach not only made learning about the human body exciting but also helped students apply multiple academic skills in a meaningful way. Ms. Dunn's creative lesson brought science to life, making for an unforgettable day in the classroom!





AROUND THE DISTRICT

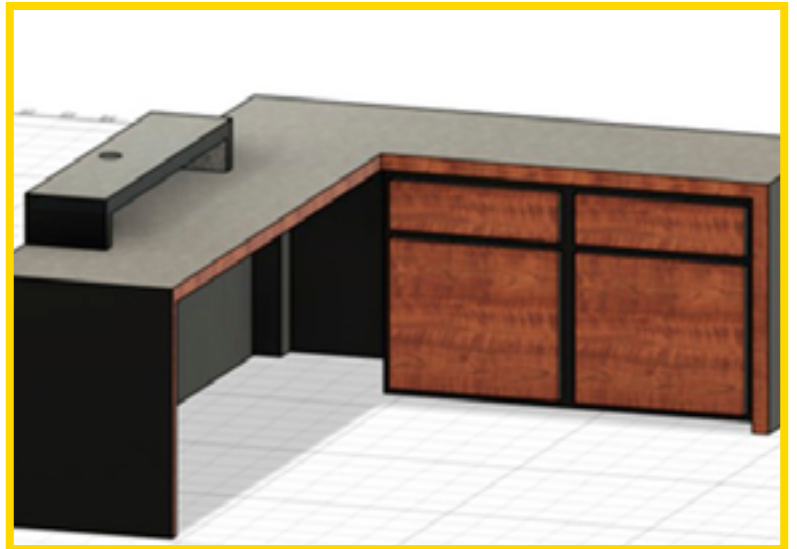
High School Engineering Update



Ben Steele
Engineering Instructor

Intro to Engineering Design

IED is currently working on their Human Centered Design. This project is centered around the innovations of everyday life, to make our lives easier. They have been given a task to interview a teacher, and then create a 3D Design of their innovation to present to their teacher. This uses communication and innovation skills which is very important in the real world.



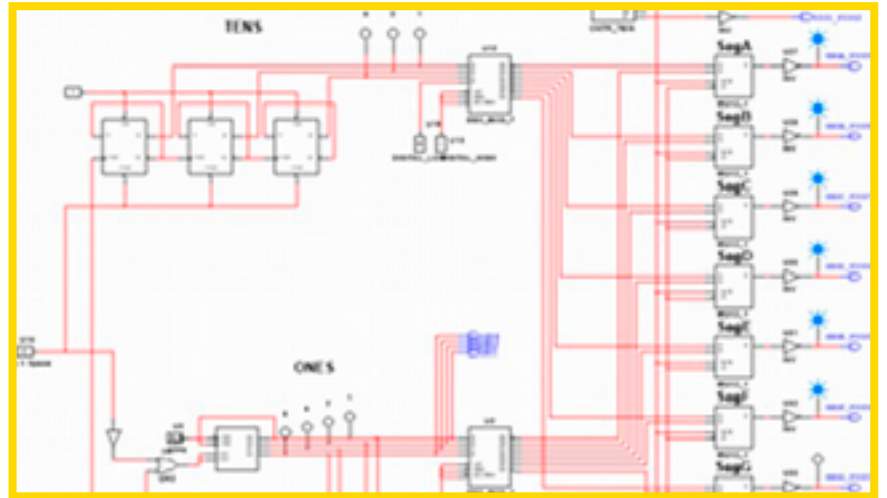
Principles of Engineering

Students in POE are currently using their knowledge of Kinematics to design a "catapult" to launch a ping pong ball onto a mini golf hole they designed. They have to design the catapult using Hydraulics/Pneumatics to land the ping pong ball into the hole. This project demonstrates problem solving and real life use of mathematics!



Digital Electronics

Students in DE are currently expanding on their knowledge from last month's exploration of D & J/K FlipFlops. They have been given a task to create a DeliCounter, a counter which counts zero through seventy using two eight segment displays. This project tested their abilities to use Multisim in correspondence to real world number counters.



Senior Spotlight

Owen Smith is this month's Senior Spotlight! Owen has been taking Engineering classes for 2 years in the BWHS Engineering courses program. From his early interest of Legos since he was 5 years old, to his Robotics in 4th Grade, he has been pursuing his passion to get his Mechanical Engineering Bachelors Degree at the University of Cincinnati. He has always loved the art of Electronics working together, such as figuring out how pistons on a car work, and likes being given a simple task. Good Luck Owen!

Clubs & Upcoming Events

Drone Racing Team

(2:30PM-3:00PM)

March 6th - Simulator Practice

March 13th - Flight Practice

March 20th - Simulator Practice

Competition Robotics

(2:30PM-3:15PM)

March 6th - Practice

March 13th - Practice

March 20th - Practice

National Robotics Challenge

April 3-5



General Rosecrans Students Enjoy a "Snow Day" Scavenger Hunt

Even without real snow on the ground, students at General Rosecrans Elementary had a flurry of fun on Friday during the Snow Day Scavenger Hunt! This exciting event featured four engaging stations that brought the winter spirit indoors.

Students had the chance to make their own snow cones, enjoying a frosty treat as they rotated through the activities. In another station, they put their aim to the test by tossing paper snowballs, each one containing a question to answer. A high-energy dance and movement break kept everyone on their feet, shaking off the winter chill with fun music and activities. Rounding out the event, custodian Adam read a book to the students, bringing a cozy storytelling moment to the day.



The Snow Day Scavenger Hunt was a fantastic way to mix learning with movement and creativity, giving students a special winter-themed experience they won't forget!



Big Walnut Orchestra Earns Excellent Rating at OMEA Large Group Contest

The Big Walnut Orchestra recently participated in the OMEA (Ohio Music Education Association) Large Group Contest. For the first time, these talented musicians performed in Class B and competed for STATE ratings, showcasing their dedication and musical excellence.

Their hard work and commitment paid off as they earned an "EXCELLENT" rating, a remarkable achievement for their first time at this level. The orchestra's performance was an outstanding representation of Big Walnut, demonstrating the passion and skill of our student musicians.

We are incredibly proud of this dedicated group for their achievement and for continuing to elevate our music program. Congratulations to the Big Walnut Orchestra on this well-deserved recognition!





Students to Showcase Artistic Talents for Youth Art Month

Central Ohio will be awash with color and creativity this March as Big Walnut Schools celebrates National Youth Art Month. Students from across the district will have their artwork displayed in various locations, highlighting the importance of art education and the incredible talent within the Big Walnut community.



Several Big Walnut students will be recognized for their exceptional artistic abilities at the statewide Youth Art Month & Young People's Art Exhibition shows held at Riverside Methodist Hospital on March 1st. This prestigious event will showcase the top young artists from across Ohio, and Big Walnut is proud to have its students among them.

In addition to the statewide recognition, Big Walnut students will also be featured in a Central Ohio art show at the end of March in Newark. This event will provide another opportunity for the community to celebrate the artistic achievements of these talented young individuals.



Throughout the entire month of March, Big Walnut Elementary, Hylen Souders Elementary, Prairie Run Elementary, General Rosecrans Elementary, and Big Walnut Intermediate will have their artwork on display at the Community Library here in Sunbury. This district-wide exhibition will allow the public to appreciate the diverse range of artistic styles and mediums explored by students of all ages.

Youth Art Month is a national celebration held annually in March to emphasize the value of art education and encourage support for quality art programs in schools. The Big Walnut community is committed to fostering creativity and artistic expression in its students, and this month-long celebration is a testament to that dedication.

Please join us in celebrating the incredible artistic talents of Big Walnut students this March!



Big Walnut High School Welcomes Future Freshmen at Scheduling Night

Big Walnut High School opened its doors to the Class of 2029 on Monday, February 10, for Incoming Freshman Scheduling Night. This special event gave eighth graders from Big Walnut Middle School a firsthand look at the building they will soon call home.

Students and their families explored the high school hallways, met teachers and staff members, and learned about the academic and extracurricular opportunities available to them. The evening was designed to help ease the transition from middle school to high school by providing students with important scheduling information and a glimpse into daily life at Big Walnut High School.

From touring classrooms to chatting with future teachers, the event gave incoming freshmen a chance to envision their next four years at Big Walnut.

We're looking forward to welcoming the Class of 2029 in the fall!





AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

Agricultural Science Students Explore Hydroponic Farming with Vertical Grow Tower

Students in the Big Walnut - DACC Agricultural Science Program are gaining hands-on experience with hydroponic farming by using a Fork Farms vertical grow tower. This innovative technology has been integrated into the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources class, allowing students to engage in sustainable food production while exploring key concepts in STEM, nutrition, and environmental responsibility.



The vertical grow tower allows students to witness the entire growth process, from seed to harvest, in a controlled indoor environment. By actively participating in the cultivation of fresh produce, students develop a deeper understanding of food systems, plant science, and sustainability.

Since receiving the grow tower through the DACC Innovative Project Grant in May 2024, students have completed three growing cycles. Their efforts have resulted in the harvest of approximately 192 cups of lettuce and 30 cups of basil. The class has cultivated Green Star, Romaine, and Butterleaf lettuce varieties and plans to experiment with additional herbs such as cilantro, parsley, dill, and rosemary in the future.



Christine Febes
Agricultural Sciences Instructor



Aashvi Soni
Senior, Big Walnut High School

State Public Speaking

Students who compete in the Prepared Public Speaking CDE are tasked with writing a 6-8 minute speech about an agricultural topic of their choice. Students memorize and present the speech to judges while answering follow-up questions in their topic area. For the second year in a row, Aashvi Soni, a senior in the Agricultural Science Program, has qualified for the state public speaking contest. Aashvi's speech discusses rice tungro, a viral disease transmitted by insects, drastically diminishing rice production in Southeast Asia. Great work, Aashvi. We are pleased to share that Aashvi placed sixth at the state contest! Congratulations!



Senior Spotlight: Lainey Soule

Lainey Soule is this month's Senior Spotlight! Lainey has been an active Big Walnut - DACC Agricultural Science Program member for the past 3 years. Lainey's favorite part of taking classes in the Agricultural Science program is that she learns something new every day. Lainey's favorite part about the program is the environment of the classes. Lainey looks forward to the excitement and joy the students and teachers have for learning about agriculture and believes there is a place for everyone in Big Walnut's Agricultural Science classes.



Lainey Soule
Senior, Big Walnut High School





BIG WALNUT STUDENTS SPREAD KINDNESS THROUGH THOUGHTFUL PROJECTS

Students and teachers at BWI and BWE have been making a meaningful impact through kindness projects, finding creative ways to give back to their community. Through these efforts, students are learning how even small acts of kindness can make a big difference for others—and themselves.

At BWI, Mrs. Tuel's fifth-grade class spread Valentine's Day cheer to residents at The Inn at Walnut Trail by creating "Buckets of Love." These tabletop buckets were filled with themed activities, including student-created puzzles, trivia cards, and jokes—bringing joy to the nursing home community.

Ms. Valenzuela's fourth-grade class and Ms. Krumholz's fifth-grade class collaborated on two kindness initiatives. On Valentine's Day, they wrote uplifting messages on coffee sleeves, which were distributed at Village Coffee. Students also



Andrea Kavalieros
Big Walnut Intermediate School



crafted cozy tie blankets for My Very Own Blanket, an organization that provides blankets to children in foster care.

At BWE, Mrs. Estep's first-grade class has been ensuring that classmates who cannot attend in person feel included and loved. Their projects have included a Thanksgiving basket with cozy gifts, a 24-day book countdown, and a mini Christmas tree decorated with handmade ornaments. For Valentine's Day, they created a canvas covered in handprints and a basket filled with art supplies and other favorites.

Ms. Norris' art classes participated in a building-wide project, Cups for Kindness, which benefitted Treats 4 the Street. Students and their families donated treat bags, hygiene items, and scarves, while Kids Inspiring Kindness supported the effort with additional items. The donations were shared at a February event, offering warmth and support to individuals facing homelessness.



These projects were made possible by Kids Inspiring Kindness, a grant program founded by BWI Instructional Coach Andrea Kavalieros and community member Tori Blazer. Since 2019, the program has supported over 40 kindness projects with the mission of "lighting up the world with kindness, one classroom at a time."

To learn more, visit tinyurl.com/BWLSkindness





BW FAMILIES AND BUSINESS OWNERS... PLEASE JOIN IN OUR

PURPLE STAR DONATION DRIVE

MARCH - MAY 2025

Donations Serve to:

- fund scholarships
- support deployment
- gather families at the district level: Annual Fall Tailgate & Winter Dinner
- gather students at the building level: Quarterly Purple Star Parties
- acknowledge students during April's month of the Military Child

How to Donate:

- click the QR CODE or Link
- access PaySchools
- enter as a guest
- follow the prompts
- add a fundraiser fee to the cart
- use a valid email as the email ID



<https://payschoolscentral.com>



BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

CONTACT
kimcastiglione@bwls.net

SAVE THE DATE

BIG WALNUT INTERMEDIATE INFORMATION NIGHT

Join us to meet some of our staff members and learn about your child's upcoming 4th grade year.

Thursday, April 10th
6:00-7:00

This event is for Parents/Guardians of current third grade students.

START GETTING INVOLVED NOW AND JOIN US FOR OUR PTO MEETINGS ON 3/19, 4/23 AND 5/14 AT 6PM IN OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY!



Big Walnut Intermediate School, 777 Cheshire Road



Big Walnut Students Take on MathCounts and Mathcon

Big Walnut Middle and Intermediate School students are putting their math skills to the test as they compete in two exciting competitions—MathCounts and Mathcon. Both events push students to think critically, solve complex problems, and put their love of math to work in challenging ways.

MathCounts for the Middle School

For over 40 years, MathCounts has been a premier competition for middle school students across the country. This year, our students competed in the Columbus chapter, going up against nearly 300 students from area schools.

Each week, our MathCounts team meets to tackle real-world problems, logic puzzles, and advanced math topics beyond the standard curriculum. At the competition, students faced three rounds designed to test their problem-solving abilities:

- Sprint Round – 40 minutes to solve 30 math problems—no calculator allowed!
- Target Round – Four sets of challenging problem pairs, with 24 minutes and a calculator to find solutions.
- Team Round – Working together, students had 20 minutes to solve 10 problems using a calculator.



Mathcon in the Intermediate School

Mathcon is a national math competition open to students in grades 4-12. It's known for its high level of difficulty, requiring not only strong math skills but also speed and accuracy in problem-solving. The first round is a computerized, in-class test where students get 50 minutes to answer as many of the 32 questions as possible.

Students who rank in the top 1-2% nationwide may earn an invitation to compete in the Mathcon finals in Chicago on May 10. With thousands of students participating across the country, earning a spot in the finals is a huge accomplishment. Since 2019, Big Walnut Intermediate has had five students qualify for this prestigious event.

This week, our students are taking the Mathcon test and anxiously waiting to see who will advance to the next round in March. Good luck to all of our mathletes—we are so proud of your dedication and hard work!



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

Believe it or not, spring sports are here and we couldn't be more excited at Big Walnut Middle School. The best part about the spring sports season is the sheer number of student-athletes that participate. We are expected to have around 250 middle schoolers competing and that always brings a big smile to my face because of how important it is for our kids to be involved in extracurricular activities. Now if I could only do something about the weather in Ohio during spring...



Joe Rucker
Big Walnut Middle School
Athletic Director

We are thrilled to have the following coaches leading our teams:

- Boys Tennis** - Kim White
- Baseball** - Ed Partlow (7th) and Chandler Palyas (8th)
- Softball** - Rachel Bonno (7th) and Jim Long and Hayleigh Greathouse (8th)
- Boys Lacrosse** - Jason Jones (HC), Joe Backs, Clark Jaeger and Scott Schmidt
- Girls Lacrosse** - Lisa House (HC), Rachael Wittman and Clara Bowser
- Track** - Justin Whiteside (HC), Laura Boening, Joe Weaver, Mike McGann, Annie Dennis, Eric Myers and Eric Coey

The competition schedule for the season will get under way right after spring break (3/24 - 3/28) and will wrap up around mid- May. So while the season doesn't last very long, it is a whirlwind while we are in the middle of it. I invite everyone to come out and watch our talented student-athletes do the things they love, but be sure to

bring your coat, gloves, umbrella, shorts, sun tan lotion and shades. As you know, you may just experience all four seasons in a matter of a couple of hours. On behalf of BWMS, we wish all teams throughout the district the best of luck and hope to continue the amazing feats our teams have experienced during the fall and winter.

GO EAGLES!!!

Reminder: Outstanding School Fees & Payment Options

As we continue through the school year, we want to take a moment to thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to your child's education. Your partnership is essential in maintaining a strong and thriving learning environment for all students at Big Walnut Local Schools.

To ensure the continued success of our programs, we kindly remind families to review any outstanding school fees. These fees support important resources such as classroom materials, extracurricular activities, and student programs that enhance the educational experience.

If your family has an outstanding balance, we encourage you to make a payment as soon as possible. For your convenience, multiple payment options are available:

- **Online:** Pay through [PaySchools Central](#)
- **By Mail:** Send payments to:
Big Walnut Local School District
Accounts Receivable
110 Tippet Court
Sunbury, OH 43074
- **In-Person:** Pay with cash, check, or credit card at any school office.
- **Financial Hardship:** If your family is experiencing financial difficulties, fee waivers may be available for students who demonstrate a serious financial need. Please refer to [Board Policy](#) for more details or [click here](#) for additional information.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Heather Mahle, Accounts Receivable, at heathermahle@bwls.net. We appreciate your attention to this matter and your continued support in providing the best possible education for our students.

Thank you for being valued members of our school community!



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Brian Shelton
Big Walnut High School
Athletic Director

As we wrap up our winter sports seasons, Big Walnut athletes are making their mark in the playoffs—where every game, is a “win or go home” moment. Our student-athletes have delivered outstanding performances, with multiple teams and individuals competing at the highest levels.

Cheerleading Soars on the National and State Stages

Our cheerleading squad has had an incredible season, finishing 5th in the nation at the 2025 UCA Nationals in Orlando! They didn’t stop there—turning around to host the OASSA State Championships in our own gym and earning a 2nd place finish.



Sarah White
Third in the State

Swimming & Diving Success

Big Walnut’s Swimming and Diving teams have made waves this season with impressive team and individual performances:

- Owen Wion won both the OCC Championship and Sectional Championship, earning a trip to the state meet.
- Andrew Boldizar placed second at OCC in diving.
- Sarah White dominated, winning the OCC title, claiming the district championship, and finishing 3rd in the state championship!

Wrestling: Strong District Performance & State Qualifiers

Big Walnut Wrestling had a strong group compete at the district tournament last weekend:

- Five boys wrestled at districts, delivering impressive performances.
- Eight girls also competed, with Big Walnut hosting the girls’ district tournament—an incredible event showcasing top-tier talent.
- Victoria Gonzalez Henrique won a sectional championship in her weight class—congratulations!
- Eli Hadden qualified for the OHSAA Boys State Wrestling Tournament after placing 3rd in the 126-pound weight class at districts. With an impressive 36-10 record, he is making his first trip to state.
- Griffin Mininger will serve as an alternate in the 144-pound weight class after placing 6th at districts.
- The OHSAA Boys State Wrestling Tournament will take place at the Schottenstein Center from March 7-9



A Historic Season for Indoor Track

Big Walnut Indoor Track continues to shine, with eight girls and five boys competing at the OATCCC State Championships this weekend at Spire Institute.

Karsyn Klaus leads the way, qualifying in four events, including the 4x200m relay with Karly Gneiting, Ella Gianettino, and Kayla Tillar. Natalie Vrancken (shot put, weight throw), Leighton Coey (800m), Erin

Hoover (high jump), and Leah Reiter (triple jump) also qualified.

The team won its seventh Central District Indoor Championship, setting new school records in the 800m (Leighton Coey – 2:25.43) and 200m (Karsyn Klaus – 26.79).

On the boys’ side, Braden McCruter (high jump) and the 4x400 relay team of Austyn Fox, Remy Stanford, Jamison Brandt, and Ross McMurry will also compete for a state title!





HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Bowling Rolling into Districts

Both boys' and girls' bowling teams competed in the district tournament:

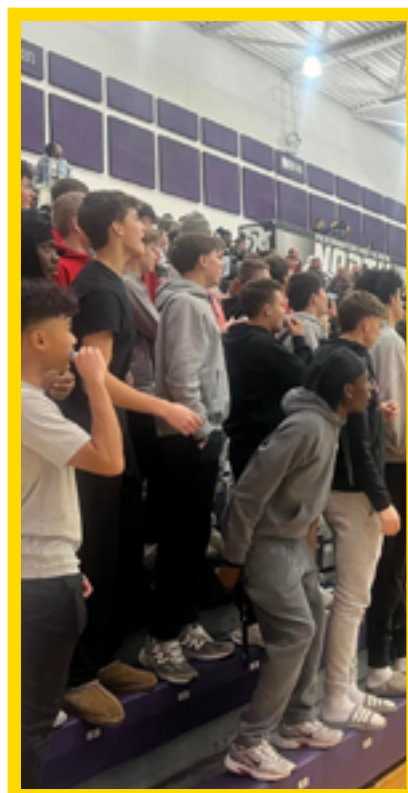
- The boys' bowling team advanced from the sectional tournament and competed at districts as a team.
- Mia Lumbra represented Big Walnut girls' bowling at districts, qualifying as an individual.



Basketball Teams Making Playoff Runs

- Boys Basketball: District Champions for the first time since 1997! The team will compete in the Regional Semifinals on Wednesday, March 5, against Licking Heights at the Ohio Expo Center. A win advances them to the Regional Finals on March 8, also at the Ohio Expo Center.
- Girls Basketball: District Champions, Regional Champions, and heading to the State Final Four! The team will face Winton Woods on Sunday, March 9, at 3 PM at Vandalia High School.

We need all the support at these huge basketball games as our boys and girls chase state titles!



Big Walnut Athletics

Looking Ahead to Spring

While we're living in the moment of playoff excitement, spring sports are just getting into tryouts with practices starting right around the corner. Be sure to check bigwalnutathletics.net for schedules and updates.

A huge congratulations to all of our winter athletes, coaches, and families for an amazing season—let's keep the momentum going!



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



940 S Old 3C Hwy Office: 740.965.3902
Sunbury, OH Fax: 740.965.3168
43074



GENERAL ROSECRANS ELEMENTARY



Office: 740.965.8900 301 S Miller Dr
Fax: 740.965.8993 Sunbury, OH
43074



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
43074



EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT HARRISON STREET



70 Harrison St Office: 740.965.7862
Sunbury, OH
43074