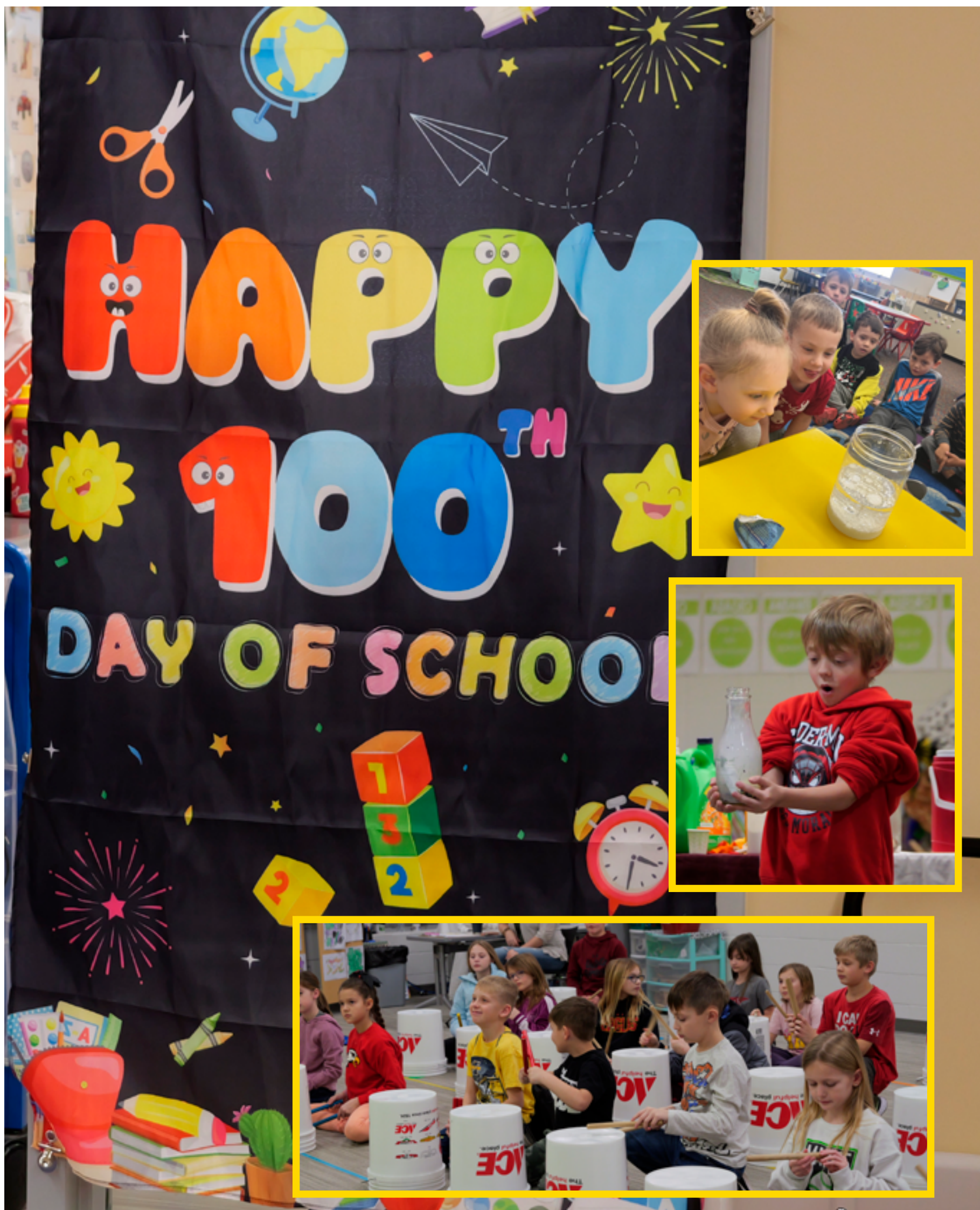


February
2025

The
Eagle Examiner



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





MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT

Buckeye Chuck and Punxsutawney Phil made opposite predictions over the weekend about whether spring will be here soon. If Chuck is correct in predicting an early spring, I will gladly give up my Pennsylvania ties.

As a district, when we have to make a decision on a weather delay, we try to do it as early as possible. We have various members of our team who are out driving the roads by 4:15 AM, checking the conditions for snow, ice, or fog. Generally we like to make the decision for a delay or closing by 5:30 AM.

When I went to school, and maybe you can relate, we found out if school was closed or delayed by listening to the radio. The host would read off the list of schools alphabetically. The anticipation of getting to your school's part of the alphabet and finding out if you had to go to school or could go back to bed was an exhilarating moment.

Today, I guess the only anticipation is if Penny the Puppy makes a video announcing the decision. We communicate a delay or closure via social media, text alerts, all-call, news media, as well as a message posted on our website. I typically post it on social media first because, quite honestly, it is quick, and I know how to do it. Our phone system sends out thousands of calls, and they don't all happen simultaneously. For me, it is more important that you get the information than how you got the information. There will be times when your friend sees it on social media before you get the call. But it is still more efficient than it was in the 1980s.

Up to this point, we have closed school three times and have had a few delays, which is up from last year. The state used to give each school district five calamity days, but that is no longer the case. It is based on meeting a required number of hours per year, and we exceed that standard by a large amount. We are not to a point where I anticipate us having to make up any days, but if it turns out Punxsutawney Phil's prediction of a long winter is accurate, that could change.



Ryan McLane

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

This week, Big Walnut Local Schools proudly recognizes National School Counseling Week, a time dedicated to celebrating the invaluable contributions of our school counselors. These dedicated professionals play an essential role in fostering student success, providing academic guidance, social-emotional support, and career readiness resources to help our Eagles soar.

School counselors are instrumental in creating a positive learning environment, offering students a trusted resource for navigating challenges and achieving their full potential. Whether helping students set academic goals, providing emotional support, or guiding them toward future opportunities, our counselors make a profound impact every day.

Join us in giving a BIG THANK YOU to our amazing Big Walnut Local Schools counselors:

- **Big Walnut High School:** Shelby Brady, Jeanne Collett, Anna Laux, Meghan Paul, and Tammi Jordan
- **Big Walnut Middle School:** Annie Demith, Lauren Greenspan, and Alyson Lyle
- **Big Walnut Intermediate School:** Molly Fortune and Erin Grywalski
- **Big Walnut Elementary School:** Caleigh Moats
- **Hylen Souders Elementary School:** Christi Walker
- **General Rosecrans Elementary School:** Ashley Nussen
- **Prairie Run Elementary School:** Whitney Hoge



As we celebrate National School Counseling Week, we encourage our students, families, and staff to take a moment to express their gratitude for the hard work and dedication of our counselors. Their efforts make a difference in the lives of our students, shaping a supportive and encouraging school community.

Thank you to our outstanding school counselors for all that you do to inspire and guide our students!



COMMON CENTS



Scott Gooding
Executive Director of
Financial Services

Ohio School District Public Utility Personal Property Taxes

Public utility personal property taxes (PUPPT) are a critical source of revenue for Ohio school districts, directly impacting their ability to fund essential educational services. This tax applies to public utilities such as electric, gas, and telecommunications companies that own tangible personal property used in their operations. The tax is assessed on the value of this property within the school district boundaries.

Key Highlights:

- **Taxable Property:** Includes equipment, machinery, and other tangible personal property used by public utilities in Ohio. Real property is taxed separately under different provisions.
- **Valuation and Assessment:** Public utility property is valued and assessed by the Ohio Department of Taxation. The assessment rates vary by utility type, with electric and natural gas utilities typically being the most significant contributors.
- **Revenue Distribution:** The revenue collected from PUPPT is distributed to local school districts and other taxing jurisdictions based on the location of the taxable property. School districts often rely heavily on these funds to supplement general operating budgets.
- **Impact on School Budgets:**
 - For many districts, PUPPT constitutes a substantial portion of local funding.
 - Revenue fluctuations can occur due to changes in utility infrastructure, depreciation of assets, or shifts in state taxation policy.
- **Legislative Changes:** Legislative adjustments to tax rates, exemptions, or assessment methods can significantly influence school district revenues. Recent trends, such as shifts toward renewable energy sources, may also impact the taxable property base.
- **Challenges and Considerations:**
 - The reliance on PUPPT revenue can expose districts to financial volatility if utility infrastructure investments decline.
 - Equity concerns arise as districts with more utility infrastructure benefit disproportionately compared to others with fewer taxable assets.

INCOMING FRESHMAN

CLASS 2029

FEB 10

A-G | 6:00 PM
H-O | 6:30 PM
P-Z | 7:00 PM

ORIENTATION

WELCOME TO BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL!

START THE EVENING IN THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT
YOUR DESIGNATED TIME. AFTERWARD, EXPLORE BWHS
ELECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES AND MEET THE STAFF!

BIG WALNUT
LOCAL SCHOOLS

Conclusion:

Ohio school districts depend on public utility personal property taxes as a vital funding mechanism. Policymakers and educational administrators must closely monitor changes in utility asset valuation, state taxation policies, and broader industry trends to ensure stable and equitable funding for all districts. Proactive planning and diversification of revenue sources are essential to mitigate potential risks associated with fluctuations in PUPPT revenue.

Big Walnut High School Theatre Winter Show: Legally Blonde The Musical!



The Big Walnut Theatre Department is proud to announce the performance of "Legally Blonde The Musical." This show will be performed on March 6 - March 8. Keep an eye out as tickets will go on sale beginning in February!



ARTS DAY AT THE ELEMENTARIES

Back in 2010, all specials in the elementary schools were cut. That year, General Rosecrans Elementary's PTO president came up with the idea of having an "Arts Day." One day of the year to celebrate the arts due to the students missing out on getting arts education in their curriculum. That year, 12 visual and performing artists from around the Columbus area came together to spend the day with the students at GRE. The day was a huge success! Thankfully, specials were brought back the following year, but Arts Day was such a hit that it stuck around....and 15



years later, it has only grown!

Arts Day began at GRE, spreading to HSE the year we had traveling teachers, and then to each elementary around the district! Each school's day is a little bit unique to

their building, but the goal is the same...a day dedicated to celebrating the arts!

Over the years, the artists we have invited to school have evolved, but include both visual and performing artists. Students get to learn how to DO something with the performing artists and how to MAKE something with the visual artists. The performing artists have included a variety of things,

from African drumming and bucket drumming to magicians, mimes, dancers, and theater performers. The visual artists have taught a variety of techniques, including macrame, paint pouring, glazing techniques, laser wood cutting, fiber arts, mask making, origami, and so much more! Through Arts Day students are introduced to a variety of the arts that they may not get to experience in their normal arts classes. They get to see how these artists have created their careers in the arts for some and how the arts can remain a loved hobby for others.

Prairie Run's art teacher, Christine Doran, has planned Arts Days at GRE and HSE and brought it to PRE when it opened in 2020. Needless to say, it was questionable if an Arts Day could happen, but thanks to amazing technology, PRE's first Arts Day was virtual and still enjoyed by all! Mrs. Doran's



Christine Doran
Prairie Run Elementary



favorite part of Arts Day is seeing the students engage with artists from the community to learn something they may not get to experience in her typical art class due to budget, material, or time constraints. She has also loved learning new skills herself as a participant alongside the students! Music Teacher, Heidi Bridge said, "I love having Arts Day because it allows the kids a chance to learn something new from people of the community. It's a great experience for them to interact with artists who use these skills every day in their own lives."

When asked what students like the most about Arts Day, they said...

"Getting to blow the bubble glazing onto my plate!"

"Drumming, for sure!"

"Getting to use my hands to learn how to make a macrame"

"Folding paper into the little dragon puppet!"

"Dancing in the gym and showing my teacher our dance at the end"

Arts Day is funded by the school's PTOs and generous donations from the community. If you are an artist who would like to be added to our contact list or get involved in supporting Arts Day, we would love to hear from you! Feel free to reach out to ChristineDoran@bwls.net for more information or any of the Big Walnut elementary art teachers in the district!





AROUND THE DISTRICT



Kelly Kerns
General Rosecrans Elementary

Big Walnut Staff Spotlight!

At GRE, we are incredibly lucky to have Ms. Kelly as the heart of our school! She is the first smiling face many of us see in the morning and the last one we see in the evening, making every day a little brighter. Kelly's energy, kindness, and unwavering dedication keep everything running smoothly, all while adding a touch of fun and positivity wherever she goes. She truly does it all, and she does it with a smile!

One of the many things that makes Ms. Kelly stand out is her incredible presence on the PA system. Her announcements don't just inform—they bring joy and energy to our school! Whether she's making sure we stay on schedule, sharing important updates, or adding a little humor to our day, with her famous MVP chants, her voice has become a comforting and

Beyond her official duties, Ms. Kelly is always there when someone needs help, a listening ear, or even just a good laugh. She juggles countless tasks with ease and never hesitates to go the extra mile for both staff and students. Her kindness and dedication do not go unnoticed, and we are so grateful for all that she does.

Ms. Kelly, you are truly the glue that holds us together, and GRE wouldn't be the same without you! Thank you for everything—you are one in a million!



The Big Walnut Community is invited to

UNITED X X X
→ → → AGAINST BULLYING

AN OPEN FORUM FOR PARENTS ON HOW WE CAN END BULLYING

February 27 6:30 p.m.
Big Walnut Middle School Auditorium

BWMS Student Trip to Puerto Rico for All 7th-11th Graders

Big Walnut Middle School students have an exciting opportunity to explore the world in Summer 2026! We're thrilled to announce a student trip to The Greater San Juan Region of Puerto Rico through EF Tours, our trusted educational travel partner.

Traveling provides students with invaluable experiences that expand their understanding of the world, boost confidence, and foster personal growth. This trip will offer a unique chance to explore a new culture, engage in hands-on learning, and build lasting memories.

To learn more about this incredible opportunity, we invite families to attend an upcoming informational session on Tuesday, February 11th. This session will be available both virtually and in person simultaneously.



During this session, we will discuss:

- The educational and personal benefits of student travel
- The exciting itinerary and planned activities
- What is included in the travel package
- Academic credit opportunities for participants
- Safety measures and affordability options
- The enrollment process and EF's risk-free enrollment

Spots for this trip are limited! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for your student. Be sure to register for the information session by scanning the QR code above or visiting [this link](#).

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting and helping your student embark on an unforgettable journey!



AROUND THE DISTRICT

High School Engineering Update



Ben Steele
Engineering Instructor

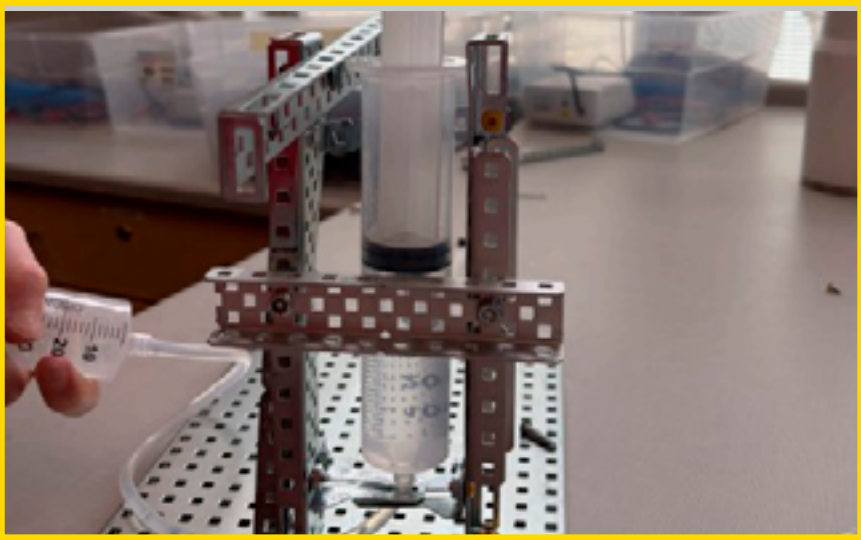
Intro to Engineering Design

Students are currently working on a project to build a Trammel Toy. They are assigned a block that has mistakes in it that they must first find and then correct. They use Fusion 360 to design and later 3D print their block to determine if they made all of the corrections. This uses a hands on approach to learn how to use CAD within the Engineering Classroom.



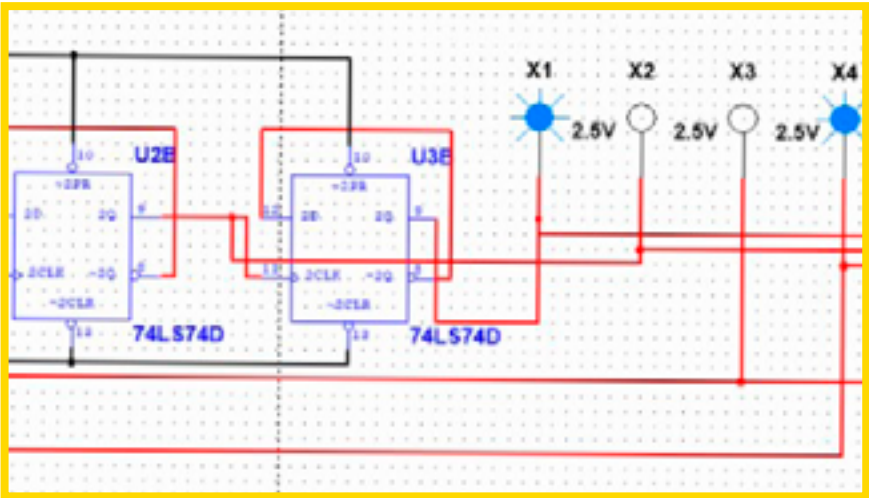
Principles of Engineering

In P.O.E. the students are currently learning about fluid systems using Pneumatics and Hydraulics. The groups have applied their understanding of Pneumatics or Hydraulics to create a model of a real-world application. Students have enjoyed exploring the world of engineering through a problem based approach.



Digital Electronics

Currently students in D.E. are exploring D & J/K Flip-Flops. The flip-flops are the base for all electronic memory. They allow a true or false statement to be passed down a line to display an output. The students can visually see it in work using Multisim and a programable logic device. This is the basis of all digital electronics.



Senior Spotlight

Aidan Meigs is this month's Senior Spotlight. Aidan has taken Principles of Engineering and has helped build the Aerospace Club from the ground up. Aidan has hopes to go to Ohio State University to study Industrial Systems in hopes to one day becoming a supply chain manager. Good luck Aidan!

Clubs & Upcoming Events

- Drone Racing Team** - (2:30PM-3:00PM)
February 6th - Simulator Practice
February 13th - Flight Practice
- Competition Robotics** - (2:30PM-3:15PM)
February 6th - Practice
February 13th - Practice
- National Robotics Challenge**
April 3-5
- February 20th - Simulator Practice
February 27th - Flight Practice
- February 20th - Practice
February 27th - Practice



Career-Ready Courses with DACC's "Super Electives"

Parents of 6th-9th graders—are you thinking ahead about college and career opportunities for your student? The Delaware Area Career Center (DACC) offers a variety of career-focused "super electives" that students can take during high school, preparing them for in-demand careers and higher education pathways.

DACC programs allow students to explore fields like Zoo School, Biotechnology, Engineering, Pharmacy, Nursing, Cybersecurity, Digital Design, and more. Additionally, senior-only programs provide specialized learning opportunities to help students gain hands-on experience before graduation.

To learn more, parents and students are invited to attend an upcoming Coffee Chat session. These informal gatherings provide valuable insight into the courses available and how they fit into students' high school schedules.

Upcoming Coffee Chat Sessions

In-Person (Limited Seating)

- February 18 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Delaware Area Career Center
- February 21 | 10:30 AM-12:00 PM | Orange Library

Virtual Sessions

- February 24 | 6:30-8:00 PM
- February 26 | 10:00-11:30 AM

For virtual sessions, translated captions or transcription are available.

RSVP and find more details by visiting [this website](#).

This is a great opportunity to explore the options available and set your student up for success in high school and beyond.





AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

Food Science & Technology Team

Members of the Agricultural Science Program's Food Science & Technology team competed recently in the state competition. For the eighth year in a row, our team took the top spot in Ohio and will advance to represent Ohio in the National Food Science & Technology Career Development Event in Indianapolis, Indiana, in October.



More than 1,000 individuals from nearly 130 schools participated in this year's event. Individually, Joshua Schutt placed first, Madi Dible placed third, Riley Norling placed fourth, and Lainey Soule placed seventh. Jasmine Bah was the team's alternate.

In the event, students participated in hands-on practicums similar to those of professionals in the food products and processing career field. Team members scored the highest in several areas of the event, including aroma identification, food safety practicums, food analysis, problem-solving, and the team product development portion. In the team activity, the team worked together to develop a new protein bar that met FDA guidelines.

Joshua, Madi, and Riley have earned scholarships to Ohio State University for their achievements.



Christine Febes
Agricultural Sciences Instructor

Biotechnology Team

In January, students on the Biotechnology team participated in the state event hosted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg. The team tied for the highest score but lost the tiebreaker to finish second at the state level!

Jenna Ebbers placed fifth, Tyler Irwin placed seventh, Sam Erndt placed 12th, and Aashvi Soni placed 33rd in the event.

In this event, students demonstrate the laboratory and research skills needed to succeed in the biotechnology industry. This year, students were asked to demonstrate the use of an electronic balance and micropipette, analyze the results of a



gel electrophoresis test, and interpret the results of a Gram stain. The team also collaborated to formulate a response to the H5N1 avian influenza outbreak, and they earned the top score of all teams in the event.

Senior Spotlight

Jenna Ebbers is this month's Senior Spotlight. She has been an active member of the Big Walnut - DACC Agricultural Science Program throughout her high school career.

Jenna's favorite part of taking agricultural science classes is the hands-on learning approach. Each class has allowed her to learn differently.

Her favorite activity this year was going to the National Convention to compete in the Food Science & Technology CDE and learning about different ways to work with animals in the agricultural industry in the Veterinary Science class.



Jenna Ebbers
Senior, Big Walnut High School





HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Brian Shelton
Big Walnut High School
Athletic Director

Soph Sydney Mobley scores 38 points to set a School Record for Points in a Game

On Wednesday, January 29, the Big Walnut varsity girls basketball team traveled to Newark to face the Wildcats, who had only three losses. Both teams were on fire from the three-point line, leading to a high-scoring game. Sophomore Sydney Mobley scored 38 points to lead Big Walnut to a 72-65 victory over Newark in overtime. Sydney's 38 points set a new school record, surpassing the previous record of 36 points held by current sophomore Remy Largent. The Eagles are now 14-3 for the season and secured the #1 seed for the



OHSAA Central District. The Ladies' first playoff game will be Saturday, February 15th, at Big Walnut!

Owen Wion – OCC Champion – Swimming

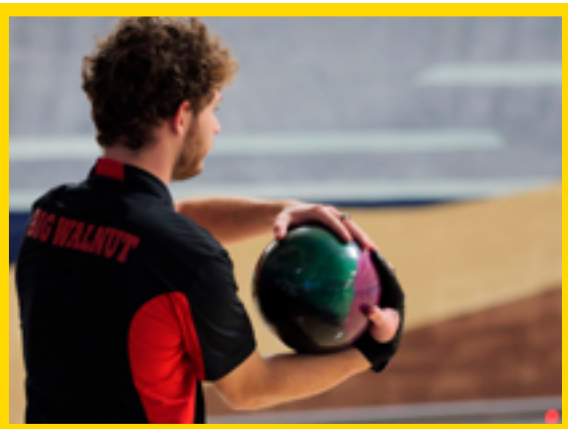
On Friday, January 24, the Big Walnut varsity swimming team, under the leadership of Nicholas Borghi, traveled to Worthington to compete in the OCC Championships. The girls placed 4th, while the boys placed 5th.

Congrats to Owen Wion for winning the OCC Championship in the 100 breast and 100 fly. Owen also broke a long-standing school record in the boy's 100 Breast, formally held by Dominic Carifa.



Boys Bowling – OCC Champions

On Tuesday, January 21, the Big Walnut High School boys' bowling team defeated Dublin Scioto with a score of 2421 to 2196. This victory secured their undefeated record of 5-0 in league play and earned them the 2025 Ohio Capital Conference Championship. Head coach Connor Leidtke and assistant coach Zach Green coach the team. Last year, the boys' bowling team finished third in the state, and with postseason play approaching, they are eager to make another deep run. With one regular season match remaining, our boys stand at a perfect 10-0 overall.



Sarah White - OCC Champion - Diving

On Saturday, January 19, at the OCC Diving Championships held at Upper Arlington High School, Sarah White emerged as the champion, scoring 476.95 points and earning second place overall among all divisions in the OCC. With the OHSAA Districts approaching, Sarah is well-positioned to compete for a spot at the state championships.

On the boys' side, Andrew Boldizar secured second place with a score of 410.05. Other notable finishes for the girls included Summer Gabel in third place, Brooke Gabel in fourth, and Brynn Drewyor in ninth. Among the boys, Charlie Ulrich placed third, while Bennett Weatherhead finished fourth.



Big Walnut Athletics

Senior Nights!

Boys and Girls Wrestling

2/13 Boys vs. Westland

2/13 Girls vs. Gahanna

BWHS Gymnasium

Boys and Girls Basketball

2/8 - vs. Bishop Watterson

BWHS Gymnasium

Winter Cheerleading

2/14 vs. Dublin Scioto

BWHS Gymnasium

Save the Fall Dates!

2025 Fall Military Night

Football

Friday, September 19

vs. Westerville South

Big Walnut Stadium

2025 Fall Homecoming

Football

Friday, September 26

vs. Padua Franciscan

Big Walnut Stadium

HS Spring Sports starts soon!
CLICK HERE for the most up-to-date information.



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Fax: 740.965.1954 Sunbury, OH
Guidance: 740.965.2243 43074



BIG WALNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL



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43074



BIG WALNUT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



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HYLEN SOUDERS ELEMENTARY



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Galena, OH Fax: 740.965.3986
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PRAIRIE RUN ELEMENTARY



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EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT HARRISON STREET



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