December
2024

The Eagle Examiner

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

Saluting Our Heroes

Message from the Superintendent

One of the new things we instituted at Big Walnut this year is conducting "stay interviews" with our staff. We have been offering exit interviews with staff members who choose to leave the district, and while that information has been valuable, any changes we make as a result of those conversations are too late for that person. Megan Forman-Karbler, our assistant superintendent, has been conducting many of these stay interviews, but I have had the opportunity to do a few as well and it has been refreshing for me to hear what our staff members enjoy about Big Walnut.

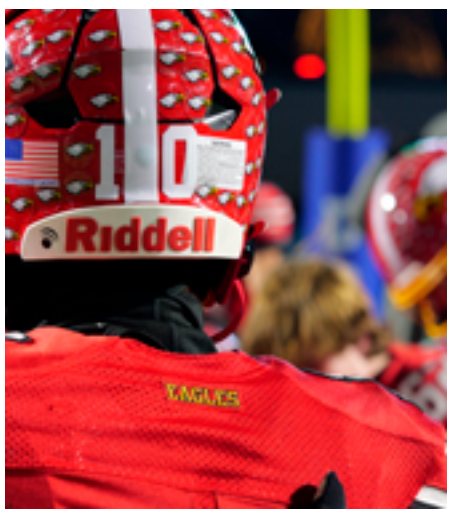
Ryan McLane

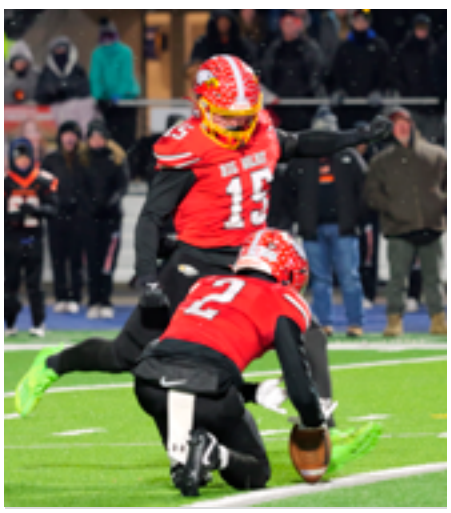
I don't think this is going to be surprising information, but when it comes to what is the best thing about working at Big Walnut, the most common answer has been the people, specifically the kids. As the superintendent of this district, it is hard to hope for a better answer. It is why our staff works so hard to create engaging lessons and activities. It is why I dress up like an elf (if you don't understand this reference, just wait).

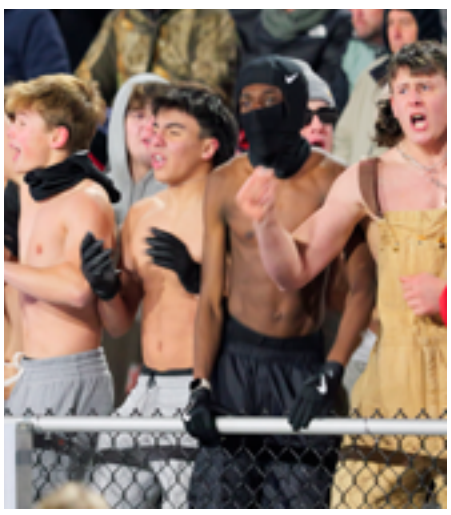
The holiday season tends to give us subtle reminders about what is really important and what we should be thankful for. Taking part in these interviews was a great reminder for me not only of why we chose to work in the field of education but, more specifically, why we chose to do it in Big Walnut. I hope you all enjoy the holiday season with your friends and family. Safe travels, and we'll see you next year.

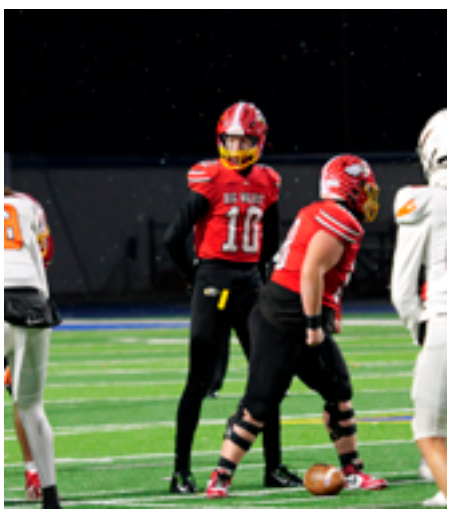
Ryan McLane

Congrats to our Football Team!









Veterans Day around Big Walnut

In the days leading up to and following Veterans Day, schools across our district took time to honor the veterans in our Sunbury community. Veteran family members were invited to join students in special celebrations, where the significance of the day and the flag was shared with everyone in attendance. It was a heartfelt tribute to all branches of the military. The Big Walnut Local School District extends its gratitude to all veterans for their service and sacrifice.

Big Walnut High School FLIGHT Program

Crafting Dog Treats and Building Confidence

The FLIGHT program at Big Walnut High School has been hard at work on an exciting and meaningful school business project: creating handmade dog treats for Big Walnut staff! This initiative has been a fantastic opportunity for students to take on different roles in the process, including mixing and rolling the dough, cutting out shapes, baking the treats, bagging them, and selling them to teachers. Each step of the process is handled with care and teamwork, and the students take great pride in their work. The result? Delicious treats for the beloved furry friends of our staff, made with a lot of heart.

The dog treat project has become a highlight of the year, giving students hands-on experience while building confidence, communication, and organizational skills. It's been inspiring to see the enthusiasm the students bring to each batch they make, and the positive feedback from staff has been a true testament to their hard work. This project is more than just a business—it's a way for the students to connect with others and make a difference in their school community.

But the FLIGHT program's accomplishments don't stop there! A huge thank you goes out to Mr. Frank's Wood Shop class, who recently crafted two ADA-compliant picnic tables for the FLIGHT program. These tables, now located outside the music room side doors, are not only a thoughtful addition but also an incredible gift that will allow students to enjoy lunches outside and spend time in the fresh air once the weather warms up. Having accessible outdoor seating means so much to the FLIGHT students, and the tables are sure to be a gathering spot for years to come.

This project wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of Carter/Holmes Lumber, who donated all the wood needed to build the tables. Their contribution is a perfect example of how community partnerships can create opportunities that enrich the lives of our students. The FLIGHT program, the Wood Shop class, and our local businesses are all working together to make Big Walnut a better place.

Common ₵ent$

Scott Gooding
Executive Director of
Financial Services

Five Year Forecast & Operational Efficiencies

Five Year Forecast

The Big Walnut Board of Education approved the Five Year Forecast for FY25–FY29 on Monday, November 18, 2024. It presents a detailed projection of revenues and expenditures, providing insights into the district's fiscal health and challenges. The forecast highlights key funding changes, trends in local and state contributions, and the anticipated impacts of inflation and enrollment growth on the district's operations. The Big Walnut Local School District is positioned to maintain fiscal stability through FY29, supported by prudent cash management and strategic forecasting. However, challenges related to deficit spending, evolving state funding policies, and enrollment growth highlight the importance of proactive financial planning. Continuous adjustments will be necessary to ensure the district can meet both operational needs and long-term financial goals. This summary reflects the critical insights and projections from the detailed five-year forecast and serves as a foundation for informed financial decision-making. A copy of the forecast can be accessed here.

Bond Refunding

The Board authorized a resolution allowing the District to proceed with a refunding of bonds. School district bond refunding refers to the process of replacing existing bonds issued by a school district with new ones, to achieve financial benefits. This process is somewhat similar to refinancing a home mortgage. The main goal is often to reduce the cost of debt, but it can serve other purposes depending on the school district's financial strategy. These are the original bonds issued by the school district, often used to finance capital projects such as school construction, renovations, or other improvements. These bonds have fixed interest rates and maturity dates. When refunding, the school district issues new bonds, typically at lower interest rates, to pay off the old bonds. The primary motivation for refunding is cost savings. By issuing new bonds at lower interest rates, the school district can reduce its total debt service payments over time. In essence, bond refunding helps school districts manage their long-term debt obligations more efficiently and save taxpayer money.

BoardDocs - Meeting and Policy Platform

The Board approved a contract to implement a new board governance system. BoardDocs services are developed and marketed by Diligent, the market-leading board portal, allowing unparalleled board management with simplicity and functionality to mitigate risk and enable effective governance. Diligent's intuitive functionality, industry-leading security, and customizable, collaborative features make it the choice of over 145,000 users worldwide. BoardDocs was launched to develop, implement and support on-line governance solutions. To date, thousands of organizations have selected our technology to save money, reduce staff time, improve board effectiveness, increase transparency, help the environment and support key modern governance practices.

ClearGov

The Board approved a contract with ClearGov to take the next step in our budgeting processes, reporting and communication efforts regarding our financial affairs. School districts face a daunting array of challenges: budget constraints, technological advancement needs, diverse student requirements, and regulatory complexities. ClearGov provides streamlined budgeting solutions, enabling district leadership to navigate these financial hurdles effectively. Navigating growth and financial stability becomes challenging due to inconsistent funding sources, making it difficult to allocate limited resources effectively. Parents, teachers, and the community desire transparency in financial operations as they seek assurance that funds are utilized fairly and efficiently. Balancing the evolving demographics and the need to address personnel and infrastructure requirements poses a significant obstacle to maintaining long-term financial stability. This provides a platform for seamless budgeting and effortless budget presentations: real-time collaboration, precise personnel forecasting, and an interactive digital budget book. This tool also translates our financial data, departmental performance, and demographic metrics into comprehensible insights, making them readily available to both residents and internal stakeholders.

Learning Lifesaving Skills at the BWMS

Career exploration students in Mrs. Jones' classes at Big Walnut Middle School recently participated in an invaluable lesson: learning how to perform CPR. This hands-on experience not only taught them critical lifesaving skills but also empowered them to be prepared in emergency situations. The students had been learning about careers in law, public safety, and security when Delaware EMS came in for the instruction. It's inspiring to see our students gaining practical knowledge that could one day save lives!

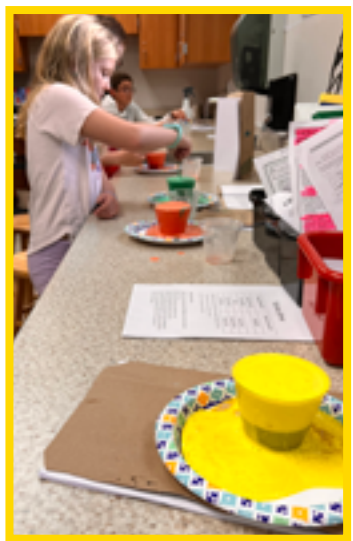
Around the District

Harry Potter Meets Big Walnut in Mrs. Burke's Potions Class

Eagle Extensions are back at Big Walnut Intermediate, and students are diving into some exciting after-school activities. These five-week programs give kids the chance to sign up for hands-on, engaging experiences created by our staff. This quarter, one of the best is Mrs. Burke's "Potions" Class.

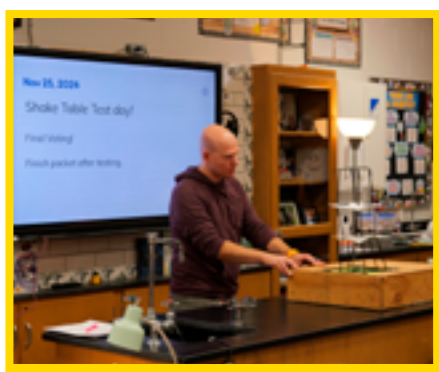
Inspired by a popular Harry Potter class, "Potions" combines science and creativity. Students have been experimenting with fun activities like making "Skelegro" (oobleck), bubbles out of corn syrup and dish soap, "Witches' Brew" (a chemical reaction using yeast), and other imaginative creations. To top it off, they've even made their own wands and spell books!

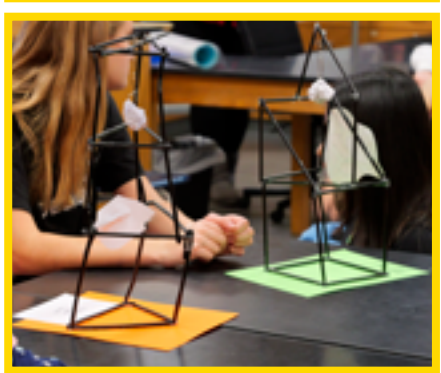
"Potions' isn't the only Eagle Extension happening right now. Students at BWI can also participate in Disc Golf, and elementary schools have their own unique programs running as well. After Christmas Break, even more options will open up for students across the district.



Eagle Extensions are a great way for students to try something new, have fun, and keep learning outside of regular school hours.

Middle School Students Test Earthquake-Resistant Designs





Big Walnut students recently put their knowledge of plate tectonics to the test in a hands-on engineering challenge. Teams designed and built earthquake-resistant structures, then tested their creations on an earthquake shake table to see how well their designs withstood simulated seismic activity.

As part of the project, students worked in teams, taking on roles like architects, seismologists, and construction engineers. Using the Engineering Design Process, they researched, planned, and built prototypes designed to endure the forces of an earthquake. Students also explored real-world strategies used in construction, such as tuned mass damping and base isolation, and incorporated these elements into their designs.

Once their structures were completed, students presented their projects to the class and then put them to the ultimate test. The shake table simulated the stresses and movements caused by earthquakes, providing a dramatic way to evaluate the strength of their designs.

This challenge was an extension of their unit on plate tectonics, where students learned about earthquakes and how communities prepare for and respond to them. It was a fun and engaging way to bring science and engineering together while fostering teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

Around the District

Mike Denton
Big Walnut Intermediate

Big Walnut Staff Spotlight!

For students and staff at Big Walnut Intermediate, Physical Education is more than just a class—it's an experience, thanks to Mike Denton, better known as "Mr. D." Known for his infectious positive energy, unwavering encouragement, and informative teaching methods, Denton is often a "fan favorite."

His impact goes far beyond teaching kids how to dribble a basketball, throw a disc, or perfect their plank form. Mr. Denton has a way of making everyone feel included and capable. He does not expect you to be the best; he expects *you* to be *your* best.

Mr. Denton has been a cornerstone of Big Walnut Intermediate's staff for over a decade. As an alumnus of 1985, he started working for BW as a building sub, then hired full-time in 1991. Mr. D also has been a coach in the district, with roles on the basketball and baseball teams.

When he's not inspiring students, Denton is likely found on a disc golf course or hanging with his dogs.

Some of Mr. D's favorite units are disc golf and badminton, the latter being the kids' favorite. But his favorite thing is "just teaching the kids."

For students at Big Walnut, Mr. Denton isn't just a teacher. He's a role model, a cheerleader, and, as some would say, a living legend. One thing's for sure: when it comes to leaving a positive impact, Mike Denton is in a league of his own.

The students of Mrs. Garrard's fourth-grade class shared that "Mr. Denton is awesome, fun, helpful, funny, he teaches us new skills, and when we get frustrated, he helps us through it." One student shared, "Overall, he's the greatest gym teacher I have ever had."

America's Favorite Calf Adopted by Prairie Run Elementary Students!

Mrs. Snyder's 3rd grade class got to have the chance to learn about elections and campaigning through our Adopt a Cow program with Discover Dairy. The program held a campaign to vote for the America's Favorite Calf Nov. 4-6, 2024. The students made and hung signs throughout the school to let people know about the voting and our cow, Peony. Students encouraged staff to scan a QR code and vote. Students also went on the PRE Eagle TV announcements

to share the information about voting for our calf. On Friday, Nov. 8, we were able to watch a Zoom to share the voting results. We were so excited to hear the announcement that Peony won! Peony will receive a gift basket with a personalized ear tag, a grooming brush, a halter, and a bucket of delicious apples!

Agricultural Science

Introduction to Veterinary Science

The Big Walnut - DACC Agricultural Sciences program is spotlighting our Introduction to Veterinary Science class. In this class, students will engage in fun group projects that allow them to explore various animal species based on their interests. This course will enable students to dive deep into essential topics such as animal diseases, genetics, and nutrition methods that lead to the best-growing practices.

Currently, students are working on discovering the power of genetics through a choice board activity where they can choose projects that spark their interests and differentiate the assignments to their strengths. Some of the hands-on projects include dissecting animal reproductive systems, participating in a Q&A session with a real veterinarian, and learning proper injection techniques using actual animal muscle and skin models.

Jeffrey Stimmell
Agricultural Sciences Instructor

Senior Spotlight

Gracie Young is this month's Senior Spotlight! Gracie has been an active member of the Big Walnut - DACC Agricultural Science Program for all 4 years of high school. Gracie's favorite part of taking classes in the Agricultural Science program includes the interesting scope of material that is covered. Each of the classes is unique when compared to other classes she has taken. Her favorite activity in Vet Science this year was when the students watched Temple Grandin's movie in class and then were able to see her present as a guest speaker at the National FFA Convention.

Big Walnut High School

STEM WORKSHOP

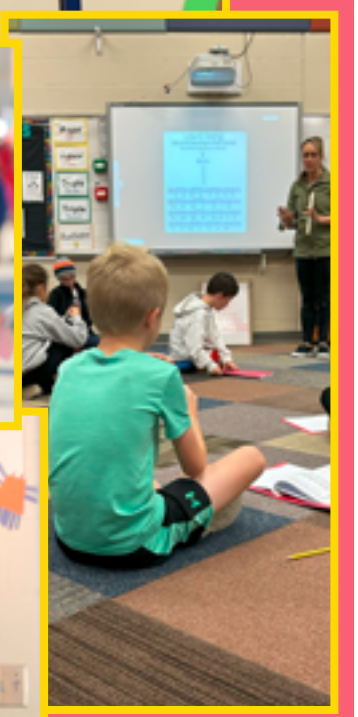
WHEN:
Saturday, December 7
9am - 12 noon
WHERE:
Big Walnut High School
WHY:
FUN opportunity to explore HS STEM
COST:
$45 Check or Cash

Workshop Projects:
- Soldering and Electronics
- Coding Animated Graphics
- VEX Challenge

QR Code to Sign Up

Proceeds benefit High School STEM Clubs--Aerospace, Competition Robotics, and Drones

Advisors: Mrs. Danne and Mr. Steele
Contact Info: LisaDanne@bwls.net



BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

WE ARE
HIRING

We are looking for talented people to join our team.

Custodians

APPLY NOW

SUBMIT ONLINE:
bwls.net/EmploymentOpportunities.aspx

Around the District

High School Engineering Update

Ben Steele
Engineering Instructor

Intro to Engineering Design

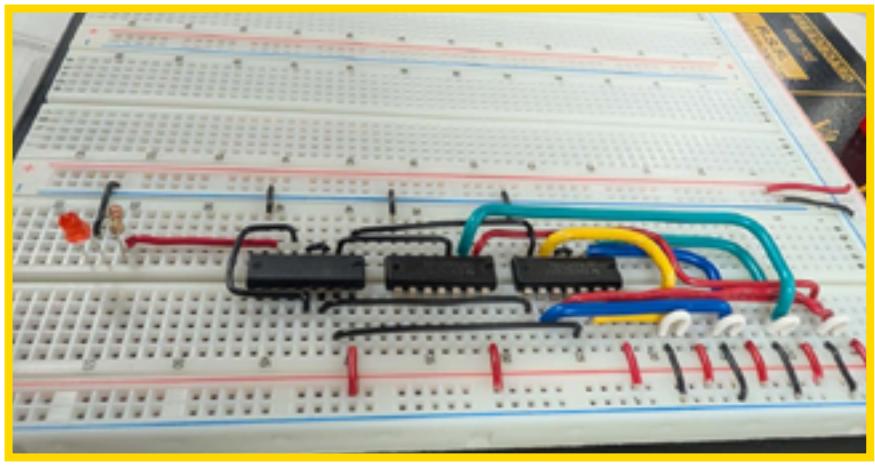
Students in IED worked with Standardized Brewing (coffee shop in Lewis Center), whose owner asked them to design a custom donut box. Students met with the client and generated a 3D model using Fusion 360. Through competition, students worked to print their model and present it to the client. Students learned the product development process from design to presentation.

Principles of Engineering

The students in POE collaborated with Eagles FLIGHT students to learn about renewable energy. They created a scaled down house and added a solar panel, small wind mill, and Christmas lights. The class then went outside to test their solar panel in the sunlight to see if all of their connections worked the way they had expected. This was a great way to support a variety of abilities.

Digital Electronics

Inspired by the election year, students in D.E. used AOI logic & Boolean algebra to make a majority vote circuit in Multisim. The schematic of the circuit was then used with IC chips to breadboard the circuit to determine correct results. The circuit would show whether or not a new policy would pass based on the votes of the elected officials. This is a real-world example of how Digital Electronics is used.



Senior Spotlight

Andrew Boldizar is the senior spotlight this month! Andrew will pursue a career in mechanical engineering. He started to become interested in engineering at a young age but really started to enjoy it when he got a 3D printer for his birthday. He enjoys the 3D modeling and design in his Intro to Engineering Design class. Andrew is looking forward to attending The Ohio State University next fall. Good Luck Andrew!

Clubs & Upcoming Events

Aerospace Club (2:30PM-3:15PM)
Christmas Tree Launch - December 5th

Drone Racing Team (2:30PM-3:15PM)
Practice Race - December 12th

Competition Robotics (2:30PM-3:15PM)
Connecting Motors - December 12th

STEM Workshop
December 12th
9:00-12:00PM
6th-8th Graders

High School Sports

Big Walnut High School had yet another successful athletics fall season, thanks to the dedicated efforts of countless volunteers, coaches, parents, and athletes. The school's athletics program is devoted to fostering a culture centered on "Success" by prioritizing clear and concise communication, as well as developing the growth mindset, mental fortitude, and leadership abilities of every student-athlete.

The final league place, records, and accolades for each fall sport are listed below:

Brian Shelton
Big Walnut High School
Athletic Director

Boys Cross Country

Team Record: 99-52
OCC Finish: 6th

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:
Max Bessinger

OCC 2nd Team:
Austyn Fox

OCC Honorable Mention:
Nathan Ward

Girls Cross Country

Team Record: 135-28
OCC Champions
District Qualifier

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:
Sydney Ulrey

OCC Champion (Individual):
Leigha Kay

OCC 1st Team:
Grace Buskirk
Leighton Coey
Leigha Kay

OCC 2nd Team:
Natalie Ghering
Sydney Ulrey

OCC Honorable Mention:
Mikayla Howell

All District:
Grace Buskirk
Leighton Coey
Leigha Kay

All Region:
Leigha Kay

State Qualifier:
Leigha Kay

Big Walnut Athletics

FOOTBALL

Team Record: 13-2
OCC Champions

District Champions
Regional Champions

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:
Jack Kellough

OCC 1st Team:
Nolan Buirley
Ethan Helton
Brody Hatfield
Jake Wecker
Eli Stumpf
Clint Stover

OCC 2nd Team:
Matt Green
Jake Neff
Owen Pollock
Aiden West
Maston Yano

OCC Special Mention:
Jackson Parsons

OCC Honorable Mention:
Landen Doan

Central District 1st Team:
Nolan Buirley
Eli Helton
Brody Hatfield
Jake Wecker

Central District 2nd Team:
Eli Stumpf

Central District Special Mention:
Jake Neff
Clint Stover

Central District Honorable Mention:
Brody Eckelbarger

High School Sports

BOYS GOLF

Team Record: 199-44
OCC Finish: 2nd
District Qualifiers

Individual Accolades:

OCC 1st Team:
Nathan Tripp

OCC 2nd Team:
Ethan Krebs
Jacob Spann

OCC Honorable Mention:
Tyler Goetzman

All District Honorable Mention:
Ethan Krebs
Nathan Tripp

All Ohio Academic Scholar:
Tobias Southworth

GIRLS GOLF

Team Record: 63-11
OCC Champions

Individual Accolades:

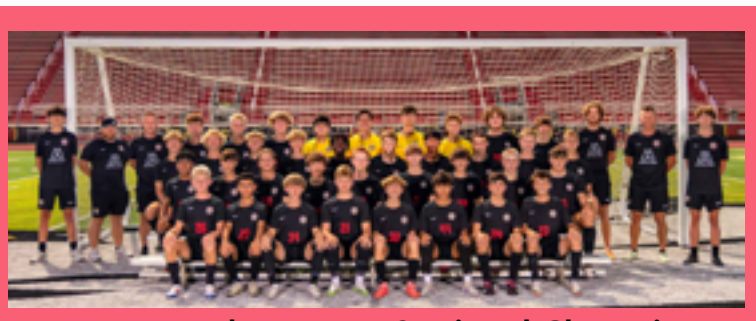
OCC 1st Team:
Gracyn Alexander
Charlie Burgess

OCC Honorable Mention:
Adde Alexander
Addison Dickerson
Olivia Splete

All District Honorable Mention:
Charlie Burgess

All District Scholar Athlete:
Lauren Haley

BOYS SOCCER



Team Record: 6-10-2
OCC Finish: 5th
Sectional Champions
District Finalist

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:
Sam Erndt

OCC 1st Team:
Jacob Marshall
Gabe McCaulla

OCC 2nd Team:
Amadu Bah

OCC Special Mention:
Mylo Board

OCC Honorable Mention:
Noah Hannah

All District 1st Team:
Jacob Marshall

All District 2nd Team:
Amadu Bah
Gabe McCaulla

All Ohio:
Jacob Marshall

GIRLS SOCCER

Team Record: 12-7-1
OCC Finish: 2nd
Sectional Champions
District Champs

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:
Ainsley Curran

OCC 1st Team:
Anna McGough
Ava Tackett

OCC 2nd Team:
Lexi Federer
Remy Largent
Kam Pry

OCC Special Mention:
Alexa Morris

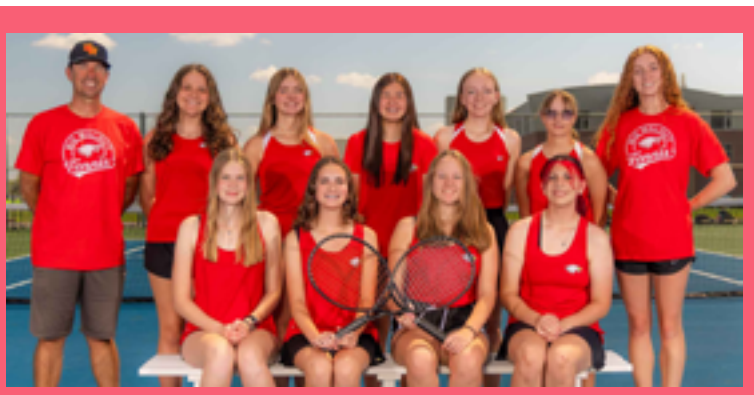
OCC Honorable Mention:
Makaila Seufer

All District 1st Team:
Anna McGough
Ava Tackett

All District 2nd Team:
Kam Pry

All Ohio:
Anna McGough

GIRLS TENNIS



Team Record: 10-8
OCC Finish: 4th

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:
Ellie Gochenour

OCC 1st Singles:
Anna Swager

OCC 1st Doubles:
Allie Cunningham & Skylar Smith

OCC 2nd Singles:
Addie Miller

OCC 3rd Singles
Emma Austin

OCC 3rd Doubles:
Casey Crum & Brynn Butauski

High School Sports

VOLLEYBALL

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:
Brennan Lyons
Natalie Reida
Olivia Sharpe

OCC 1st Team:
Audrey Coulson
Sophie Hamilton

OCC 2nd Team:
Natalie Reida
Abi Swisher

OCC Honorable Mention:
Natalie Vrancken

Central District 1st Team:
Audrey Coulson
Sophie Hamilton

Team Record: 15-10
OCC Finish: 2nd

Sectional Champions
District Finalist

Central District 2nd Team:
Natalie Reida
Abi Swisher

Central District Player of the Year:
Audrey Coulson

CHEER

MARCHING BAND

Ralph Young All-Sports Award

Big Walnut High School Athletics earned the Ohio Capital Conference Ralph Young All-Sports Award for the first time in 2019-20, again in 2021-22, and also in 2023-2024. This prestigious award honors the top athletic program across the OCC's schools based on seasonal sports performance. Winning this award highlights Big Walnut's commitment to athletic excellence, as it recognizes consistent, outstanding results across all sports seasons, underscoring the achievements of student-athletes and coaches who contributed to this historic recognition for the school. After another successful fall season, Big Walnut Athletes will again be at the top of the OCC for the Ralph Young award heading into the winter sports season.

Sport	Boys CC	Girls CC	Football	Boys Golf	Girls Golf	Boys Soccer	Girls Soccer	Girls Tennis	Girls Volleyball
OCC Finish	6	1	1	2	1	4	2	4	2

Winter Sports

Winter sports have started for most teams. Spectators are encouraged to purchase season tickets and save money at the gate. Big Walnut families age 60+ may get a blue pass at the gate of any ticketed home game with a valid ID.

Tickets/Passes

Sport	GPA
Cheer	3.19
Boys Cross Country	4.12
Girls Cross Country	4.17
Freshmen Football	3.84
Football	3.10
Boys Golf	3.57
Girls Golf	3.75
Boys Soccer	3.81
Girls Soccer	3.51
Girls Tennis	3.98
Girls Volleyball	3.79
Total Average	**3.71**

OHSAA Host Site - Big Walnut HS

Big Walnut High School Athletics has consistently been selected to host OHSAA postseason play, with recent hosting of the OHSAA District and Regional Boys and Girls Soccer Championships. This winter, the school was also chosen to host the OASSA State Middle and High School Cheer Championships and will likely host district basketball contests. Big Walnut HS will proudly host the OCC Track and Field Championships in the spring. The school's new facilities have enabled us to showcase our capabilities in hosting OHSAA events, contributing to the continued growth of our athletic department.

Athletic Website

The Big Walnut Athletic website has consistently ranked among the top ten websites in Ohio and the top 50 nationally, with an impressive monthly average of over 40,000 hits. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of individuals like Stephanie Kreager, Joe Rucker, and the many coaches who tirelessly contribute to keeping the website current and informative.

Big Walnut High School

Office: 740.965.3766
Fax: 740.965.1954
Guidance: 740.965.2243

713 N Miller Dr
Sunbury, OH
43074

Big Walnut Middle School

555 S Old 3C Hwy
Sunbury, OH
43074

Office: 740.965.3006
Fax: 740.965.6471

Big Walnut Intermediate School

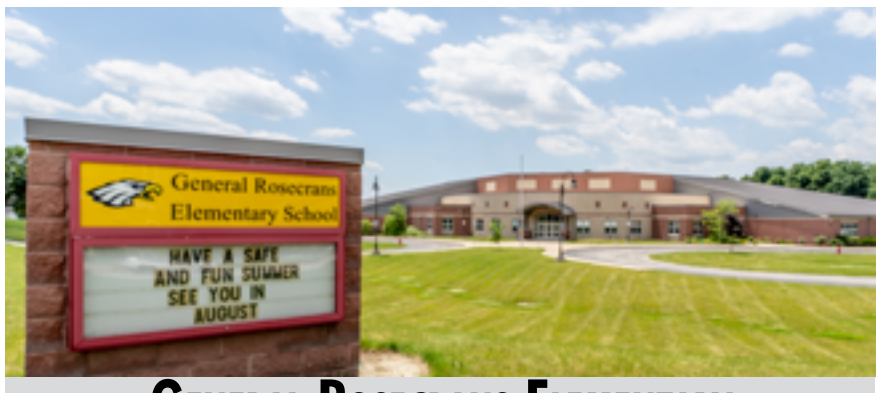
Office: 740.965.7800
Fax: 740.965.7801

777 Cheshire Rd
Sunbury, OH
43074

Big Walnut Elementary

940 S Old 3C Hwy
Sunbury, OH
43074

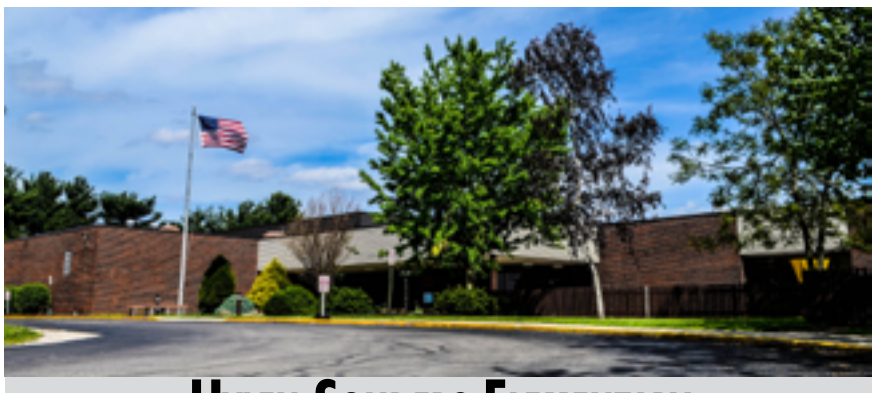
Office: 740.965.3902
Fax: 740.965.3168



General Rosecrans Elementary

Office: 740.965.8900
Fax: 740.965.8993

301 S Miller Dr
Sunbury, OH
43074



Hylen Souders Elementary

4121 Miller Paul Rd
Galena, OH
43021

Office: 740.965.3200
Fax: 740.965.3986

Prairie Run Elementary

Office: 740.965.7850
Fax: 740.965.7851

701 N Miller Dr
Sunbury, OH
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