

October
2024

The
Eagle Examiner



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



CELEBRATING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES





MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT

Safety and security are on everyone’s minds. As a parent and superintendent, I am always thinking about them. Over the past several years, we have made significant improvements in these areas at Big Walnut.

Prior to my arrival, some of our older buildings were renovated to ensure secure entry vestibules. We have implemented Raptor, our visitor management system, which runs a background check on all visitors to our schools. We recently completed a fencing project at our transportation department, making that facility more secure.

We have increased the number of School Resource Officers in our district to four. We have a great working relationship with the Delaware County Sheriff’s Office as well as the Sunbury Police Department and appreciate their efforts in filling these positions. Deputy Snyder, Deputy Roy, and Officer Whiteside have worked very well with our students and staff, and Officer Belcher is a welcome addition to the team this year. Hopefully, you have seen them during parent drop-off in the mornings or in the buildings.

Finally, we have the Ohio School Safety Center Tip Line (844.723.3764), where you or your child can report anything suspicious or endangering your safety, that of your friends, or your school. Administrators are notified when a report is made, and we can begin to assess the situation and take action.

Like anything of significance, the safety and security of our students and staff takes a group effort in the community. I appreciate everyone’s efforts and patience as we continue to improve in this area.



Ryan McLane

Stopfinder is the all-in-one parent engagement app designed by parents for parents to keep parents - in real-time - where your child's bus is and when your student arrives at school.

Big Walnut Local Schools is excited to again offer Stopfinder, an all-in-one parent app designed by Transfinder, the leader in school bus transportation software. With Stopfinder, you can track your child’s bus in real-time and receive the most accurate updates on bus schedules. The app also enables two-way communication, allowing parents to send and receive messages from the school’s transportation department.

Stopfinder offers GeoAlerts to notify you when your child’s bus arrives at school, the bus stop, or any point along the route. Plus, if you have more than one child in school, you can easily track multiple buses.

Contact the Transportation Department to learn how you can sign up for Stopfinder! 740.965.8967



Big Nut Strut

There is still time left to register for the 2024 Big Nut Strut. Registration ends on race day: Sunday, 10/13 for all events!

- In-Person 5k Run/Walk**
\$35 - 2:00p
- In-Person 1 Mile Walk**
\$35 - 2:00p
- Virtual 5k Run/Walk**
\$35
- Virtual 1 Mile Walk**
\$35

Special pricing discounts are available if you sign up as a family!





PURPLE STAR MILITARY NIGHT

Big Walnut High School Honors Military Families at Annual Purple Star Tailgate

September 13th, Big Walnut High School held its annual Purple Star Military Tailgate, a special evening dedicated to honoring the military families in our community. The night kicked off with a dinner for our local service members and their families, where they gathered to enjoy good food and conversation in a relaxed atmosphere, surrounded by the support of the Big Walnut community.

One of the evening's most memorable moments came when Prairie Run Elementary Principal Kim Castiglione delivered a stirring rendition of the National Anthem. The moment was made even more powerful when the American flag was brought into the stadium by parachute, a breathtaking display that had the entire crowd on their feet.



Purple Star Military Night is a time-honored tradition at Big Walnut, and this year's event was no exception. It was an evening filled with pride, gratitude, and community spirit as we came together to recognize the service and sacrifices of our military families.

Adding to the night's significance, Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Mix and his family were chosen as honorary captains for the game. LTC Mix was given the honor of flipping the coin at midfield during the captain's meeting, which Big Walnut won.

The Big Walnut football team took the field in their sleek all-black uniforms, ready to take on rival Delaware Hayes. Inspired by the night, the Eagles delivered a dominating performance, dismantling Delaware Hayes 41-21.





COMMON CENTS



Scott Gooding
Interim Treasurer

Five-Year Forecasts - What Is It, and Why Do We Do It?

A forecast is somewhat like a painting of the future based on a snapshot of today. That snapshot, however, will be adjusted, and the further into the future the forecast extends, the more likely it is that the projections will deviate from actual experience. Various events will ultimately impact the latter years of the forecast, such as state budgets (adopted every two years), tax levies (new/renewal/ replacement), salary increases, or businesses moving in or out of the district. The five-year forecast is a key management tool and must be updated periodically. In Ohio, most school districts understand how they will manage their finances in the current year. The five-year forecast encourages district management teams to examine future years' projections and identify when challenges

will arise. This then helps district management to be proactive in meeting those challenges. School districts are encouraged to update their forecasts with DEW when events take place that will significantly change their forecast or, at a minimum, when required under statute.

The numbers in a financial forecast only tell a small part of the story. For the numbers to be meaningful, the reader must review and consider the Assumptions of the Financial Forecast before drawing conclusions or using the data as a basis for other calculations. The assumptions are very important to understanding the rationale of the numbers, particularly when a significant increase or decrease is reflected. Individual [district forecasts](#) and accompanying ["Notes & Assumptions"](#) are posted on the DEW website.

The five-year forecast is a tool for communicating and assessing a school district's financial health. City, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school districts are required to submit five-year forecasts twice annually to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (see [Ohio Revised Code 5705.391](#) and [Ohio Administrative Code 3301-92-04](#)). They may elect to submit additional updates at any time.

Each five-year forecast contains two components: 1) historical and projected financial data and 2) notes to explain any significant changes or "assumptions" a district used to develop the reported financial projections. Please visit the ["How to Read a Five-Year Forecast"](#) webpage for more detailed information about five-year forecast content.

You can also view Big Walnut Local School District's current Five-Year Forecast [here](#).





AROUND THE DISTRICT



The Delaware Public Health District (DPHD) is offering a seasonal vaccine clinic for the Big Walnut community through a convenient drive-thru format. Appointments are required to participate, and no “drive-up” requests will be accepted. Be sure to schedule your appointment using the QR code provided. There are two locations and dates available for your convenience:

- Hylen Souders Elementary
Thursday, October 10, 2024
3:30 PM – 6:00 PM
- Big Walnut Middle School
Friday, October 11, 2024
3:30 PM – 6:00 PM

If you need additional vaccinations beyond those offered during the clinic, please contact DPHD at 740-368-1700 to make further arrangements.

Student Services Collaborative - Year 3

The Student Services Department is excited to announce a third year of connecting with families to support students with individualized needs. The Student Services Collaborative was established in the Spring of 2022 in order to connect families of students with IEPs and 504 plans with each other and the district. The established goals of the group are:

1. To discuss and advocate for the needs of our students
2. To help families and the school district access additional resources
3. To build a support network for families
4. To provide a reminder that you are not alone

We hold monthly meetings on various topics relevant to our families, often having a meeting scheduled for the morning and another in the evening. We hold our meetings at the Big Walnut Administrative Office building. We are finalizing our plans for a variety of sessions for the 2024-2025 school year. Some of the dates and topics are as follows:

- **October 23, 2024** (9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.): Updates from Student Services, Diving into the Services within Section 7 of the IEP, and open dialogue with families)
- **November 7, 2024** (5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. only): Transition Panel in the Performing Arts Center at BW High School - evening event only during parent-teacher conferences
- **December 11, 2024** (9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.): ABA Therapy Supports (tentative)
- **January 15, 2025** (9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.): Mental Health & Social Work Services within BWLS - also information about Summer Opportunities for Students with Disabilities
- **February 19, 2025** (6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. only): Legal Guardianship (tentative topic - working on arranging a speaker from a local Family Law practice)
- **March 19, 2025** (9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.): Building Tours (video presentation) & FLIGHT program overview (new post-secondary transition program at BWHS)

If you have any questions about the Student Services Collaborative or would like more information, please contact Ross Linscott, Director of Student Services, at RossLinscott@bwls.net.



Ross Linscott
Director of Student Services





AROUND THE DISTRICT

High School Engineering Update



Ben Steele
Engineering Instructor

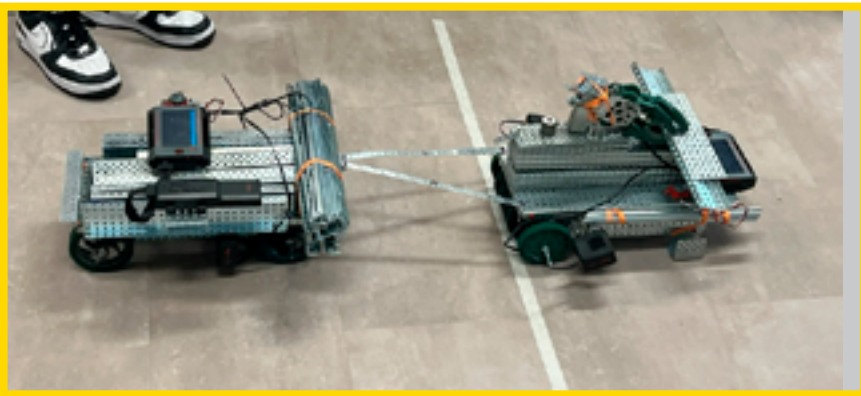
Intro to Engineering Design

In IED, students used their new skills within the software Fusion 360 to create personalized mini license plates. For many students, this was their first complete design, seeing it from the idea in their head, to creating it on Fusion 360, to learning how to use the 3D printer. Students love to see their ideas become tangible right in front of their eyes!



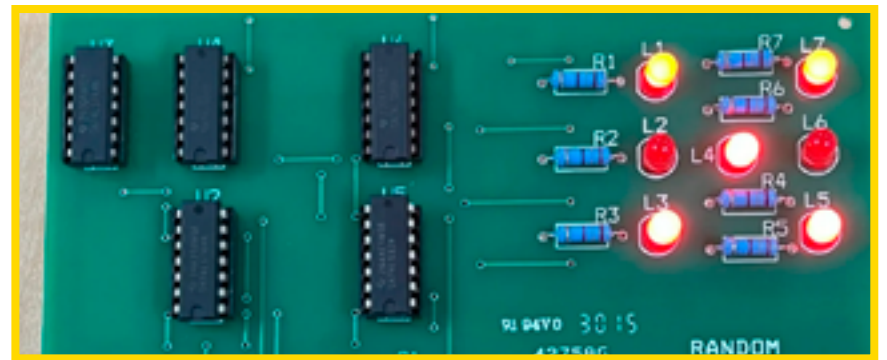
Principles of Engineering

Students in POE used their understanding of gear ratios to construct a "tractor" that would compete in a tug-of-war competition. Many teams relied on adding weight to their tractor to give it more traction. Conner (pictured below) Aidan Meigs, & Finn Crawford took home the win for this challenge.



Digital Electronics

In DE, students learned to solder a small circuit board. The kit is a random number generator that students will use throughout the semester to learn how different logic gates work and how the many components interact with one another to make a circuit. This project-based model is used throughout all Project Lead the Way courses at Big Walnut.



Senior Spotlight

Conner Wolfe is this month's Senior Spotlight! Conner has spent his past 4 years in the BWHS Engineering courses. From founding Aerospace Club to being an active member in Robotics & competing at the N.R.C, Conner has pushed toward his goal of studying Aerospace Engineering next year at a university to be decided.

- Good luck, Conner!

Clubs & Upcoming Events

Aerospace Club (2:30PM -3:15PM)

September 26th

October 10th & 24th

Drone Racing Team (2:30PM -3:15PM)

September 26th

October 10th & 24th

Competition Robotics (2:30PM -3:15PM)

September 26th

November 7th, 14th, & 21st

Robotics Workshop

4th & 5th Graders

Saturday, November, 2nd

9:00AM-12:00PM



AROUND THE DISTRICT

BWHS Marketing Students Prepare for the 2024 Spirit Shop Grand Opening

In 2022, marketing courses returned to BWHS. Students can choose to take Marketing Principles and Marketing Applications, both of which are taught by Mrs. Brooke Moore. Marketing Principle students gain fundamental knowledge of the marketing mix and examine the range of marketing decisions an organization must make to successfully sell its products and services. They also explore a company's marketing mix through project-based learning.

Students in Marketing Applications gain practical experience by applying marketing and business concepts through hands-on involvement in the daily operations and management of the BWHS Spirit Shop. Students have been collaborating in teams preparing for the 2024 Spirit Shop Grand Opening by developing new product ideas, creating promotional material, and applying marketing strategies to promote The Spirit Shop.

The Spirit Shop is located in the heart of the High School and offers student-designed spirit wear for our community. Scan the QR code below to shop online, and follow us on social media to stay updated on new products and after-school hours.



BWHS.SPIRITSHOP



Big Walnut Middle School Students Visit "The Wall That Heals" Exhibit



Last week, Big Walnut Middle School 7th graders had the unique opportunity to visit The Wall That Heals exhibit during its tour stop at Havener Park. This traveling exhibit features a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and offers visitors a chance to reflect on the legacy of the more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

In addition to viewing the replica wall, the students explored a mobile education center that accompanies the exhibit. The center provides historical context about the Vietnam War, the design and significance of the Memorial, and the stories of veterans whose names are inscribed on the wall.

The visit was a powerful learning experience, giving students an opportunity to connect their classroom studies with real-world history. By seeing the wall and learning about the Vietnam War, students were able to reflect on the human impact of this conflict, while also gaining a deeper appreciation for those who served.

This hands-on learning experience not only expanded their knowledge but also fostered a sense of empathy and understanding, leaving a lasting impression on the students.





AROUND THE DISTRICT



Stephanie Okoroski
Big Walnut High School

Big Walnut Staff Spotlight!

Stephanie Okoroski is currently in her second year at BWHS. Stephanie is devoted to building meaningful connections with her students and colleagues. Her positive attitude and proactive approach create a conducive learning environment for all students. In her current role, she teaches AP Psychology, Government, and American History. A notable quality is her student-centered teaching philosophy, which encourages students to take ownership of their learning. Additionally, she enhances her lessons by including real-world applications, ensuring that her students acquire life skills that go beyond the classroom.

"Steph is a smart, hardworking, and dedicated educator. Additionally, she is never too busy to help a colleague or take on new challenges. Big Walnut is a better place because of her presence."

- Rob Page, Big Walnut High School

"Stephanie is an exceptionally diligent educator who demonstrates a genuine commitment and dedication to her students. This year, she willingly undertook the responsibility of teaching an Advanced Placement (AP) course, devoting extensive hours of her summer break to ensure both her students and herself were adequately prepared for the demanding curriculum."

- Dr. Nicole Carter, Principal, Big Walnut High School



Big Walnut High School Marching Band to Perform at the 2024 Buckeye Invitational

We are excited to announce that the Big Walnut High School Marching Band will be performing in the prestigious Buckeye Invitational, a high school band competition sponsored by the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA). Hosted by The Ohio State University Marching Band, the event will take place in the historic Ohio Stadium, on Saturday, October 12, 2024.

The Buckeye Invitational is an incredible opportunity for high school bands from across the country to showcase their talent and compete. Bands will be adjudicated by OMEA judges, and will receive valuable feedback from renowned musicians and educators from the region.



Ticket Information:

- [Tickets are available for purchase online or at the gate on the day of the event.](#)
- Online tickets are \$20, while gate tickets will be \$25.
- Children 6 and under are free, and parking is included with ticket purchase.

We invite all Big Walnut families and community members to come out and support our talented students as they take the field in one of the most iconic venues in college sports!





AROUND THE DISTRICT



Amy Eikenberry
Big Walnut Intermediate
School

Explore the World: BWMS International Tours Offer Life-Changing Experiences for Students

Middle schoolers now have the exciting opportunity to expand their learning outside of the four walls of the classroom by joining a Middle School international tour led by Amy Eikenberry and Gwen Hodges. Students have been exploring the world the last two summers in Panama and Italy, and some great opportunities are on the horizon. International travel has proven to significantly impact students, such as building confidence & motivation, growing an appreciation for differences, increasing problem-solving skills, developing a growing understanding of the world, making new friends, becoming curious, lifelong learners, and

discovering the kindness of humanity.

Mrs. Eikenberry and Mrs. Hodges would love the chance to show our students the world through these upcoming extended learning opportunities:

[London and Paris](#) (for students currently in grades 5-7), June 2025

[Greece](#) (for students currently in grades 4-6), June 2026

[Japan](#) (for students currently in grades 4-6), July 2026

[Costa Rica](#) (for students currently in grades 9-12), Spring Break 2025

Reach out to [Amy Eikenberry](#) or [Gwen Hodges](#) for any questions! These tours are planned in advance, and all travelers will be of middle school age when the tour begins.



Gwen Hodges
Big Walnut Intermediate
School



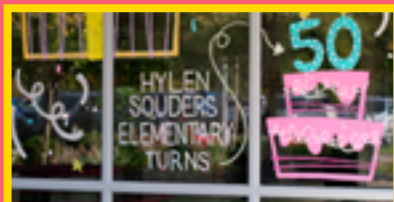


SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025
BWHS PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 3, 2024

PLEASE SIGN UP WITH GOOGLÉ AT
[HTTPS://WWW.MYCONFERENCE TIME.COM/BWHSPTCONFERENCE](https://www.myconferecetime.com/BWHSPTCONFERENCE)

4:00-7:30 PM

THE COUNSELING STAFF WILL BE CONDUCTING A FINANCIAL AID MEETING AT 6:00 IN THE ACADEMIC COMMONS. SENIOR PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.



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bwls.net/EmploymentOpportunities.aspx





AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Big Walnut - DACC FFA Milk Quality & Products team recently represented our school and the state of Ohio at the prestigious Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Our team, comprised of Lilly Cappitte, Olivia Jenkins, Riley Norling,



Landon Sewell, and Lainey Soule, competed against state champions and runners-up from the 18 states in the National FFA Organization's Eastern Region, showcasing their expertise in milk quality and dairy product evaluation.

The competition was rigorous, testing the students' knowledge and skills in various aspects of the dairy industry. They participated in a general knowledge test, problem-solving challenges, cheese identification, milk defect identification, and sensory evaluation of dairy and non-dairy products. Additionally, the team tested raw milk samples to assess their suitability for consumption.

Beyond the competition, the students had the opportunity to explore the Eastern States Exposition, a beloved New England tradition. The Big E offers many attractions, including educational



Jeffrey Stimmell
Agricultural Sciences Instructor

exhibits, live entertainment, and delicious food. Our team enjoyed sampling local delicacies, experiencing the festive atmosphere, and creating lasting memories.

The team placed first overall in the event. Individuals earning top honors include Landon Sewell (8th), Riley Norling (4th), Olivia Jenkins (2nd), and Lainey Soule (1st).

The Big Walnut - DACC Milk Quality & Products team's participation at the Eastern States Exposition was a tremendous success. Their hard work, dedication, and exceptional skills were on full display, representing our school with pride. We congratulate our students on their outstanding achievements and thank them for their commitment to their futures.

If your student is interested in opportunities like these, please contact Christine Febes (ChristineFebes@bwls.net) or Jeffrey Stimmell (JeffStimmell@bwls.net) for more information.





HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Brian Shelton
Big Walnut High School
Athletic Director

The week of September 30, 2024, the OHSAA tournament play for some of our fall sports teams begins. Boys' and girls' golf and girls' tennis will kick off the postseason. Boys' golf finished second in the OCC, and the girls' golf team were OCC Champions and the first girls' golf team in school history to win an OCC Title. The girls' tennis team will compete in Division I, facing tough competition in the central district. Both boys' and girls' cross-country teams have shown steady improvement throughout the season. They are in Division I and aim to compete for an OCC championship and qualify for regional/state meets in the coming weeks.



Football, girls' volleyball, and boys' and girls' soccer are approaching the end of their regular seasons, with crucial matchups ahead that will determine their final OCC placement and tournament seeding. Football, competing in Division II, is currently ranked first in the Joe Eitel Region 7 computer points rankings. Girls volleyball, also in Division II, has had a strong season and hopes to compete for an OCC Title on Thursday, October 3, 2024, vs. Dublin Scioto.

The boys' and girls' soccer teams, both competing in Division II, are finishing their OCC seasons, and both teams are near the top of the OCC standings.



Big Walnut Athletics

Our student-athletes look forward to the upcoming homecoming weekend as the football team hosts Worthington Kilbourne on Friday, October 4, 2024. A community carnival will be held before the game in front of the high school from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. The homecoming court presentation will begin at 6:35 p.m. within the Big Walnut High School stadium.





MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

Big Walnut Middle School is quickly approaching the end of the fall season, and it has been very successful for all of our teams. The progress that has been made from August 1st until now has been outstanding, and that is a credit to having a knowledgeable, hard-working coaching staff and student-athletes who are coachable. Working alongside such a dedicated group of people who strive to make a positive difference in kids' lives is a privilege. It's even more of an honor to lead an athletic department filled with kids who care for their teammates



and support one another through all of the ups and downs. Long story short, we have an amazing group of coaches and players.

I want to take a moment to catch everyone up on how each team is faring this season (as of Friday, 9/27):

7th Grade Football - 5-1 on the season

8th Grade Football - 3-3 on the season

7th Grade Volleyball - 17-1 on the season and won the Highland Spike Out

8th Grade Volleyball - 15-3 on the season and won the Highland Spike Out

Girls Tennis - Have won four of their last five matches and are looking at finishing the season out strong

Boys Golf - 10-4 and have won some tri-matches



Joe Rucker
Big Walnut Middle School
Athletic Director

Girls Golf - 8-2 and have several individual rounds in the 30s

Cross Country - Both boys' and girls' teams are undefeated in duals. The boy's team recently won the Falcon Invitational, while the girl's team finished 2nd overall.



One thing I want to highlight about the fall season has been the support and amount of volunteering from our families and community members at games and events. At the middle school level, it really takes a village, and I could not be more pleased with the help we receive. From people working the concession stands, working the chains at football, lines in volleyball, directions along the XC course, donating food/supplies, supervising team meals, etc...I could go on and on. Special shout out to Ted Dancer for announcing all of our football games and sounding like a seasoned pro. Thank you all for your continued efforts to serve BWMS athletics and our fantastic teams!

As always, if you have questions, please call BWMS at 740-965-3006. The best athletic secretary in the business, Stephanie Kreager, or myself will be happy to assist you.

GO EAGLES!!!





BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL



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BIG WALNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL



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



BIG WALNUT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



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43074



BIG WALNUT ELEMENTARY



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



GENERAL ROSECRANS ELEMENTARY



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Fax: 740.965.8993 Sunbury, OH
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HYLEN SOUDERS ELEMENTARY



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



PRAIRIE RUN ELEMENTARY



Office: 740.965.7850 701 N Miller Dr
Fax: 740.965.7851 Sunbury, OH
43074



EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT HARRISON STREET



70 Harrison St Office: 740.965.7862
Sunbury, OH
43074