

September
2024

The
Eagle Examiner



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



**WELCOME
BACK!**





MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT

I am excited to be back to start another school year, and I hope you are as well. The 2024-25 school year is off to a very positive start. If you are new to Big Walnut, welcome, and if this isn't your first rodeo, welcome back.

The grade band shift has gone as well as we could have possibly hoped. Our preschool is still located at Harrison Street; however, our elementary buildings are now K-3, BWI contains grades 4-5, and the middle school is now 6-8. There are positive vibes in all of the buildings, and it has been great to see the schools full of kids. As nice as summer break is, having about 5,000 more people back on campus is great.

You may have noticed the implementation of new traffic patterns for drop-off and pick-up at BWI and BWMS. This change was made to alleviate the traffic congestion on Fairland and Old 3 C and, more importantly, to ensure a safer and more efficient exit for the school buses, enabling them to start their elementary routes promptly in the morning and afternoon. This adjustment also allows us to accommodate more students, enhancing the overall school experience.

If you have any questions or concerns as the year progresses, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's school. We are all here to provide the support and assistance you need. Your experience this year is of utmost importance to us, and we are committed to ensuring it is a positive and enriching one.



Ryan McLane

Ryan McLane



CHILD CHECK BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENER

Child Check is an educational screening for children ages 3-5. Child Check is NOT a Kindergarten screening. This screening is provided by Big Walnut Local Schools and is free to families within the Big Walnut School District. The purpose is to provide parents with information regarding their child's development in: Speech and Language Skills, Gross/Fine Motor (Large & Small Muscle) Skills, Basic Academic Concepts, Vision and Hearing. The screening can help parents determine how their child is developing in comparison to other children the same age. If a child has weaknesses, or is delayed in one or more of these areas then he/she will be referred for further testing. This additional testing is more comprehensive and will determine if the delay is significant enough to qualify for special education.

For more information regarding the PEER Model Program please call 740.965.7846 or email studentservices@bwls.net

SEE YOU THERE!
Child Check 2024-2025
Friday, September 27th
Friday, November 15th
Friday, February 7th
Friday, April 11th

Call to Schedule an
appointment

740.965.7862



BOARD OF EDUCATION



Stephen Fujii
President
Board of Education

Dear Big Walnut Learning Community,

Welcome to the 2024-25 School Year. As we embark on this new year, I want to extend my heartfelt support to our students and staff. Our staff and the students they support play a vital role in making our district a place of growth, learning, and achievement. Our school board's unwavering commitment to a strong environment ensures that every student has the resources and encouragement needed to succeed.

This year brings a wealth of exciting opportunities, from new academic programs to enriching extracurricular activities. The energy and enthusiasm that fill our classrooms and hallways are a testament to the vibrant learning community we have built together. I encourage everyone to embrace these opportunities with open arms, exploring new interests, setting ambitious goals, and making the most of what Big Walnut has to offer. Our shared journey is one of discovery, growth, and boundless potential.

Finally, I urge each member of our community to get involved in the district in as

many ways as possible. Whether it's volunteering, attending events, or participating in school activities, your involvement is the heartbeat of our district. We are all Eagles and our collective efforts make us stronger. If you are interested in getting more involved, contact your building principal or our district office. The more we engage with one another, the more we can achieve together. Let's make this school year one of the best yet.

Go Eagles!



Soaring Through The Years

50

BW

EAGLES



Hysten Souders Elementary

Hysten Souders 50th Birthday Celebration!!!

Souders opened its doors to students in September of 1974. To celebrate, the staff of Souders would like to welcome back past staff and students for a birthday open house & celebration.

You're invited to join us on Thursday, September 12, 2024 for an open house. We will have food trucks, a book fair, and music.

Past staff are invited to join us from 3:45-4:30. Past students, families and community members, are invited to join us from 4:30-6:00.



BIG WALNUT
HIGH SCHOOL

BIG WALNUT
LOCAL SCHOOLS

Snack Shop



NEW!

Open daily for 30 minutes after school

- Cold Subs
- Deli Wraps
- Chef Salads
- Seasoned Fries
- Cold Subs
- Boiled Eggs
- Yogurt Parfaits
- Snacks
- Cold Drinks

* Available items are subject to change



AROUND THE DISTRICT



Alan Feeman
Food Services Supervisor

We're happy to announce that Big Walnut Local School District is offering Free and Reduced-Price Meal and Special Milk Programs for the 2024-2025 school year! These programs are here to help make sure all our students have access to healthy meals and milk, no matter their family's financial situation.

If your family meets certain income guidelines, your child could qualify for free or reduced-price meals and free milk. If you're already receiving SNAP or Ohio Works First benefits, you're automatically eligible, and foster children are also covered. Just fill out the application sent home with your child or pick one up from your school's office.

And don't worry—if things change for your family during the school year, you can always reapply.

Families who qualify for meal benefits might also be eligible for free health care coverage through Ohio's Healthy Start & Healthy Families programs. This includes doctor visits, dental, vision, and more!

Your application info is totally private and only used to figure out if you qualify. If you have any questions or need help with the process, Alan Feeman, our Food Service Supervisor, is just a phone call away at 740-965-8958

We're excited to offer these programs to help keep our students healthy and ready to learn!

FLIGHT Has Taken Off

With the start of the 2024-2025 school year, Big Walnut is excited to incorporate a new program for select students who have completed all of their high school academic graduation requirements and choose to defer their diploma while they participate in a postsecondary program, increasing their partnerships with families, schools, communities, and adult service agencies. That's where the FLIGHT program comes in.

FLIGHT, which stands for Future Life of Independence Gained through Holistic Transition, includes job coaching and support within the local community and a focus on instruction in functional skills, including academics, wellness, social skills, and skills related to leisure activities. Students whose educational teams feel that this program provides individualized support can access and benefit from the FLIGHT program until age 22. This allows for a more fluid progression to post-secondary options.

Currently, there are several local businesses that have connected with the FLIGHT program and have indicated their willingness to support the FLIGHT program by allowing short-term job placements in their setting. The students are accompanied to the job sites and supervised by school staff members who serve the role of job coaches. This allows the students to get real-world experience in a supportive setting that will allow them to serve others and gain the needed skills to be as successful as possible.

The district is excited to see this program thrive, provide a valuable service to the students in the program, and serve as a resource to the community. If your business, large or small, would be interested in exploring the possibility of serving as a job site for the students in this program, please reach out directly to the lead instructor of the FLIGHT program, Amanda Citro, at amandacitro@bwls.net.



Ross Linscott
Director of Student Services





AROUND THE DISTRICT

Building Success and Inclusion in the STACK SLCs



Mackenzie Ousley
Intervention Specialist
Hylen Souders Elementary

Big Walnut takes great pride in supporting every student’s unique learning journey. One of our standout programs is the STACK Student Learning Center (SLC), which I had the privilege of helping to establish from the ground up. This initiative has grown significantly, and we now have two additional STACK SLCs across the district. Our program is designed to support students who need extra guidance, especially those with Autism, ensuring they receive the tailored assistance they require.

In our classrooms, maintaining routine and consistency is our top priority. Visual aids are also integral to our teaching approach, helping students navigate their learning environment more effectively. We’ve seen remarkable growth since we started—beginning with just eight students, expanding to 12 last year, and now serving 17 students this year.

My teammate, Zac Chucta, and I have dedicated countless hours to creating a welcoming and successful environment for our students. We communicate daily with parents and collaborate regularly with classroom teachers, striving to build a cohesive support system. We are committed to promoting inclusion, whether by encouraging our students to connect with their peers in general education or by inviting those peers into our classrooms to serve as positive role models.

While our students may seem different on the outside, they possess incredible potential and knowledge that just needs the right opportunities to be unlocked. We are immensely proud of our students and the dedicated staff who support them daily. This work is not easy, but the little wins with our students keep us motivated and inspired to continue making a difference.



MEET OUR NEW PRINCIPAL



Jennifer
Martin-Gledhill
Assistant Principal
Big Walnut
Intermediate

I grew up in South Dakota and moved to Ohio 23 years ago to attend the Ohio State University where I met my husband. We have a daughter in high school and a son in middle school, along with two dogs who are the best of friends. We love to travel, having visited 30 of the 50 states, and spend time as a family.

This year marks 18 years as an educator and 14 years in administrative leadership. I started my career as a classroom teacher in grades 3-6 and then had the privilege of holding multiple administrative roles where I was able to support students and families directly, worked with teachers to support academic growth, and provided teacher training. I am looking forward to a great 1st year at Big Walnut Intermediate School and supporting the wonderful educators and families in the district!



AROUND THE DISTRICT

BWHS Theatre's New Season Begins with "The Somewhat True Tales of Robin Hood"

The Big Walnut Theatre Department celebrated an outstanding 2023-2024 season, bringing laughter and entertainment to our community with the comedies "Clue," "Suite Surrender," and the lively musical "Footloose." With a cast and crew of over 60 students contributing both on stage and behind the scenes, the theatre program continues to grow in popularity and participation.

Looking forward to the 2024-2025 season, we are thrilled to announce auditions for our first show, "The Somewhat True Tales of Robin Hood," debuting on November 8th and 9th. Students who want to be part of this exciting journey are encouraged to visit Room #2408 to pick up an information sheet from Mrs. Payne. This is your chance to join a dynamic group and shine with your talents!

Mark your calendars and support our talented students in what promises to be another memorable production!



BWHS Celebrates 2024 College Board National Recognition Award Recipients

Big Walnut High School is proud to announce that four of our outstanding students have been honored with the prestigious 2024 College Board National Recognition Awards. These awards celebrate students who have demonstrated academic excellence and have met specific criteria to earn this distinguished recognition.

To receive a College Board National Recognition Award, students must achieve the following:

- Maintain a GPA of B+ (at least 3.3 or 87%-89%) or higher.
- Achieve PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 assessment scores within the top 10% of test-takers in their state for each award program, or earn a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams by the end of 10th grade.
- Attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, Indigenous/Native American, or a first-generation college student.

We are thrilled to recognize the following students as our 2024 College Board National Awardees:

- Shreyas Chilakamarri (Grade 12) - Rural/Small Town Award
- Sahana Katta (Grade 11) - Rural/Small Town Award
- Zayna Rahi (Grade 12) - First Generation Award
- Joshua Schutt (Grade 12) - First Generation Award

We would also like to highlight that Joshua Schutt received the 2023 Rural/Small Town Award, showcasing his continued academic excellence.

These students have made our school and community proud with their dedication and hard work. Congratulations to all the awardees!



Shreyas Chilakamarri



Sahana Katta



Zayna Rahi



Joshua Schutt



AROUND THE DISTRICT



Chelsea Baer
American Sign Language
Big Walnut High School

BWHS Students Embrace a Unique Learning Experience in Live ASL Class

This year, Big Walnut High School is proud to offer a live American Sign Language (ASL) class, and the students are buzzing with excitement. What makes this class truly unique is that the room is completely silent 90 percent of the time! For students learning ASL for the first time, this silent environment forces them to focus intensely on what is happening around them, leading to faster language acquisition.

The ASL 1 class is designed to fully immerse students in the language from day one. For those who don't know any signs, the initial lessons rely heavily on gestures and pointing, creating a learning experience that feels like a giant game of charades. During the first week of school, students learned the alphabet, colors, how to greet each other, and how to express simple phrases like "I'm fine," "I'm sleepy," "I'm good," and "I'm meh."

They also mastered numbers 1-15—all without a single spoken word.

ASL is not only a visual language but also a physical one. Students engage their muscle memory by signing daily, helping them retain what they've learned. The classroom setup supports this immersive learning experience, with students seated in a semi-circle to ensure everyone can see each other's hands. During group activities, chairs are rolled into a big circle so students can sign across to each other.

To reinforce their skills, students participate in various challenges and games. For example, today's activity is called "Skittles." Students sort a fun-sized pack of Skittles by color, then interview their peers by asking "how many" and signing the color. This activity not only reinforces last week's color vocabulary but also introduces "how many" as the sign of the day.

The ASL class is not just about fun, it's also about learning. It offers a dynamic and engaging way for students to learn, providing an educational experience that's both enjoyable and beneficial.





SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025
BWHS PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

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

4:00-7:30 PM

***THE COUNSELING STAFF WILL BE CONDUCTING A SENIOR MEETING FROM 6:15-6:45 IN THE ACADEMIC COMMONS.**



We Are
HIRING

Substitute Positions:

- Bus Drivers
- Custodians
- Food Service

Apply Now

Visit:

bwls.net/EmploymentOpportunities.aspx



**BIG WALNUT
LOCAL SCHOOLS**



AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

Our FFA chapter had a busy summer! During the summer rest and relaxation, students were busy with all kinds of experiences! This is 10 THINGS BIG WALNUT - DACC FFA MEMBERS DID THIS SUMMER!



1.) WE WENT TO DISNEY!

Four of our members went to Walt Disney World in July. We had a great time visiting Disney's Animal Kingdom and Disney Springs.

2.) WE ATTENDED THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF FLORAL DESIGNERS SYMPOSIUM!

While at Disney, our students learned about floral design and honed their skills in Orlando this summer, working with and learning from some of the best floral designers in the industry! Thank you to the American Institute of Floral Designers for having us and the AIFD Foundation for selecting us for the travel scholarship!

3.) WE WENT TO OHIO LEADERSHIP CAMP!

Three students spent time at Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum in June. These members enjoyed the outdoors and learned about leadership from National FFA facilitators.



Jeffrey Stimmell
Agricultural Sciences Instructor

4.) WE SET WORLD RECORDS!

Olivia Jenkins sold her Grand Champion Tamworth Gilt at the Ohio State Fair Open Gilt Sale, breaking the breed's world record.

5.) WE VISITED WENDY'S INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS!

Our Food Science & Technology and Milk Quality & Products teams toured the Wendy's Innovation Center where they learned about trends and technologies used in their stores.

6.) WE INTERACTED WITH INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS!

Throughout the summer, our students toured industry sites to learn about food processing and the agriculture industry. We enjoyed visits to Tamarack Dairy and the Pilot Plants at the Ohio State University Department of Food Science and Technology.

7.) WE HAD COOL JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS!

Our students had some really cool work experiences! Lilly Cappitte worked as an Ohio Farm Bureau State Fair Ambassador. Maddy Jones worked as a Constituent Aide to the Chairman of the Ohio



House Agriculture Committee. Aashvi Soni spent part of the summer in Washington, D.C., interning with the George Washington Journalism Media Conference as a Social Media Intern.

8.) WE SHOWED AT THE HARTFORD INDEPENDENT FAIR!

More than 50 FFA members exhibited projects in the FFA building and around Hartford Fair! We had several class winners and even a few champions!

9.) WE EXHIBITED PROJECTS AT THE OHIO STATE FAIR

Several of our members exhibited projects at the Ohio State Fair! We had breed champions, and students recognized as outstanding exhibitors.

10.) WE EXPANDED OUR INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE THROUGH TRAVEL!

Savannah Durham visited Minneapolis to attend the National FFA NextGen Food Products & Processing Conference.



What a summer! We can't wait to see where this school year takes us!



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Brian Shelton
Big Walnut High School
Athletic Director

As the new school year kicks off, I am thrilled to welcome you all to what promises to be an exciting and dynamic fall season of high school athletics! Our teams are ready, our athletes are eager, and the spirit of our community is at an all-time high.

I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the unwavering support and enthusiasm you have shown for our athletic programs. Your commitment—whether through attending games, volunteering, or supporting our athletes in countless other ways—truly makes a difference and enhances the experience for everyone involved.

The Big Walnut Athletic Boosters has launched its first-ever booster website. This site will be your go-to resource for everything related to our athletic boosters and how to get involved. Visit the Athletic Booster website at bwathleticboosters.com. Be sure to check back regularly for the latest updates and upcoming booster and team events.

Thank you once again for your incredible support. Here's to a fantastic fall season filled with athletic excellence, team spirit, and community pride!



Big Walnut Boosters



Big Walnut Athletics





HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Marching Band



Freshman Cheer



JV Cheer



Varsity Cheer



Boys Cross Country



Girls Cross Country



Freshman Football



JV and Varsity Football



JV Boys Golf



Varsity Boys Golf



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



JV Girls Golf



Varsity Girls Golf



JV Girls Soccer



Varsity Girls Soccer



JV and Varsity Boys Soccer



JV Gold Girls Volleyball



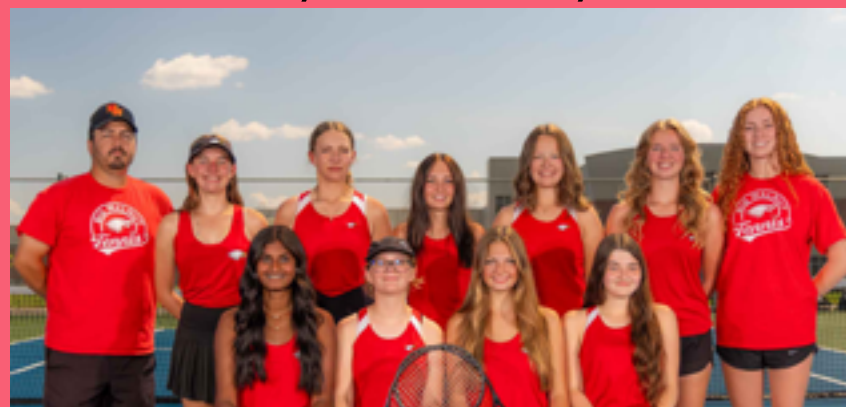
JV Red Girls Volleyball



Varsity Girls Volleyball



JV Girls Tennis



Varsity Girls Tennis



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

BWMS is off and running with the 2024 fall sports season and it could not have gotten off to a better start. Our coaches and student-athletes have been pushing through the heat and working hard to perfect the fundamentals, unite as a team and play with passion and respect. It has been a pleasure getting to watch all of our teams compete in what is undoubtedly the best conference in all of Ohio. And our BWMS teams don't just compete against the best, but we have proven to be one of the best!



I want to take a moment to introduce all of our fall coaches and thank them for all of their efforts preparing our student-athletes for the season:

7th Football - Justin Grieger, Jeff Fuller, Christopher Daniels and Jeremy Ralston

8th Football - Jacob Houston, Derek West, Mason Shelby, Ron Truax and Kevin Barbeau

7th Volleyball - Danielle Horsley

8th Volleyball - Tim Kafka

Girls Tennis - Kim White

Boys Golf - Kyle Baker

Girls Golf - Ben McCollough

Cross Country - Jen White, Dave Ishler, Laura Boening, Dannie Crace, Lindsey DeLoss and Eric Coe



Joe Rucker
Big Walnut Middle School
Athletic Director



One thing I want to highlight about the fall season has been the work of our maintenance department in prepping our facility for the year. Led by Jim Hall and Travis Dickson, their department works long hours doing things all around the district to provide the best experiences for our players and spectators. Much of

what they do is behind the scenes and I know they wouldn't want any credit for the services they provide, but on behalf of BWMS Athletics, I want to give a huge THANK YOU to our maintenance personnel.

As always, if you have questions, feel free to 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!!!





MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS



Boys Cross Country



Girls Cross Country



Boys Golf



Girls Golf



7th Grade Football



8th Grade Football



7th Grade Girls Volleyball



8th Grade Girls Volleyball



7th and 8th Grade Cheer



Girls Tennis



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
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HYLEN SOUDERS ELEMENTARY



4121 Miller Paul Rd Office: 740.965.3200
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PRAIRIE RUN ELEMENTARY



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EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT HARRISON STREET



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