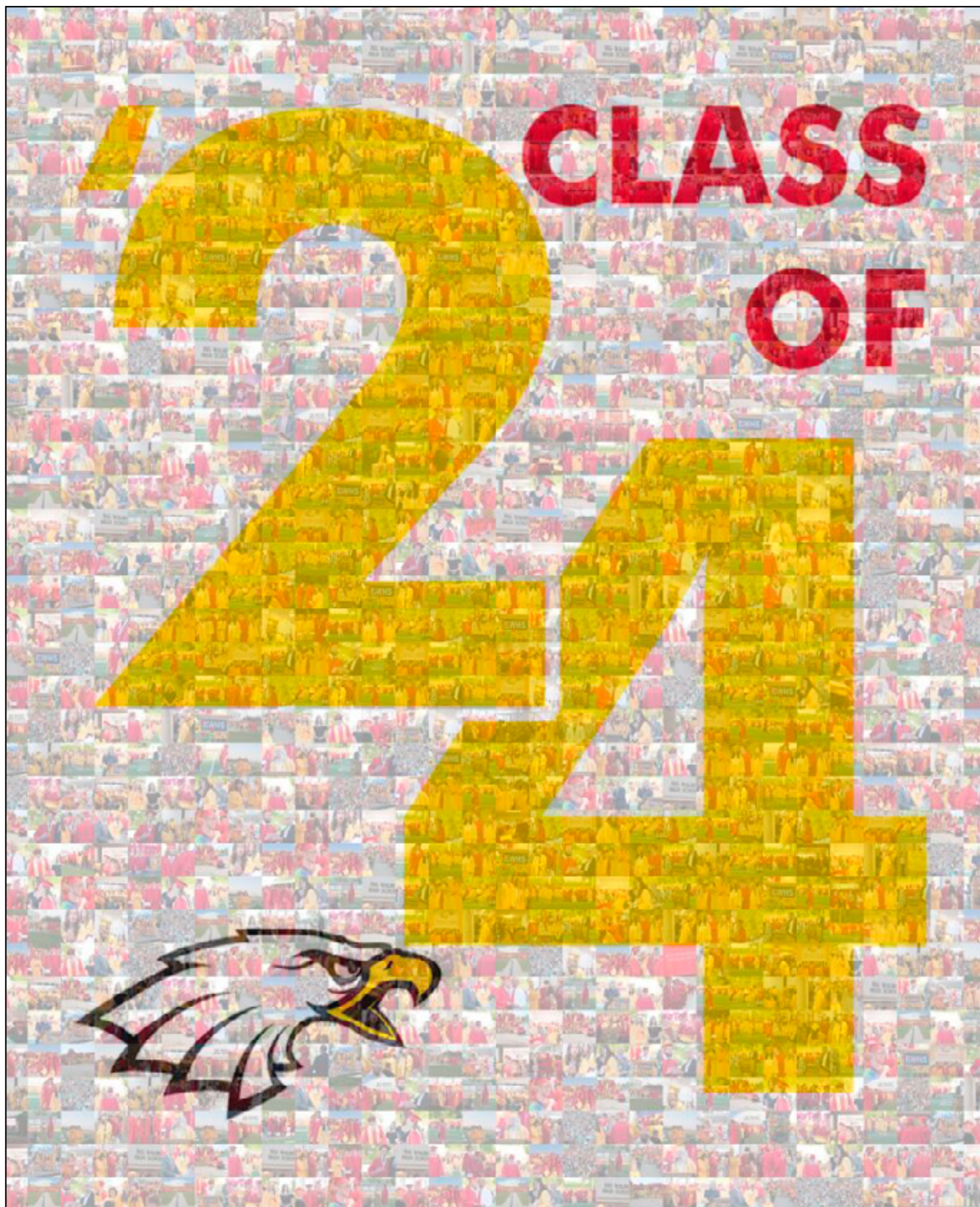


June
2024

The
Eagle Examiner



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





MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT

Another school year is in the books. I want to start by thanking the Class of 2024. What an amazing ride it has been. You experienced many ups and downs, and I hope there were more ups. This class competed at the highest levels in academics, athletics, and the arts. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and hope to see you around when you come back to visit.

I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each member of our dedicated staff for their tireless efforts in supporting our students this school year. Your commitment and hard work have not gone unnoticed. I also want to give a special shoutout to our bus drivers for their constant flexibility and creativity in providing transportation to our kids. They are a great group, and if you are interested in joining them, give me a call.

Finally, I want to extend a huge “thank you” to the Big Walnut community for your unwavering support over the past school year. Your role in shaping the future of our students is invaluable. As the saying goes, it truly takes a village. In our case, I am thankful it also takes a city and several townships to support these kids as they navigate life in 2024.

I hope you all enjoy summer break with your families. We look forward to seeing everyone in August.



Ryan McLane

Ryan McLane



BACK TO SCHOOL

Open House

August 12

4:30-6:30p
BWMS, BWI, ELC

5:30-7:30p
BWE, GRE, PRE, SOU

MEET YOUR TEACHER!

Save the Dates!!

August 21 6:30-8:00p
BWHS

BIG WALNUT | INSPIRE LOCAL SCHOOLS & GUIDE



BOARD OF EDUCATION

As we conclude another remarkable school year, I am thrilled to share some of our district's significant achievements and extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to our success.

Firstly, we were blessed with perfect weather for our graduation ceremony, making it a memorable evening of celebration. The Class of 2024 has been superb, and we wish them the very best as they embark on their next adventures, whether they choose to Enroll, Enlist, or be Employed.

Once again, our students' performance on the Ohio State Tests (OST) was exceptional. Their dedication to academic excellence and the unwavering support from our teachers and staff made these results possible. Congratulations to all!

Our athletic department also had a fantastic year, crowned by winning the Ralph Young All-Sports Trophy at Big Walnut High School. This accolade reflects a year of excellence, showcasing our student-athletes and coaches' talent, hard work, and sportsmanship.

Looking ahead, we are filled with excitement for the 2024-25 school year. We are introducing new grades at our schools, including Big Walnut Intermediate, which will have an entirely new set of students, with fourth—and fifth-graders moving in. This change will provide our elementary schools the space they need to operate effectively, enhancing the learning environment for our youngest students.

Please stay tuned for more updates from the district throughout the summer. We have many exciting initiatives and developments to share and want to keep our community informed and engaged.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all district employees, teachers, staff, secretaries, board members, and families within our district. Your dedication and support are the backbone of our success, and we couldn't do it without you.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable summer. Rest up, enjoy time with your family, and be ready to make the 2024-25 school year the best one yet!



Stephen Fujii
President
Board of Education



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ALL THE IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS AROUND BIG WALNUT IN THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL!

MONDAY 12	EAGLES' FIRST FLIGHT High School Freshmen get their first taste of BWHS	THURSDAY 15	STAGGERED START (L-Z) First day of classes for the other half of our students
MONDAY 12	OPEN HOUSE 4:30-6:30 pm - BWMS, BWI, & ELC	FRIDAY 16	FIRST DAY - ALL STUDENTS First day that all students K-12 attend school together
MONDAY 12	OPEN HOUSE 5:30-7:30 PM - BWE, GRE, PRE, & SOU	MONDAY 19	FIRST DAY - ELC First day that all ELC Student begin classes together
WEDNESDAY 14	STAGGERED START (A-K) First day of classes for half of our students	AUGUST 2024	



BIG WALNUT
LOCAL SCHOOLS





BANK NOTE

Debt Relief Conversation with the Board of Education



Scott Gooding
Interim Treasurer

At the May 20, 2024 regular board meeting, the Board of Education discussed options for providing debt relief to our community taxpayers. This conversation was prompted by the recent property valuation reappraisal, which significantly impacts property taxes for 2024. Residential and agricultural property values increased by 36.01%, while commercial and industrial values rose by 21.73%. Because the district is at the 20-mill floor, these increases directly translate into higher property taxes.

The board considered four options, focusing particularly on one that involves transferring funds from the General (Operating) Fund to the Debt Service Fund. This transfer would be equivalent to 1 mill of property taxes. This option aims to provide significant savings to our taxpayers while giving the board flexibility to decide the amount transferred each year based on available funds.

This approach, however, comes with certain risks. These include future contract negotiations that might require additional funds, potential new legislation that could negatively impact the district's finances, and changes in our financial forecasts that might result in decreased revenue or increased expenses. Additionally, if funds are not available in a given year, this strategy might necessitate an increase in bond millage to meet debt service requirements.

The Board is carefully considering these factors to make a well-informed decision that balances immediate tax relief with long-term financial stability for the district.



Request for Proposal of Legal Services for Board of Education

The Big Walnut Local School District Board of Education invites qualified, licensed, full-service law firms and individual attorneys to submit a proposal to represent the Board in legal matters and litigation, excluding litigation handled by attorneys selected by the Board's insurance carriers.

The Board will consider any proposal that serves the best interest of the Big Walnut Local Schools including, but not limited to, in-house counsel, an all-inclusive flat fee agreement, a subject area flat fee agreement (e.g., special education, labor and employment, etc.), a case type flat fee agreement (e.g., arbitrations, board of revisions, collective bargaining, etc.), and/or hourly rates.

The Board anticipates entering into an agreement with the selected firm(s)/attorney(s) commencing on January 1, 2025.

[Click here to learn more](#)

JOIN OUR FAMILY!

BUS DRIVERS
Full-Time Benefits | Part-Time Hours
Paid Training | Summers Off

Apply Now!
TimWagner@bwls.net
740.965.8989

BIG WALNUT
LOCAL SCHOOLS



JOIN OUR TEAM: BECOME A BUS DRIVER WITH BIG WALNUT!

Are you looking for a rewarding career with flexible hours and the opportunity to make a difference in your community? Big Walnut Local Schools is actively seeking dedicated and responsible individuals to join our team as bus drivers.

Why Become a Bus Driver?

Make a Difference: As a bus driver, you play a crucial role in the daily lives of our students. You ensure they arrive safely to school, ready to learn, and return home safely at the end of the day.

Great Benefits: We offer competitive pay, comprehensive benefits, and paid training to help you succeed in your role. Our drivers enjoy a supportive work environment and the opportunity for growth within the district.

Flexible Hours: Bus driving is perfect for those looking for a job that fits into their existing schedule. With morning and afternoon routes, you'll have time during the day for personal activities or other commitments.

Community Engagement: Be a part of the Big Walnut community! Our drivers build strong relationships with students, parents, and school staff, contributing to a positive and safe school environment.

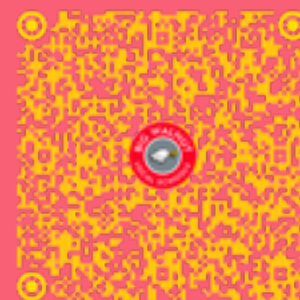
What We're Looking For:

- **Safe Driving Record:** Safety is our top priority. Applicants must have a clean driving record and a valid driver's license.
- **Reliability and Responsibility:** Our students depend on our drivers to be punctual and dependable.
- **Good Communication Skills:** Interacting with students, parents, and school staff is a key part of the job.
- **Commitment to Safety:** We provide extensive training, but a commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment is essential.

How to Apply:

If you're interested in joining our team, click or follow the QR code to fill out an application. For more information, contact our transportation department at 740.965.8967. Or email us at TimWagner@bwls.net.

Join us in making a positive impact on the lives of our students
Become a bus driver at Big Walnut Local Schools today!



SUN MEALS/SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

We are thrilled to announce that the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce's Summer Food Service Program meals have a new name: SUN meals! This rebranding brings a fresh and vibrant identity to a vital program that ensures no child goes hungry during the summer months.

Who is Eligible?

- **Children Ages 1-18:** All children in this age group are eligible to receive free meals.
- **Young Adults Ages 19-21:** Individuals who have been identified as having mental or physical disabilities and are following Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) through their current enrollment in educational programs are also eligible for free meals.

How to Participate:

Participating in the SUN meals program is easy! Simply visit any of the participating program sites during meal times to receive a free, nutritious meal.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call **1-866-3-HUNGRY (486479)**.

If you find a meal site listed that is not operating as expected, please contact the Office of Nutrition at:

Phone: (614) 466-2945 or (800) 808-6325

Email: Child.Nutrition@education.ohio.gov

Let's ensure every child and eligible young adult in our community has access to the nutrition they need this summer. Spread the word about SUN meals and help us make a difference!







CONGRATS CLASS OF 2024!





8TH GRADE WASHINGTON, DC TRIP

As the school year drew to a close, the 8th grade students at Big Walnut Middle School embarked on an unforgettable journey to Washington, D.C. during the week of May 20th. This annual trip has become a cherished tradition, designed to enrich our students’ educational experience and deepen their appreciation for our country’s rich history and government.

The trip is directly tied to the 8th grade American History curriculum, providing students with a tangible connection to the content they have studied throughout the year. By visiting significant national monuments and museums, students gain a deeper understanding of the historical events and figures that have shaped our nation. The experience brings the classroom lessons to life, offering a unique perspective that extends beyond the textbook.

This year, in partnership with Prodigy Student Travel, our students received guided tours and insightful commentary from trained personnel as they explored the nation’s capital. The packed itinerary included visits to iconic landmarks such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the Smithsonian Museums. Each stop on the tour provided students with invaluable learning opportunities, fostering a greater appreciation for the historical and cultural heritage of the United States.

The Washington, D.C. trip is often cited as a highlight of the middle school experience. It serves not only as an educational venture but also as a milestone for students as they transition from middle school to high school. The journey symbolizes the culmination of their middle school years and prepares them for the exciting challenges and opportunities that lie ahead at Big Walnut High School.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the staff chaperones and parents who played a crucial role in making this annual trip possible. Their dedication and support ensure that our students can have these enriching experiences year after year.

This trip would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our staff and the unwavering support of our parent community. Together, we continue to create lasting memories and educational experiences that our students will carry with them for a lifetime.



Josh Frame
Big Walnut Middle School
Principal



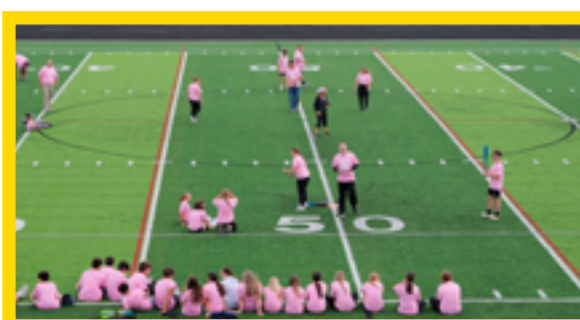


AROUND THE DISTRICT

Staff Claims Questionable Victory Over Students in Wiffle Ball

In a stunning display of what can only be described as sheer tenacity, the Big Walnut Middle School staff once again eked out a victory over the students—this time in a highly contested game of wiffle ball. If you recall the nail-biting basketball game earlier this year where the staff narrowly pulled ahead in the final minutes, you'll be pleased (or perhaps perplexed) to know they've repeated their so-called success.

The wiffle ball game, held in the stadium, was nothing short of a spectacle. Amidst the cheers and jeers, there were whispers of some, let's say, "creative" scorekeeping by none other than Mr. Rucker. The final score is currently under intense review, though any hopes of definitive answers are dashed by the mysterious disappearance of the game tape. Convenient, right? Yet, despite these minor hiccups, the staff are proudly (and loudly) claiming another victory. Is it a coincidence, or is it the beginning of a legendary streak? Only time (and perhaps some unorthodox scorekeeping) will tell.



Elementary Schools Celebrate Field Day

Students at all four elementary schools in the Big Walnut district—Big Walnut Elementary, General Rosecrans Elementary, Hylen Souders Elementary, and Prairie Run Elementary—recently celebrated their annual Field Day during the last few days of school.

The event was a huge hit, offering students a day filled with outdoor activities, friendly competition, and endless fun.

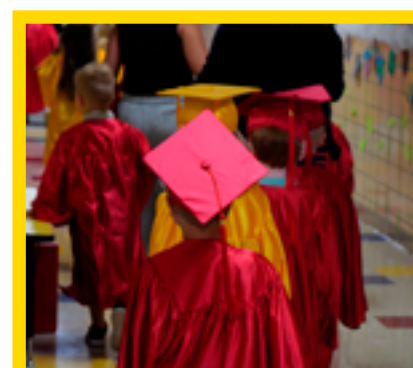
From bouncing in inflatables to participating in various races and games, the students enjoyed a wide range of activities that kept them engaged and active all day long. Field Day not only provided a perfect opportunity for students to burn off some energy but also allowed them to create lasting memories with their friends and teachers. The smiles and laughter that filled the air were a testament to the joy and excitement shared by everyone involved.



Early Learning Center Celebrates Graduation

Our little ones at The Early Learning Center celebrated a big milestone as they graduated into Kindergarten! The atmosphere was filled with joy and pride as the young graduates wore their caps and gowns, ready for the next exciting chapter of their educational journey. Parents, teachers, and staff gathered to cheer on these budding scholars, making it a memorable day for everyone involved.

The ceremony was a heartwarming reminder of how much our youngest students had grown. Each child received a certificate to celebrate their achievements, and there were plenty of smiles as they posed for photos with their families and friends. As we look forward to their continued success in Kindergarten, we are grateful for the support and dedication of our Early Learning Center community in nurturing these future leaders.





HAPPY RETIREMENT!



Mary Candelaria
Big Walnut Middle School
Teaching Assistant
18 Years



Stephanie Cooper
Treasurer's Office
Accounts Receivable
26 Years



Laurel Fitch
Big Walnut Intermediate School
Language Arts Teacher
25 Years



Doug Germann
General Rosecrans & Prairie Run
Gifted and Talented
17 Years



Lisa Huston
Big Walnut High School
Music Teacher
27 Years



Kelly Mazzi
Big Walnut Middle School
Building Secretary
9 Years



Meg Petty
Early Learning Center
Teaching Assistant
18 Years



Corry Schull
Big Walnut Middle School
School Counselor
17 Years



Lesley Shryock
Big Walnut Schools
Physical Therapist
23 Years



Rich Smith
Big Walnut Middle School
Science Teacher
33 Years



Jackie Watt
Transportation
Bus Driver
39 Years

**Thank you for
your years of
service to our
Big Walnut
students!**



We appreciate
everything you've done
to Inspire and Guide
each student to their
maximum potential!



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WE'RE HIRING

BUS DRIVERS
CUSTODIANS
FOOD SERVICE WORKERS
SUBSTITUTES (ALL AREAS)
TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Apply Now!





HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Brian Shelton
Big Walnut High School
Athletic Director

As we wrap up another exciting year in high school athletics, it's time to reflect on the 2023-2024 school year and the moments that have defined our sports community. The 2023-2024 season has been nothing short of spectacular, showcasing the dedication, talent, and spirit of our student-athletes, and coaches. Let us carry forward the lessons learned, friendships forged, and memories cherished as we eagerly anticipate the opportunities that await us in the coming seasons or to our graduating seniors.



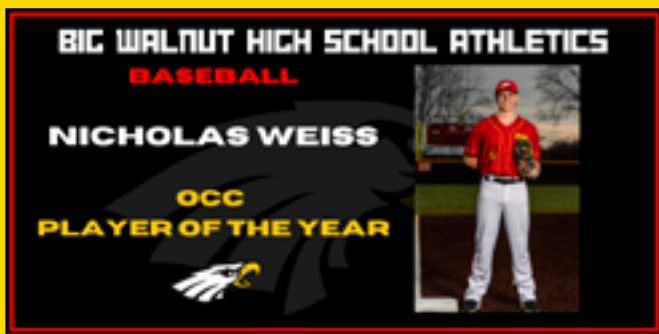
Athletics Website

Athletic Achievements:

Championships: Our teams have once again displayed their commitment to excellence by winning the Ohio Capital Conference Ralph Young All-Sports Award for the third time in four years.

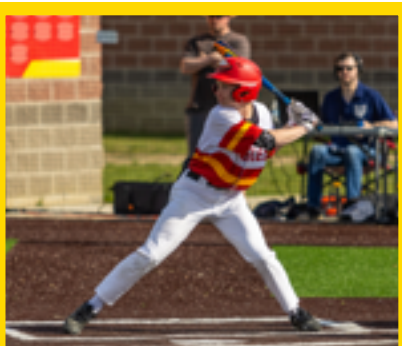
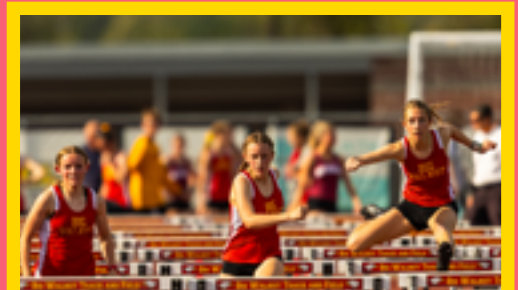


Our sports community has seen triumphs across a wide range of disciplines. Girls basketball, girls soccer, boys golf, baseball, and boys tennis all secured OCC Championships, while girls volleyball, girls cross country, boys bowling, boys wrestling, boys track, and girl lacrosse placed second, contributing significantly to our pursuit of the All-Sports award. These victories, along with many others, have enriched our school's legacy of athletic excellence.



Individual Accolades: Beyond team successes, many individual athletes have shone brightly, earning recognition at the league, district, regional, and state levels for their exceptional performances. Whether breaking records on the track, dominating on the field, or demonstrating sportsmanship and leadership, our athletes have demonstrated the true essence of sportsmanship and dedication.

College Commitments: On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, Big Walnut High School Athletics held a college signing celebration for 26 seniors from the class of 2024 who have committed to participate in collegiate athletics. Since the college celebration two more student-athletes committed. To bring the total to 28.





HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Gratitude and Reflection:

Thank You: As we look back on the season, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to its success. From our dedicated coaches and athletes to our supportive families, event workers, fans, and volunteers, each individual plays a vital role in our athletic community's success. We are incredibly grateful for their unwavering support and commitment.

Reflection: As the year draws to a close, we encourage our athletes to take a moment to reflect not only on their achievements but also on the lessons learned, personal growth, and memories made. Whether celebrating victories or embracing challenges, each experience serves as a stepping stone in their journey of growth, self-discovery, and personal development.

I want to give special thanks to the high school athletic support team, specifically Teresa Piper and Steve Palmer. The work they do behind the scenes to support our programming will never go unnoticed. I am grateful for all that they do.





BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL



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Fax: 740.965.1954 Sunbury, OH
Guidance: 740.965.2243 43074



BIG WALNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL



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



BIG WALNUT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



Office: 740.965.7800 777 Cheshire Rd
Fax: 740.965.7801 Sunbury, OH
43074



BIG WALNUT ELEMENTARY



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



GENERAL ROSECRANS ELEMENTARY



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



HYLEN SOUDERS ELEMENTARY



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



PRAIRIE RUN ELEMENTARY



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



EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT HARRISON STREET



70 Harrison St Office: 740.965.7862
Sunbury, OH
43074