

March  
2024

The  
*Eagle Examiner*



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

# HERE COMES SPRING!





# MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT

I didn't have a 2-Hour Delay for a Tornado Watch on my 2024 Bingo Card, but here we are. The weather seems to be shifting to springtime, and I hope it is here to stay. We have so many exciting things happening around the district; it is better to enjoy them when it is 70 degrees out, and the sun is shining.

Our winter sports seasons are winding down, and our teams made some amazing strides and represented our community well. Multiple students competed for individual state titles. Our cheerleading team finished as state runner-up this past weekend, while our bowling team will compete for a team title this upcoming Friday.

The High School Orchestra performed for the first time ever at the OMEA District 10 large group orchestra contest, and our high school choir and band will compete in and host the OMEA music competition this weekend.

Big Walnut Middle School, along with the students and staff, received the Mayor's Service Award from the city of Sunbury in recognition of their outstanding service to the community. Many appreciate the annual service day in which students and staff go out into the community and lend a helping hand.

Finally, your participation in our elementary schools' 3rd Annual Big Family Read Aloud is a fun event that reinforces our kids' love for reading. Hopefully, you see it as another example of us truly trying to work together for the betterment of our children.



Ryan McLane

*Ryan McLane*



APR  
7

555 S. Old 3C HWY  
Sunbury  
Big Walnut MS Track

1  
PM

400m Kids Run 1pm  
400m Fun Run/Walk 1:30pm  
2 Mile Red's Color Run 2pm



# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Spring - Renewal and Gratitude

As we eagerly welcome the warmth and beauty of Spring, a season synonymous with renewal and growth, I am compelled to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the incredible individuals who contribute to the success and well-being of our school district. It is with immense appreciation that I extend my thanks to our dedicated staff, whose unwavering commitment continues to shape the future of our students.

Our superintendent Mr. McLane has the chance to engage with students and staff every day. This opportunity provides him the space to express this gratitude in person. As board members, however, our ability to engage is a bit more abstract. Nonetheless, our staff periodically reaches out to members of the board to uplift celebrations in various ways. So, this is a chance to share gratitude.

First and foremost, our teachers are the heart and soul of our educational community. Their passion for imparting knowledge, fostering critical thinking, and nurturing the growth of our students is truly commendable. Through their tireless efforts, our teachers create an environment where curiosity flourishes, and the love for learning takes root.

In addition to our esteemed educators, our administrative assistants play a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth functioning of our school district. Their organizational skills, attention to detail, and warm demeanor contribute significantly to the positive atmosphere within our administrative offices, creating a welcoming space for both students and parents alike.

The invaluable contributions of our cooks, bus drivers, and custodians should not go unnoticed. The dedication of our cooks extends beyond the kitchen, as they provide nutritious meals that fuel the minds and bodies of our students. Our bus drivers navigate the roads with precision and care, ensuring the safe transportation of our students to and from school. Meanwhile, our custodians work diligently behind the scenes, maintaining a clean and safe environment that is conducive to learning.

Let us also recognize the para-professionals who provide essential support to both teachers and students. Their commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive atmosphere enriches the educational experience for all students, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

As we celebrate the spirit of Spring, let us carry the essence of gratitude in our hearts. Our school district is a vibrant tapestry woven together by the dedication, passion, and hard work of our remarkable staff. In their hands, we entrust the future of our community, and for that, we are sincerely thankful.

Wishing everyone a season filled with growth, joy, and a profound sense of gratitude.



Stephen Fujii  
President  
Board of Education

**BIG WALNUT PURPLE STAR COMMITTEES**

## APPAREL & DONATION FUNDRAISER



Apparel Choices:

- \* T-Shirts: long sleeve & short sleeve
- \* Sweatshirts: Hooded & Crew Neck
- \* Car Decals & Magnets
- \* Hats, Headbands & Bandanas

Donation Choices:

- \* T-Shirt Sponsors
- \* Direct Donations

**FEBRUARY 23-MARCH 24, 2024**

**PRICES VARY BY CHOICE**

Support our BW Purple Star Families, those who have an immediate family member who is active in the military. Our committee uses funds raised to host events for our families, celebrate their children inside our schools, and award scholarships for post graduate plans of their graduating seniors.

ORDER BY VISITING [BIGWALNUTPURPLEUP.COM](http://BIGWALNUTPURPLEUP.COM) OR THE QR CODE



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**







# SAVE THE DATE BIG WALNUT INTERMEDIATE INFORMATION NIGHT

Join us to meet some of our staff members and learn about your child's upcoming 4th or 5th grade year.

## Thursday, April 11th

5:30-6:30: PRE and GRE parents/guardians

7:00-8:00: SOU and BWE parents/guardians

This event is for Parents/Guardians of current third and fourth grade students. More details to follow closer to the event.

START GETTING INVOLVED NOW AND JOIN US FOR OUR PTO MEETINGS ON 3/11, 4/9 AND 5/6 AT 6PM IN OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY!



Big Walnut Intermediate School, 777 Cheshire Road



BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS | INSPIRE & GUIDE

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# AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

Agricultural education is a program that lets students dive into the world of cultivation, business, and technology behind agricultural systems. It's not just about sitting in a classroom - it's also about getting your hands dirty in labs, getting involved in a leadership position, and gaining real-world experience through work-based learning activities. Students who have an interest in specific areas, such as equine science, have a chance to prepare and compete in the Equine Management Career Development Event (CDE).

In this event, students get to learn all about horses by assessing and ranking them based on characteristics, including their breed traits, physical build, and how they perform. Students study materials that reference the history of the animal and how the evolution of horses has impacted the agricultural industry. Students also explain their choices to a panel of judges, which helps them get better at public speaking and talking about what they see and understand about horses.



Jeffrey Stimmell  
Agricultural Sciences Instructor



In this Career Development Event, students take on challenges related to caring for horses - from their diet and reproduction to the gear and food used in looking after them. They also need to identify various equipment, plants, and feed used in the horse industry. By participating, students get better at leading, observing, analyzing, thinking critically, and communicating. Plus, they learn to work together as a team and discover the wide range of careers available in the horse industry.

The Equine Management CDE in agricultural education is a great way for students to learn more about horses, develop important life skills, and explore potential careers in the horse world. It's all about getting hands-on experience and gaining a deeper respect and understanding for the agricultural industry, especially when it comes to our galloping companions!

Agriculture is constantly changing and provides new challenges and opportunities for career and personal growth. If you want to learn more about the agricultural science program at Big Walnut, please contact our agricultural science teachers – Christine Balint ([christinebalint@bwls.net](mailto:christinebalint@bwls.net)) or Jeffrey Stimmell ([jeffstimmell@bwls.net](mailto:jeffstimmell@bwls.net)).





# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Brian Shelton  
Big Walnut High School  
Athletic Director

This winter season has been one of the best we've had in several years. Our winter teams have achieved outstanding success with exceptional individual performances. This is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our athletes, coaches, training staff, parents, and the strong support of our community. Posts and write-ups on each team/individual can be found by clicking/following the QR code below or search Big Walnut Athletics on Facebook.

**Competition Cheerleading:** Ohio Capital Conference Champions and Finished State-Runner-Up

**Indoor Track:** Several athletes qualified for the state OATCCC Track and Field Championships



**Autumn Newman** – Shot Put

**Natalie Vrancken** – High Jump

**Justin Gneiting** and **Cam Long** – 60m Hurdles

**Eli Lengl, Cale Borland, Austyn Fox, Emil Stanford** – 4 x 800m relay

**Hunter Bergsten, Logan Lang, Dexter Chhuom, Brody Chapman** – 4 x 200m relay

**Austyn Fox, Cale Borland, Eli Lengl, Emil Stanford** – 4 x 400m relay

**Girls Basketball:** Finished 22-3 overall and 13-2 in league play - **Ohio Capital Conference Champions**

**Boys Basketball:** Finished 16-7 4th in the Ohio Capital Conference

**Girls Wrestling:** A new and fast-growing sport at Big Walnut HS. Seven district placers were involved, and **Reagan Radtke** was the first girls OHSA State Qualifier wrestler in school history.

**Boys Wrestling:** Finished second in the Ohio Capital Conference and had six district placers, while **Nathan Barnes** was a state alternate

**Boys Swimming and Diving:** Finished 3rd in the Ohio Capital Conference - **John Wion** placed 5th in the state in the 100m backstroke.

**Girls Swimming and Diving:** Finished 5th in the Ohio Capital Conference - **Sarah White** was a state qualifier in diving.

**Boys Bowling:** Finished second in the Ohio Capital Conference and were both **Sectional/District Champions and State Qualifiers**, while **Aidan Furukawa** was District Champion.

**Girls Bowling:** Finished 5th in the OCC.

**Gymnastics:** We had more girls out for gymnastics than in several years as gymnastics continues to grow.

**Megan Stevens** – High Jump

**Riley Duffey** – Triple Jump

**Eli Lengl** – 800m



**The Spring Season** is well underway, and team schedules can be found on our website

**Ralph Young Award:** The Ohio Capital Conference awards the top school in each division. Big Walnut High School Athletics won the Ralph Young Award in 2020-21 and 2021-22 and finished third in 2022-23. We are currently in the top 3 going into the spring season.

**Youth Camps:** Most summer camps have been posted.

[See the complete list here.](#)

March is National Athletic Training Month. - We are fortunate to have three exceptional trainers, **Roman Mitchell, Kylie Reed, and Landon Bentz**, from The Ohio State University Medical Center. Our student-athletes have their support in their recovery process, enabling them to remain on the field and compete at their best. We value our partnership with The Ohio State University and the services they provide our student-athletes.

Special Thanks to **Above the Light Photography Travis and Erica Ries** for taking our individual and team photos and **Home Team Content Jeff Yetzer** for his support in helping digitally share the success of our teams and individuals.





# MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

When the weekly weather involves snow, rain, sun, cold and warm temperatures, you know that the spring season has arrived at BWMS. Practices are rolling along and our student-athletes are working hard in preparation for competitions that will begin after Spring Break. And once the month of April hits, it is almost daily that we will have games/matches going on at 555 Old 3C Hwy (Boys Tennis will play all home matches at BWIS located at 777 Cheshire Rd), so please come out and cheer on our amazing teams. It goes without saying that we have the best athletic facility in all of Central Ohio and it is a great place to take in a game/match.

I want to introduce all of our coaches who will be leading the MS teams this spring:

- Boys Tennis - Kim White
- Boys Lacrosse - Jason Jones, Joe Backs, Scott Schmidt and Clark Jaeger
- Girls Lacrosse - Koby Donohue and Lisa House
- 7th Softball - Matt Baucke and Myaih Cloud
- 8th Softball - Chuck Shank and Hayleigh Greathouse
- 7th Baseball - Ed Partlow and Matt Pendency
- 8th Baseball - Chandler Palyas
- Track - Justin Whiteside, Laura Boening, Mike McGann, Scott VonAlmen, Kelly Mazzi and Megan Milavec

These coaches have already been preparing for the season and will do everything they can to make the community proud. Let me be the first to thank them for all the hours they spend away from their own homes to give our student-athletes their time and energy.

At the MS level, our focus will always be on teaching the fundamentals, learning how to play as a team and retaining all student-athletes to play at the HS level. By doing this, we can continue to be the foundation for our successful high school teams while staying competitive against the best of the OCC. I can't wait to see what the spring season has in store!

As always, if you have questions, feel free to call BWMS at 740-965-3006. Our sensational athletic secretary, Stephanie Kreager, or myself will be happy to assist you.



Joe Rucker  
Big Walnut Middle School  
Athletic Director



## ENGINEERING PROGRAM

### Pre-Engineering:

#### Valentines Day Soldering Kits

In the second semester, Mr. Steele's Middle School Pre-Engineering students learned how to solder small circuits to give as valentines. Students learned about circuits and electricity and then took their understanding to solder LEDs on small circuit boards. Students were given a choice on their circuit project to create stars, hearts, trees, or a piano. In the picture, Mr. Steele is helping students troubleshoot a problem with one of their boards, while other students are showing off their final product. Students learn failure is a necessary part of the process while the emphasis is put on improvement.



Ben Steele  
Engineering Instructor





**BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL**



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Guidance: 740.965.2243      43074



**BIG WALNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL**



555 S Old 3C Hwy      Office: 740.965.3006  
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**BIG WALNUT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**



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**BIG WALNUT ELEMENTARY**



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**EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT HARRISON STREET**



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43074