February 2024

The Eagle Examiner

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

Back to the Grind

Buckeye Chuck and Punxsutawney Phil emerged from their dwellings without seeing their shadows, which supposedly means an early spring. Looking at the forecast for the rest of this week, they might be onto something.

We have had a few weather events this school year, and I want to thank the members of our team who are out checking the roads at 4:15 AM, assessing the road conditions, whether it be snow, ice, or fog. Generally, we like to make the decision on a delay or closing by 5:30 AM. Up to this point, we have closed school twice and delayed once. The state used to give each school district five calamity days, but that is no longer the case. It is based on meeting a required number of hours per year, and we exceed that standard by a large amount, so I do not see a scenario in which we would have to have students make up any days.

I can tell you of one more calamity day that will be coming up, and that will be April 8th, the date of the solar eclipse. We are right on the edge of the total eclipse zone. Due to the number of people who will be coming to Delaware County to see this event, there is the real possibility of gridlock on the roads, which could present a problem in getting our buses to the elementary schools for afternoon dismissal. As a precaution, we will be using a calamity day on that day. Stay tuned for Penny the Puppy's official announcement closer to the event.

Message from the Superintendent

Ryan McLane

Board of Education

Stephen Fujii
President
Board of Education

I am honored and grateful to the Big Walnut community for re-electing me to the Board of Education, and I extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Board Members for entrusting me with the role of President. As we embark on a new chapter, I am excited to share the proactive steps our board has taken to address the arrival of Intel and the positive impact it will have on the Sunbury/Big Walnut schools.

The news of Intel coming to our community has sparked numerous conversations and strategic planning within our Board. Recognizing the significance of this development, the Mayor addressed it in the inaugural State of the City, and the Sunbury Chamber of Commerce hosted a speaker to delve into the potential impact on our area. "Intel on Intel" was extremely informative for our community and our Board.

Over the past two years of my initial tenure and now my future tenure, our Board has engaged in extensive discussions and taken decisive actions to prepare for the changes Intel will bring. One of the first key actions was reinforcing our governance and oversight role, ensuring we have a capable Superintendent and Treasurer to lead a top-notch administrative team.

Once we found our perfect Superintendent in Ryan McLane, and Treasurer in Darren Jenkins, the Board empowered them to hire the best personnel, including Assistant Superintendents, Facilities Managers, Transportation experts, and Communication professionals, emphasizing our commitment to academic excellence. We can't do these things alone, we need a great team to make Big Walnut the best it can be.

Our Board has embraced creative problem-solving to address the challenges and opportunities presented by "Intel." Restructuring our school grade bands not only aligns with educational expectations but also accommodates the academic needs of our students. This approach allows us to maximize our current facilities efficiently, facilitating growth without burdening taxpayers with additional construction costs. Furthermore, these creative adjustments ensure the optimal utilization of resources without seeking extra funds from our community, a testament to our commitment to responsible fiscal management. That's not to say there weren't unintended consequences. A small change in the bell schedule and start/stop times of the school day was a necessary change. This small change helped fix a large issue that arose within our bussing and transportation plans. By shifting the bell schedule just ten minutes either way, we were able to drastically limit the amount of time students would spend on the bus.

In response to the arrival of Intel, our Board has actively engaged with the community and key stakeholders. Four of our Board members attended the "Intel on Intel" conversation, fostering relationships with this major company. Additionally, we appreciate the support of Big Walnut and the Sunbury Chamber of Commerce for hosting events like the "Intel on Intel" conversation and Mayor St. John's inaugural State of the City address.

Our Board has worked closely with Mayor St. John and the City of Sunbury to establish a limited industrial corridor. This strategic initiative aims to diversify tax revenue, potentially easing the burden on property owners. We want to say thank you for the continued partnership with the City of Sunbury in this endeavor.

We know we will have challenges. I also recognize this will be an opportunity truly like none other in the history of our district. We do not KNOW what the future holds. But in the short term, I can say with confidence that these are some of the actions our board has taken in order to address the impact of Intel appropriately. In addition, these actions have the ultimate benefit of being good for kids and being appropriate for our community.

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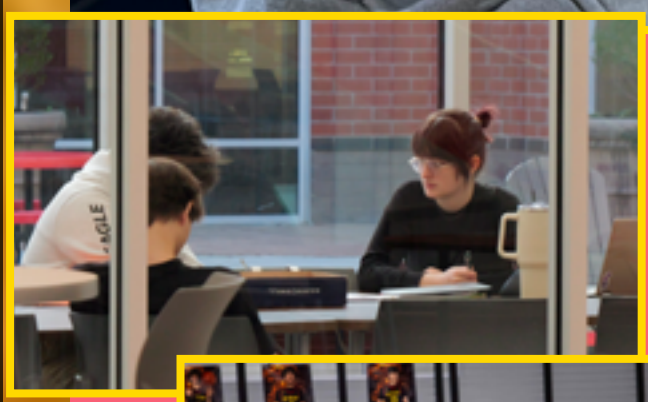


Big Walnut Engineering Program

Introduction to Engineering Design:

Fixing a Toy at the High School

Ben Steele
Engineering Instructor

Over the last two weeks, Mr. Steele's Introduction to Engineering Design students were tasked to redesign a broken fidget toy. In groups they redesigned their part to make the whole toy rotate correctly. Using the CAD software, Fusion 360, students were able to correct flaws in the original design and rebuild the toy before 3D printing their corrected pieces. Finally they rebuilt the toy with their new pieces to see how well it worked or if there were still modifications to make. Pictured is one of the students assessing how well her groups' fidget toy works. This is one of the major redesign projects that Mr. Steele has his students do in Intro to Engineering Design.

Pre-Engineering:

Popsicle Bridge Competition at the Middle School

In the second semester, Mr. Steele's Middle School Pre-Engineering students were asked to build a bridge, using only 75 popsicle sticks and wood glue. Students designed their bridges on TinkerCAD, built them, and then tested each one to see how much weight they could hold before they broke. Students were also given a chance to predict the location that their bridge would fail for additional points. Pictured is the testing process that the class used to determine how much weight it could hold before failure. Students learn failure is a necessary part of the process when discovering what works best. This is just one of the projects that Mr. Steele has his students do in Pre-Engineering.

Agricultural Science Program

Jeffrey Stimmell
Agricultural Sciences Instructor

Scheduling season is here for students in the middle and high schools. In the last few editions of the Eagle Examiner, we have explained how the agricultural science program includes components people traditionally think of as agriculture and that the program encompasses new and evolving components to meet the needs of Ohio's #1 industry.

More than 200 students are enrolled this year in six agricultural science courses – Exploratory Agriculture at Big Walnut Middle School and Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources; Animal & Plant Science; Business Management; Food & Culinary Science; and Veterinary Science. These courses and one new one – Applications of Food Science at the high school – will be offered next year. We're hoping to welcome even more students to the program moving forward and strengthen the existing opportunities provided to students.

In this edition, we wanted to include an overview of the agricultural science courses offered in the district. If you or your students have questions, please encourage them to contact Mr. Jeffrey Stimmell or Ms. Christine Balint to learn more. Students in grades 6-11 may schedule these classes with their school counselors during their scheduling time.

- **Exploratory Agriculture (BWMS)** is an overview of the agriculture industry. Students learn about plants, animals, and the food they eat and have the chance to complete hands-on projects and labs, including learning how to make ice cream.
- **Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources (BWHS)** explores seven career fields within agriculture – animal science, biotechnology, business management, food science, engineering, environmental science, and plant science. Students will be actively engaged in labs and real-life problems in this class.
- **Animal & Plant Science (BWHS)** dives deep into two of the main sectors of the agriculture industry – animal science and plant production. Students will learn more about all types of animals and will explore uses for plants, including investigating floral design.
- **Applications of Food Science (BWHS)** allows students to apply food processing skills to various food product types. In this class, we will process fruits, vegetables, and dairy products and learn how to transform food into a more appealing form.
- **Business Management (BWHS)** is an opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship and develop business skills. Students will explore legal business requirements, inventory management, sales and marketing, and other skills needed to operate a business successfully. This course meets the financial literacy requirement for graduation, and students can earn a CTAG college credit upon completing the course.
- **Food & Culinary Science (BWHS)** challenges students to think differently about their food. In this class, students learn the science and technology aspects of food processing and cooking procedures. Students can earn a CTAG college credit upon completing the course.
- **Veterinary Science (BWHS)** allows students to learn about animals and the animal industry. Students complete hands-on labs and projects to learn about animal body systems and build skills needed to succeed in many animal-related careers, including veterinary medicine.

We're excited to continue offering dynamic courses to prepare students to become employed or enroll in higher education. Scheduling season is exciting, and we look forward to welcoming new students to our program next school year.

High School Sports

Brian Shelton
Big Walnut High School
Athletic Director

The School Pride organization installed the long-awaited new Big Walnut High School Wall of Fame on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. This project was years in the making, involving the digitizing of all Wall of Fame pictures and the development of a new design that aligns with the high school's new look. Tabatha Piper and Teresa Piper were instrumental in creating the new Big Walnut High School Hall of Fame.

The Big Walnut HS Athletic Wall of Fame began back in 1995 with the legendary Ron Lehman, who currently coaches volleyball at the high school being the first inductee. The Wall of Fame currently boasts 65 inductees, who are listed below.

Big Walnut Athletics has a proud legacy of producing outstanding athletes, coaches, and support staff. Since becoming the AD 11 years ago, I have had the privilege of meeting many of our inductees. Every fall, we welcome new members at our hall of fame ceremony football game. The most recent additions to the Wall of Fame are Braden Fleak, Zach Mason, and Heather Moore.

The new display can be found at the end of the main hallway leading to the gym past the concession stand. In the coming year, the high school trophy cases will also be updated to align with the Hall of Fame display.

Check the Big Walnut HS Athletics website on March 1, 2024, to nominate potential 2024 inductees.

Big Walnut Athletic Hall of Fame

Name	Year Inducted
Braden Fleak	2023
Zach Mason	2023
Heather Moore	2023
Steve Glesenkamp	2022
Summer Hale	2022
Brant Weiss	2022
Skylar Fleak	2021
Steve Fleak	2021
Ellie Jindra	2021
Megan Zirger	2021
Slone Fleak Thacker	2019
Joe Evener	2019
Ken Ault	2019
Karen Hamm	2019
Austin Crow	2018
Marke Forman	2018
Janet Robey Lehman	2018
Tabatha Piper	2018
Jerry Williams	2017
Jana Droddy Shipley	2017
Tyler Fifer	2017

Name	Year Inducted
Robert "Bob" Shoemaker	2017
Russell C. Fravel	2017
Mark Matthews	2016
Brea Medlock	2016
Matthew "Matt" Bale	2015
Nick Heiden	2015
Steve Kesler	2015
Glenn Evans	2014
Taylor Jonard	2014
Mike Ryder	2014
Brittany Low	2013
Scott McCaughey	2013
Gary Henry	2013
Lenny Lepola	2013
Scott Wetzel	2012
Brad Rhoden	2011
Megan Forman	2011
Milan Orr	2010
Odis Horsley	2010
Kristen Shockley	2010
Charles Workman	2009

Name	Year Inducted
Ric Cavicchia	2008
Dean Duffey	2008
Martin Forman	2008
Courtney Stelzer	2007
Howard Bricker	2007
Rollie DeLong	2007
David Bowman	2006
Joyce Barker	2006
Nickole Kennedy	2006
Myron Burt	2005
Carl Seeger	2005
Dennis Edwards, Jr.	2005
Jim Boyd	2004
Ed Hoke	2004
Trevor Stover	2004
Beth Hutson Warner	2003
David Miller	2003
Jason Manns	2003
Don "Red" Edwards	2002
Jerry Rensi	2002
Norm Nelson	2002
Ron Lehman	1995

Middle School Sports

The winter season has officially come to a close at BWMS, and it was one that was filled with a ton of success for our teams. All of our coaches spent countless hours working with our student-athletes to help them grow both inside and outside the athletic arena, and I cannot thank them enough for their hard work and dedication. While I could share enough news to fill the entire Eagle Examiner with just how amazing our student-athletes are, I have chosen the following to highlight our teams:

- The 7th-grade boys' basketball team became the first team ever to win the 16-team Dublin Invitational by defeating Dublin Karrer 45-26 in the championship game on Saturday, 2/3. Congrats to Coach Tyler Beam and the boys on a tremendous season where they finished 19-1!
- Led by Coach Eric Myers, the 8th-grade boys' basketball team finished the regular season on a 7-game winning streak before continuing that streak early in their Gahanna Tourney.
- Led by Coach Danielle Horsley, the 7th grade girls' basketball team won the consolation bracket of the 3rd Annual BWMS Hoop-A-Rama.
- The 8th grade girls' basketball team, led by Coach Nicole Huffman, overcame several injuries over the course of the season to finish with a winning record.
- Coach RJ Martin and Coach Ryan Coletta led the boys' wrestling team to a nearly perfect dual season and had several wrestlers earn top 3 places in invitationals.
- In their first season, the girls' wrestling team, led by Coach Jack Reall, has set the tone for a successful future by placing no lower than 4th in all of their invitationals.
- The competition cheer squad, led by Coach Kristen Carty and Coach Kaylee Yarnell, earned 1st place at their state meet and also won Best Crowd Leading as a group.

Joe Rucker
Big Walnut Middle School
Athletic Director

Our sights are now set on moving ahead to the spring sports season. As a reminder, we have set the following dates as the start of tryouts (if necessary) for each sport:

Boys / Girls Lacrosse - Tuesday, 2/20
Baseball - Tuesday, 2/20
Softball - Tuesday, 2/20
Boys / Girls Track - Monday, 3/4
Boys Tennis - Monday, 3/4

Competitions/games for our spring sports teams do not begin until after Spring Break (3/25 - 3/30). With that said, once we get to April, the season gets rolling, and we have events nearly every day until mid-May. Please come out and support our student-athletes as they continue the success of our fall and winter seasons.

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

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

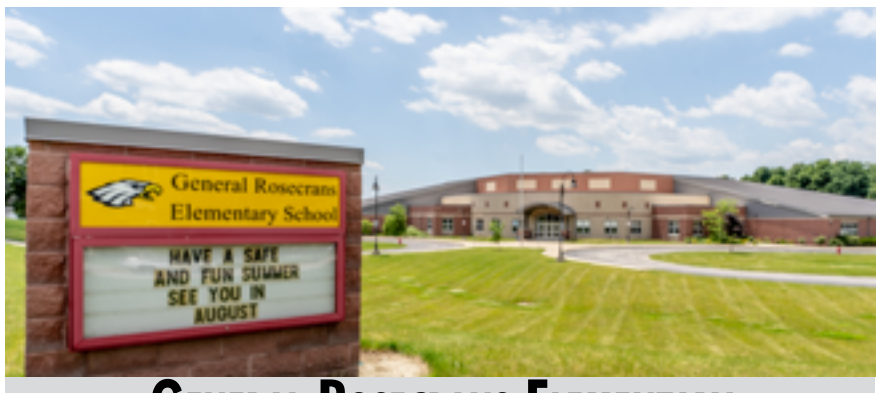
Office: 740.965.7800
Fax: 740.965.7801

777 Cheshire Rd
Sunbury, OH
43074

Big Walnut Elementary

940 S Old 3C Hwy
Sunbury, OH
43074

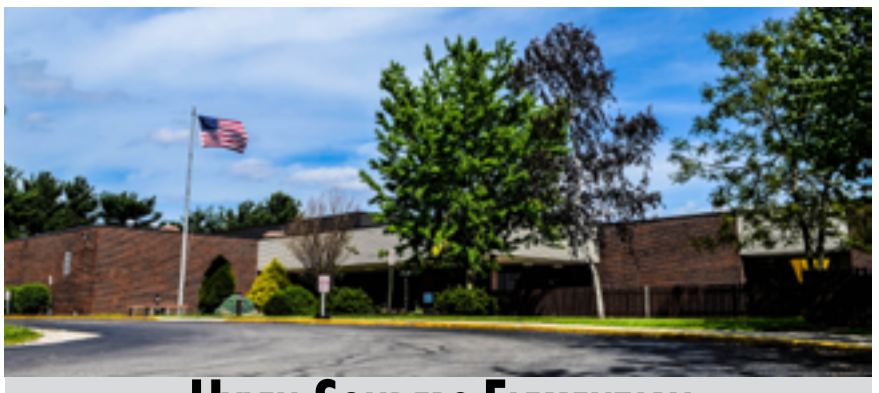
Office: 740.965.3902
Fax: 740.965.3168



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
43074

Early Learning Center at Harrison Street

70 Harrison St
Sunbury, OH
43074

Office: 740.965.7862