

January
2024

The
Eagle Examiner



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





MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed some time with family and friends over the holidays. I had a chance to get away for a bit over the break and to be honest, it is exactly what I needed. It was exciting to see everyone back on campus last week, and we are hitting the ground running with the second semester.

As we move ahead in 2024, I am focusing on our district’s goal of ensuring that Big Walnut graduates are prepared to Enlist, Enroll, or be Employed. Our team is working to improve and expand the opportunities available for students to meet these goals. While this may seem like a focus at the high school level, the improvements we are making at the elementary level with regard to writing and literacy will have a long-term impact on these goals.

Outside of the academic setting, our students have many opportunities when it comes to extra-curricular activities. Many of our winter athletic programs are off to great starts, and it will be tournament time before we know it. If you have not been out to see our kids compete, I’d encourage you to come out and see a game or competition.

In the coming weeks, we will release more specific information on start and end times for our schools for the 2024-25 school year as well as our plans for the solar eclipse on April 8th.

As always, I look forward to seeing you on campus at an event or around town.



Ryan McLane

Alyssa McLean



**Mr.
McElf**





BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Big Walnut Local School District proudly announces Stephen Fujii as the newly elected President of the Board of Education! With an illustrious history of service and a deep commitment to education, Fujii's re-election in November speaks volumes about his exceptional leadership qualities. His prior tenure as a dedicated board member, coupled with his background as a principal within our district, reflects an invaluable blend of experience and insight that resonates profoundly with our educational community.

Fujii's dedication to fostering a robust educational environment is evident through his strong advocacy for student-centered learning. Living within the district and entrusting his own children to its schools, Fujii shows a personal investment in the success and growth of our students and schools. His leadership is poised to guide us towards continued progress and excellence.

The district is honored to welcome back Stephen Fujii as President of the Board, confident that his steadfast commitment and vision will further elevate the educational journey of every student within the Big Walnut community.



Stephen Fujii
President
Board of Education



Zach Duffey
Board of Education

The Big Walnut Local School District welcomes Zach Duffey to the Board of Education! Zach's roots in Central Ohio run deep, reflecting a passion for community and education instilled from an early age. His experiences, from serving on missions in Guatemala to innovating educational programs locally, exemplify his commitment to youth development. Zach's journey, including his work in his family businesses and his dedication to family, resonates deeply with the values we cherish.

Zach's commitment to education and his own children's learning showcase a dedication to education. This promises a meaningful contribution to our district's future.

As a husband, father of six, and a successful entrepreneur, Zach embodies the kind of passionate, community-driven leadership that will undoubtedly enrich the educational landscape for all within the Big Walnut community. Welcome, Zach Duffey—we eagerly anticipate the positive impact your insights and dedication will bring to our district!

Introduction to Engineering Design:

Favorite Donut Boxes for Standardized Brewing

In the first semester of Mr. Steele's Introduction to Engineering Design, students were asked to develop a prototype donut box for a coffee shop. Students interviewed the owner



to determine the criteria, took measurements, and taste-tested the donuts for their box designs. Once designs were complete, they presented their box to the owner, pitching why their box should be chosen for approval. Pictured are the boxes selected from each class period. This is just one of the design projects Mr. Steele has his students do in Introduction to Engineering Design.

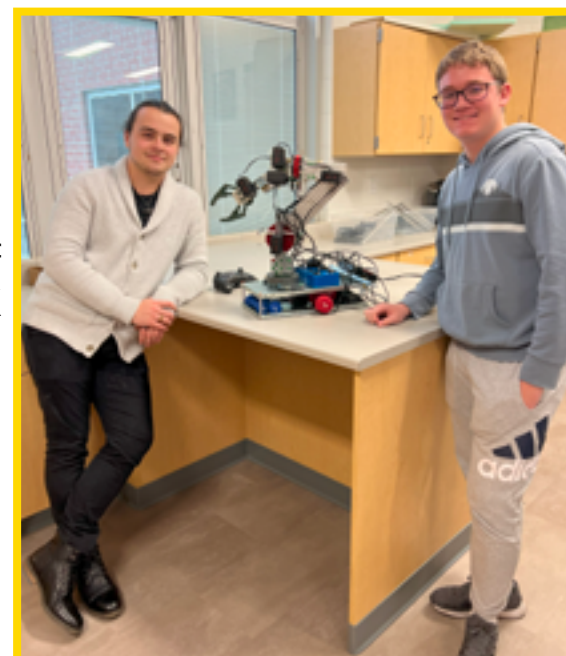


Ben Steele
Engineering Instructor

Principles of Engineering:

Will & Derek - Robotic Arm for Doctors

The Principles of Engineering course included a midterm exam different from any other! Students in Mr. Steele's class were asked to select from a variety of problems and create a solution. By writing code and downloading it to VEX robotics, students were able to program a robot to complete the task. One group of students created a robotic arm that moved on three different axes to help doctors remove different instruments. Along with robotics, students in Principles of Engineering experience a variety of topics, such as energy, statics, and fluid power. Using a project-based learning approach, Mr. Steele's students work to create solutions for everyday obstacles.





BIG WALNUT - DACC AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE PROGRAM IS BLOOMING



Jeffrey Stimmell
Agricultural Sciences Instructor

A remarkable transformation is taking place in the ever-evolving landscape of agricultural education. What was once a program dedicated to traditional agricultural production has blossomed to encompass agricultural production as well as a diverse range of studies that develop numerous life skills.

The Sunbury FFA was one of the founding members of the Ohio FFA Association in 1929. With agriculture classes offered as early as 1918, the program originally centered around students working on family farms. However, as times have changed, so have the students' interests. Today, they excel and compete in various Career Development Events (CDEs). CDEs expand upon classroom curriculum and open opportunities to develop life skills for our students. Big Walnut - DACC agricultural science students have learned and competed in CDEs such as job interviews, public speaking, food science and technology, ag issues forums, equine management, livestock evaluation, biotechnology, and floriculture.

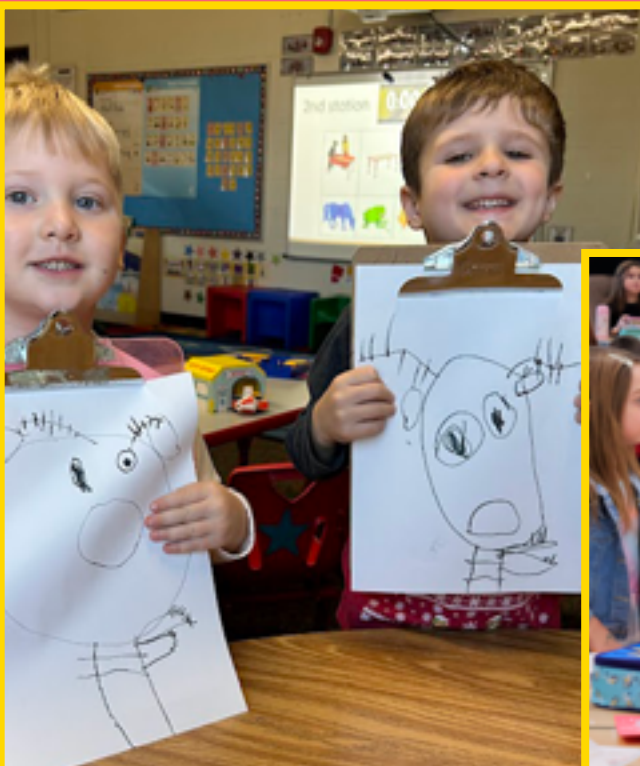
To give a brief insight into the diverse skills our students are gaining, one of the CDEs Big Walnut students have been successful in is Floriculture. This CDE tests students' ability to identify plants, evaluate floral designs, demonstrate growing procedures, understand sales and marketing, how to successfully work with customers, and build a business plan. Students are preparing for competition by working with industry professionals. Many of those professionals are from right here in our community. We also have some industry professionals who chose to come from afar and dedicate their time to our students. Because of the dedication of numerous people, our students are gaining so much more than knowledge. They are gaining a professional network, which is a stepping stone to a successful career.

With interest continuing to flourish in floriculture, the agricultural science program is integrating flowers into service projects and fundraising opportunities. It is providing students with a holistic experience combining learning, skill development, and community engagement. In addition to the career development event, the FFA members have organized a Valentine's Day pre-order sale of their handcrafted floral arrangements. Students will market, create, and sell these beautiful arrangements to community members. The proceeds from this thoughtful initiative will directly benefit the FFA chapter, providing funds for future activities, educational trips, and resources to support the chapter's growth.

Our students have a commitment to their education and their community. The introduction of floriculture into the agricultural science program marks a significant evolution, reflecting agricultural education's adaptability and forward-thinking nature. It is a testament to the dedication of the FFA advisors and the students' eagerness to embrace new opportunities within agriculture.

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).







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MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

Ready or not, 2024 is here! BWMS Athletics has been off to a fast start during the winter season and I'm sure things will only continue to heat up even as the weather cools down. I have witnessed firsthand just how much our student-athletes are improving individually, which is making a huge impact on each team making gains. Kudos to our coaches for all of the time and dedication they have put in thus far to help their players learn lessons both inside and outside the athletic arena. It goes without saying that we have a special group of student-athletes and coaches at BWMS.



8th Grade Boys Basketball



7th Grade Boys Basketball



8th Grade Girls Basketball



7th Grade Girls Basketball



While we are right in the middle of an exciting winter sports season, I do want to start helping our spring student-athletes and families begin planning for the upcoming season as well. We are now into the 3rd quarter, and the grades earned over the next several weeks will ultimately determine eligibility status for when games begin in April. The end of the 3rd quarter is on March 6th, and those wishing to participate in a sport at BWMS need to be passing a minimum of 4 courses in order to be eligible. For reference, our tryout dates look like this:

Boys/Girls Lacrosse - Tuesday, 2/20

Baseball - Tuesday, 2/20

Softball - Tuesday, 2/20

Track - Monday, 3/4

Boys Tennis - Monday, 3/4



Joe Rucker
Big Walnut Middle School
Athletic Director

One thing I want to highlight in this edition of The Eagle Examiner is the amazing crew we have working in our maintenance department. Led by Jim Hall and Travis Dickson, this group works tirelessly around the district in more ways than I can list. I know personally that I request help in some fashion weekly to support our athletic teams. Whether it's hauling wrestling and cheer mats, fixing broken things around the athletic facility, hanging things in hard-to-reach places, etc, I know for a fact that we would not be able to function properly without them. To the BWLS maintenance crew, I hope you know how much you are appreciated by everyone at BWMS!

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

GO EAGLES!!!





HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

The Big Walnut HS varsity boys' and girls' basketball teams are off to a stellar start to the winter season. Coach Brett Bartlett (9th season, boys) and Carey Largent (2nd season, girls) have their teams running on all cylinders.

The boys opened the season with two tough close losses at Berlin and state-ranked Hayes but have since won 7 straight games, and they are now 7-2 on the season. One of those wins was against local powerhouse Westerville South. Several key players lead the boys; however, senior Trent Minor (Ashland Commit) has had multiple 20-point-plus games in the 7-game winning streak.



The girls opened the season 1-2 with losses against undefeated Canal Winchester and 2023 OHSA District Champions Marysville but have since won 9 straight games, and they are now 10-2 on the season. During the 9-game winning streak, the Lady Eagles won the KSA tournament championship in Orlando, Florida, over the holiday break. The scoring leaders for the Lady Eagles are freshman Remi Largent, who is averaging 14.4 points per game, and junior Denza Allen, who is averaging 12.2 points per game.

Overall, the boys' and girls' teams combined are 17-4 on the season and off to the best start for both teams in over a decade. Under the new MaxPreps RPI ranking used for OHSA tournament seeding, the girls are ranked 64th, and the boys are ranked 70th, respectively, out of over 700 total schools.



Brian Shelton
Big Walnut High School
Athletic Director



Girls JV
Basketball
(Above)

Boys JV-A
Basketball
(Left)

Boys JV-B
Basketball
(Right)





HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Boys Wrestling



Girls Wrestling



Swimming and Diving



Gymnastics



Boys Bowling



Girls Bowling



Varsity Cheer



JV Cheer



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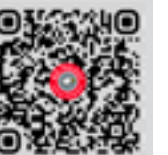
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