

October
2023

The
Eagle Examiner



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

HOMECOMING 2023

WE'RE SO
GLAD YOU
ARE HERE!





MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT



Ryan McLane

Before I came to Big Walnut to be the superintendent, I knew one of the challenges would be the enrollment growth of the district. In relation to our buildings, we are feeling that growth the most at the elementary level. Our principals and staff have had to get creative in many of our buildings to find classroom spaces by using areas that were not designed to be used as learning spaces. However, we are working with the space and resources we have.

In December of 2022, we began having serious discussions on options to handle this growth. The option that made the most sense from an academic and financial standpoint was to change our grade bands at the elementary, intermediate, and middle school levels. I first shared this idea publicly at our February 16, 2023 board meeting. We continued to monitor our enrollment data and trends throughout the end of last school year and into the summer. At the September 20th board meeting, I made the recommendation, which the board approved, to implement this plan and change the grade bands of our schools beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

This plan will not impact preschool at the ELC at Harrison Street. However, our four elementary buildings will now become kindergarten through 3rd grade buildings, Big Walnut Intermediate will serve students in grades 4 and 5, and Big Walnut Middle School will house grades 6-8. Big Walnut High School will continue serving grades 9-12. Again, this shift will take place next school year. This plan will free up about three to five classrooms at each of our elementary schools.

One of the biggest questions out there is what the start and end times will be at each level. Our goal is to continue to run our bus routes in two waves as we currently do. Our transportation department is working on different models based on the number of students we anticipate transporting and the number of bus drivers we have. Once we have a better idea of that information in the coming months, we will be able to make a decision and communicate those anticipated times with the community.

Our student enrollment has been growing at a rate of just under 3% since 2017. This plan will allow us to better utilize the space available at Big Walnut Middle School and buy us time at the elementary level before needing to open a fifth elementary school.

As we get closer to the end of the school year, we will make sure that our students who are being impacted by this transition do not miss out on any of the important traditions. For example, I anticipate a clap-out for both 3rd and 4th grade students at the elementary levels.

Big Walnut is a growing community, but more importantly, a wonderful community. I'm grateful to be a part of it.

Ryan McLane

CHILD CHECK 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 740.965.7862 or email bwpreschool@bwls.net

Call to Schedule an appointment
740.965.7862

SEE YOU THERE!
Child Check 2023-24
Friday, October 6th
Friday, February 2nd
Friday, April 12th



On Thursday, September 28, 2023, at age 85, Don "Red" Edwards passed away.

Red's obituary can be found at the QR Code below.

Visitation will be held at Snyder Funeral Homes DeVore Chapel on Thursday, October 5, 2023, from 2pm - 4pm and 6pm - 8pm. A funeral service will be held the following day at 1 p.m. A graveside service will occur directly after at Sunbury Memorial Park. A celebration of life will be held at Big Walnut Middle School Track and Field Stadium Saturday, October 21 at 10am. More details to follow.

On April 8, 2023, we held the 45th Red Edwards Golden Eagle Relays at Big Walnut HS. It was ironic that the first Golden Eagle Relays at the new high school just happened to be on Red's birthday.

When Teresa Piper and I presented the award in the pic below to Red, I never imagined that would be Red's last Golden Eagle Relays. Red was proud of the new high school, in fact, he was proud of everything red and gold. Red was in his 65th year of coaching track and field at Big Walnut High School. It's difficult to comprehend the number 65. Most people retire from their careers after 30 years but Red not only did not retire like others, he continued coaching up until his passing. Red loved his community, his school, and most importantly he loved his student-athletes. He committed his life to ensure that he continued to give back to the sport he cherished.

Red, a local resident of Sunbury, OH, graduated from Big Walnut High School in 1956, where he participated in track and his family owned business in town next to the school. Red is the founding member of the Sunbury Historical Society. Red was a custodian at Big Walnut High School for 26 years until he retired in 2002. Red started coaching track soon after he graduated from high school and has been coaching ever since, never missing a single season. After his retirement from being a custodian, during the winter months, Red used to work at Eddy's Beach Service in Florida.



In 1989, Red turned a former rental home into a Big Walnut Athletic Museum, which is home to a vast collection of Big Walnut artifacts. Red's favorite part of the museum is that at the end of each season, the cross country and track teams would go there for a pizza party. Many times, students will find artifacts from their parents or grandparents on display. Red has multiple detailed record books, but his pride and joy is the book that has every single coach who has ever worked at Big Walnut.

Coach Joe Evener stated, "Red Edwards will forever be a legend of Big Walnut, Track and Field, and Cross Country. Traveling with Red to meets or the Coaches Conference was like walking with a rockstar. Everyone knew him and everyone wanted to talk to him. He loved Big Walnut like no other person I have met. He had a passion for coaching and shared his knowledge with others willingly. There will never be another person like him."

Coach Kevin Lewis stated, "I first met Red Edwards way back in 1978 when I was a junior in college. In the almost half a century since he and I have traveled to track meets across the state and country. I've coached against him and for the last 10 years coached with him. In all that time, I can honestly say that I've never known a gentler, kinder, and decent man. Early on, I learned that Red had three great loves in his life: Track and Cross Country, Big Walnut High School, and the young people that he got to work with. Many times now I have told the athletes that I have the opportunity to coach that my greatest wish is that you will find something to be as passionate about as Red is about this sport and his athletes."

Coach Joe Weaver stated, "Dear Red I thank you, sir. From you, I learned the value of pride. Fitting your name is Red. I cannot recall a day you were not wearing red or gold or both. You wore the colors. You loved the colors. And more importantly, you loved all that wore the colors. Because of you sir, I wear Big Walnut colors and the name more than I do not. You set the standard of pride in the colors of Big Walnut and all those who wore them before and wear them now as well as in the future. Not many can honestly say that they constructed the legacy of a town and city and a school. You sir did just that. Because of you, I wear the colors red and gold with honor and pride. Because of you, many others do the same. We will do so for a long time to come. Every time I put on a BW shirt or hat or see someone wear red and gold I will think of the faded red and gold tassel hat you would wear that might have been from your high school days. Red (and gold) Edwards you will forever live on in the red and gold worn by all student-athletes at Big Walnut. At every state meet you sat in the same seat. Now you have the best seat to watch all the "Red and Gold" athletes that represent the pride you worked so hard to create. GO EAGLES. And thank you, sir."

Besides coaching at Big Walnut HS for 64 years plus, Red received the Ed Barker Award in 2012, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association gave him a Dedication of Service award for working the State Cross Country Championships for 48 years. The Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches gave Red a Dedication of Service award for 40 years of service to the State Track Meet. Additionally, Red has coached 20 state qualifiers and 3 state champions. In 2002, Red was inducted into the Big Walnut Athletic Hall of Fame and the Big Walnut Red Edwards Golden Eagle Relays which is in its 46th season is named after Red.

It's difficult to put into words what Red means to our community and what he meant to me as the athletic director.

I just know I am grateful for every single second I got to spend with Red.

Rest in peace, my dear friend. Your legend will never end at Big Walnut.....Go Eagles!!

Statement from the Athletic Director - Brian Shelton

Rest In Peace

*Don
"Red"
Edwards*

April 8, 1938 - September 28, 2023





HIGH SCHOOL

SPORTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Mike Stafford
Big Walnut High School
Head Baseball Coach

Mike Stafford, a former minor league baseball player and All-Big Ten selection for Ohio State, has been approved by the Board of Education to be the new head baseball coach at Big Walnut High School.

Stafford has previously worked as a coach at Ball State University, Ohio State University, and with the Columbus Clippers. He resides within the Big Walnut community with his wife Chelsea.

The Big Walnut Board of Education officially appointed Jack Reall as the head coach of the girls wrestling team at Big Walnut High School. The sport of girls wrestling has been rapidly growing in popularity, and it was adopted by the OHSAA for the 2022-23 school year. Coach Reall played a crucial role in starting the girls wrestling program at Big Walnut High School, and he has volunteered his time to support the team for the past couple of years. It is great news that Coach Reall's efforts have been recognized, and he has been appointed as the head coach.

Jack Reall won a gold medal in Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling at the 1993 World Police and Fire Olympics in Colorado Springs, and he was also an OHSAA wrestling referee.

Coach Reall joined the Big Walnut Wrestling program eight years ago as a middle school assistant coach and became a high school assistant coach six years ago. He and his wife, Brenda have been living in Sunbury since 1984.



Jack Reall
Big Walnut High School
Head Girls Wrestling Coach

It's hard to believe but the 2023 fall sports season is rapidly coming to a close at BWMS. Our last regular season games/matches are the second week of October, but we will have our boys & girls golf and cross country teams competing in post-season tournaments later in the month. We wish all of our student-athletes the best of luck as they close out what have been successful fall seasons across all sports.

With the end of the first quarter approaching (October 11th), we do want to remind all MS families that students need to pass a

minimum of four courses to be eligible to compete during the second quarter and the beginning of the winter season. And for those interested in playing a sport during the winter season, we offer boys and girls basketball, wrestling, and cheerleading as school-sponsored sports. In addition, we have a club diving team and a club coed indoor track team. Please check our athletic website at bigwalnutathletics.net for details on when practices or tryouts begin for each.

One thing I want to highlight about the fall season has been the overwhelming support shown to our student-athletes by families, friends and fellow classmates. If

you have attended a sporting event at BWMS, you know what I'm talking about. When I speak to visitors at our events they are always commenting about the number of spectators we have and the students that come to support their peers. It would be an understatement to say I sense a bit of jealousy on their part. Kudos to you all for supporting these amazing youngsters!

As always, if you have questions, feel free to call BWMS at 740-965-3006. The best MS athletic secretary in the business, Stephanie Kreager, or myself will be happy to assist you.



Joe Rucker
Big Walnut Middle School
Athletic Director



GO EAGLES!!!



FALL SPORTS SENIOR NIGHT SCHEDULE

Monday, 10/9 - 6:15p	Thursday, 10/12 - 6:30p
Boys Soccer	Girls Volleyball
Friday, 10/13 - 6:00p	Saturday, 10/21 - 11:00a
Football, Cheer, Band, & Color Guard	Boys & Girls Cross Country

2023 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CLASS

The Big Walnut Athletics Department and Big Walnut Community as a whole would like to congratulate our three inductees to the Big Walnut Athletic Hall of Fame.

A dinner and induction ceremony will take place Friday, October 6th at 4:30p in the high school academic commons. This will be followed by a pre-game ceremony at 6:30p in Big Walnut High School Stadium.



Braden Fleak

Class of 2006

4x All-OCC
3x All-District
3x All-Ohio
2x All-Midwest Regional
School record for goals (113) and assists (45)
2nd Team All-OCC Kicker



Zach Mason

Class of 2012

All-OCC
All-District
All-Ohio
All-Region
Central Ohio Super 12
Selection
OCC Capital POY



Heather (Moore) Barritt

Class of 1998

2x State Runner Up - Long Jump
Fifth in State - 100m Hurdles
8th in State - High Jump
2nd most points in a State Meet
Too many school, conference, and regional records to name.



WINTER SPORTS START DATES!

Winter sports season will be here before you know it! Write down these important dates to keep track of all our BWHS Sports!

Girls Basketball - 10/27
Swimming/Diving - 10/27
Boys Basketball - 11/3
Gymnastics - 11/3
Bowling - 11/6
Wrestling - 11/17
Indoor Track - TBD

STUDENT SERVICES

I am excited to announce that for the second year, the Student Services Department at Big Walnut Local Schools will be hosting a series of meetings in order to connect families of students with disabilities (IEPs and Section 504 Plans). This parent and family support group has been named "The Big Walnut Student Services Collaborative."

The group aims to:

- Discuss and advocate for the needs of our students with special needs.
- Help families and the school district access additional resources.
- Build a support network for families.
- Provide a reminder to families that you are not alone.

Each of the meetings typically has a different topic, with those topics being shared in advance so that families can plan to attend the sessions that are most relevant to their unique situation. Last year, some of the key topics included Dyslexia, Mental Health, Transitioning between buildings, Supports available within Delaware County, and the most popular: Dr. Steven Guy's presentation on the topic of Executive Functioning. We recorded his presentation, which can be viewed [HERE](#), or by following the QR code on this page.

For the 2023-24 school year, we have set dates for our meetings as well as a few established topics with other topics and guest speakers to be announced later. Currently, the planned dates and topics are as follows:

DATE	TOPIC
Tuesday, Oct. 24	Overview of our Specialized Learning Centers (SLCs) throughout the District
Wednesday, Nov. 8	Dyslexia, Response to Intervention, New Structured Literacy Interventions throughout PK-6, and Referrals for Special Education
Thursday, Dec. 7	Dr. Parker Houston: Central Ohio Pediatric Behavioral Health
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Summer Fair (an early heads-up on summer opportunities for students with disabilities)
Tuesday, Feb. 20	Jennifer Jury: Acadia Psychology & Learning Services
Tuesday, March 19	TBD

Each date, there will be two meetings with the same content covered at each meeting. Meetings will be held at: 9:00-10:30 a.m. & 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Meetings are conducted in-person at the Administrative Offices (110 Tippet Ct., Sunbury, OH) unless noted otherwise.

If you are interested in learning more information about the Big Walnut Student Services Collaborative or have any questions, please reach out to Ross Linscott, Director of Student Services at RossLinscott@bwls.net.



Ross Linscott
Director of Student Services





BANK'S NOTE



Darren Jenkins
Treasurer

Local tax revenues are impacted by state law and Ohio's Constitution. Property taxes are calculated based on the underlying value of the property. Since property values change over time, Ohio has a statutory process in place to reappraise every property every six years, along with a triennial update every three years. 2023 was a reappraisal year for Delaware County.

Per the Delaware County Auditor, property owners should be receiving proposed new property values anytime. These proposed rates are set by the Ohio Department of Taxation. While the county-wide average increase in residential property values is 35%, property values will vary neighborhood by neighborhood based on recent sales. Based on the most recent data supplied from the Delaware County Auditor, property values in the Big Walnut Local School District will increase an average of 28.27%. It is important to keep in mind that district residents pay taxes on assessed values of real property. In Ohio, real property is assessed at 35% of its appraised or market value for taxation purposes; thus, taxpayers are taxed on 35% of their property's appraised value.

When property values increase, this does not necessarily mean an increase in property

taxes. This is due to House Bill 920 passed in 1976, to limit the growth of property taxes. HB 920 works by reducing what is called the 'effective millage' or tax rate, so property owners pay roughly the same amount as they did the year before, all other factors being equal. Therefore, a school district collects roughly the same amount as it did the years before the reappraisal on voted levies. Said another way, as property values increase tax rates decrease so school districts receive the same amount of money for voted operating levies. There are a number of exceptions to this including new construction. However, residents will see an increase on unvoted levies also referred to as inside millage or inside the 10-mill limitation.

As an accompanying measure the Ohio General Assembly established the 20-mill floor in 1977. The General Assembly kept this legislation because of their belief that each district's residents had an obligation to support their district at a minimum level and their recognition that not every part of Ohio has growth to the same degree. For school districts at the 20-mill floor, the tax reduction factor will not be able to offset the increase in property taxes. Delaware County has three school districts at the 20-mill floor, Big Walnut Local Schools, Buckeye Valley Local Schools, and Delaware City Schools. A 35% increase in property values will result in tax increases that are greater than 4%. As I indicated earlier, Big Walnut's average increase is 28.27%. Additionally, school districts must levy 20 operating mills per ORC 319.301 in order to qualify for the state foundation program under ORC 3317.

The Big Walnut Local School District is currently working proactively to develop a plan to use some of these funds for much needed capital improvements, updating outdated instructional materials, and developing a reserve fund for facility and capital improvements which will be needed in the future.

Big Nut Strut

There is still time left to register for the 2023 Big Nut Strut. Registration ends on race day: Sunday, 10/08 for all events!

In-Person 5k Run/Walk

\$30 - 2:00p

In-Person 1 Mile Walk

\$30 - 2:00p

Virtual 5k Run/Walk

\$30

Virtual 1 Mile Walk

\$30



**DELAWARE COUNTY
2023 TRANSITION FAIR**

ACTIVITIES:

- Food trucks
- Family and Community Resources
- Caricature Drawings
- Post-Secondary Services
- Photo booth
- Informative Breakout Sessions
 - For more information please click [HERE](#)
- And MUCH MORE!

DELAWARE AREA CAREER CENTER
4565 COLUMBUS PIKE
DELAWARE, OH 43015

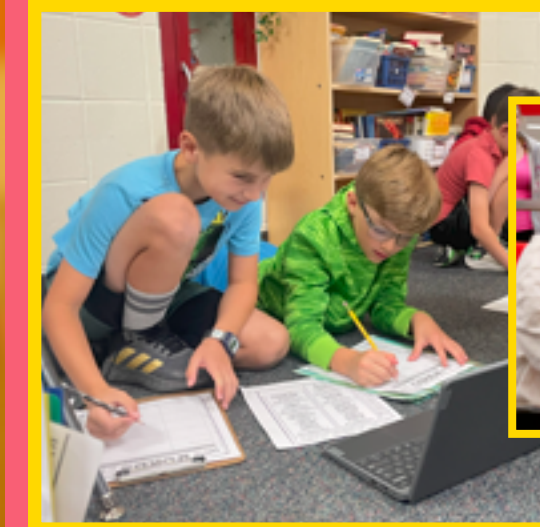
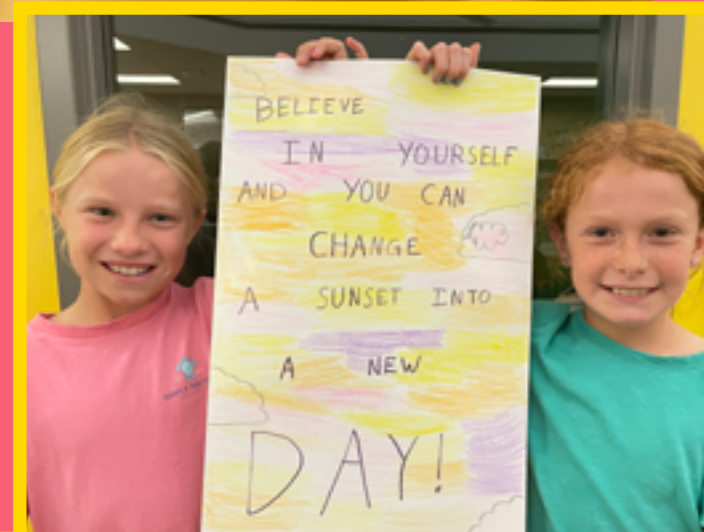
**TUESDAY
OCTOBER
10TH**



WE'RE HIRING

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

Apply Now!





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
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