BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS
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Sunbury, Ohio 43074

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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Eagle Examiner

SEPTEMBER 2021

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

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Brad Schneider

Last school year, I wrote about how our district's #1 goal was to keep kids in school 5 days a week. In order to do that, we would have to do some things that would be inconvenient and not necessarily everyone's personal preference. When I wrote that sentiment last year, masks were the first thing I was thinking about.

We went ahead with a school year wearing masks and taking other precautions and were able to execute a complete school year in person. We received nearly universal praise for doing what it took to keep our kids in school 5 days a week.

Our kids, in school, 5 days a week. That was my goal last year and it has not changed. But for some, that is not their primary goal.

I can respect that others have different goals than having our schools open and available for our kids 5 days a week. I don't take their goals and concerns lightly. I see their perspectives and understand their concerns.

Doug Crowl, Vice President Liana Lee, President Brad Schneider, Sherri Dorsch, Stephen P. Fujii

Like everything else related to the pandemic, things change and they can change quickly. That is why we are continuing to monitor our school data and the trends in the community.

I am pleased we are resuming our Pandemic Response Committee. This was a group that guided us towards our decisions last year and I believe it will be beneficial this year to help us make informed local decisions in our best interest.

I am also looking for availability of the vaccine for those ages 5-11. A vaccine is everyone's personal choice, but is not a choice as of today for our K-6 students and their families.

I'm also personally hopeful for revised quarantine procedures that are more reflective of an endemic, where health rules have only required students showing symptoms to be isolated. Quarantining of healthy students and staff has been the top risk to our operations this year.

If there is movement in any one of these 3 areas, our board will be reconsidering the current approach related to masks.

In the meantime, I have one simple request. Please be nice.

Disagreement about masks has been, and will continue to be, respected and acknowledged.

But berating our administration and staff serves zero purpose, as they have not made the choice the board has made. They are being asked to execute the decision in the best manner possible.

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG

I have composed this column multiple times in my head this month, but I am truly at a loss as to what to actually say to a community that is becoming more and more divided with every day that passes. As a community member and a mother of a graduate and two children still in our district, I am saddened by the hatred that I see in the community where I choose to live and raise my children. As a superintendent, I am fearful for the future of public education, locally and nationally.

As I talk with colleagues at other districts in Central Ohio, the story is the same. School board meetings are battlegrounds, superintendents and board of education members are inundated with emails and phone calls from polarized groups and individuals demanding opposite actions, and staff members are-- like most Americans-- exhausted.

I just read a news article about a Worthington School Board member's post where she shared a threatening letter she received as a Board member. Their superintendent, Trent Bowers, also posted a recent blog that went viral. I could not have described my own feelings any better than he did in that post. If you have not seen it, I would encourage you to take a moment to look it up and read it. In our Central Ohio Superintendent Association meetings, the story is pretty much the same in every district. We are all doing our best to serve our students, but everyone is at a breaking point.

As I continue to think about what might help, the following thoughts come to mind:

Please be kind. Let's start a wave of kindness to counteract the wave of hatred that is sweeping through our community and nation. Can you ask the same questions in an email without being disrespectful? Can you express your opinion on Facebook without personally attacking others?

Show empathy. For some reason, this word has been given a negative connotation lately, but I can't understand why. As a mom, this is one of the traits I try to foster in my children Empathy keeps us from being narcissistic and helps us understand people with different perspectives. In today's society, we need it more than ever.

Presume positive intentions. Our administrative team has this as one of our group norms: "We will assume that others' intentions are positive, which will encourage honest conversation about important matters." We work hard to hold each other accountable to this and all of our norms, and we keep each other in check when we aren't staying true to our norms**.**

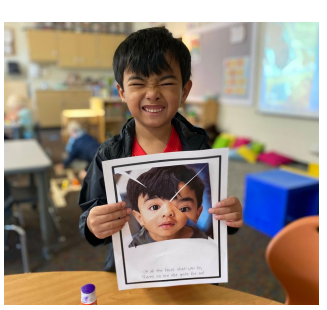
Advocate for your child in a productive way. We encourage you to advocate for your child, but please do this by having a respectful discussion with the appropriate staff member(s) to problem-solve versus using social media as a platform.

Model respectful disagreement. The ability to have a civil, respectful disagreement is becoming a lost art in our society. Our children are growing up seeing adults who partake in "cancel culture," who decide a person is bad or good based on their political views, and who are ruthless keyboard warriors.

We talk to our teachers about how critical it is to teach kids how to analyze a variety of sources, determine a source's credibility, and have a civilized debate. The basic skill of discerning fact from opinion, introduced in our standards in primary school, is becoming harder to practice with today's media and social media.

If you haven't seen *The Social Dilemma* on Netflix, I strongly encourage you to watch it. We watched it as a family and our kids were surprisingly riveted (which doesn't happen much with our boys when watching shows that don't include some type of ball). While I appreciated the show for a lot of reasons, relevant to this point are the graphs shown regarding how much more polarized our society has become since social media came along. One of the main reasons for this is the algorithms that show users opinions like theirs or posts from people they like. This creates the concept that "everyone agrees with me" and makes it harder to find common ground when someone does disagree.

I don't know what else to say, other than that I believe our kids deserve better from us. When I walk through our schools and interact with our kids, masked or not, it feels good. I get excited about our vision and the work we have done so far. I look forward to our next steps in implementing our Eagle Profile, I think about transitioning to our beautiful (and bigger) new high school, and I am honored to play a part in educating our community's children. When I am not in that space, I feel sad, stressed, and frustrated. I am hoping we can take more time to try to truly consider others' views, as I believe we all deeply care about our kids, and come together as a community to create a welcoming environment for everyone.



TURF PROJECT POSTPONED

Athletic Director Brian Shelton

In our May edition, we shared that we were partnering with North Coast Athletic Association who has offered to pay for a new turf field at our current high school. We contracted with Astro Turf, the same company completing the new turf contract at our new high school.

I was notified by AstroTurf that they had a worker shortage in their factory and the turf to be added to the current BWHS football field would not be completed until September 2021. This delay forced the decision to move the turf project to begin after the completion of the fall 2021 athletic season. Ultimately, I did not want our student- athletes missing out on home games while the turf project was being completed. The uncertainty of the current supply chains also played an important role in this decision since more delays could be possible.

We are enjoying a great start to our varsity football season and we are looking forward to watching our athletes compete on our new turf field in the future.

FEDERAL FUNDS HELP PAY FOR NEEDED SERVICES

Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk

Over the last six months, we have shared with the Board and community members at committee meetings how we are planning to use our American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) dollars. In summary, the allowable uses of these funds is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the effects of the coronavirus disease (‘‘COVID–19’’) pandemic on the Nation’s students by addressing students’ academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

The approximately $1.5 million in federal funds we were allocated are one-time dollars that can be used over the next three school years. We have tried to put together a balanced plan that accounts for the allowable uses, the district needs that were identified as goals last year, and the entire spending period. Instead of funding more positions in the first year, we opted for the more conservative approach to add less positions, but fund them for all three years. We felt that this was a prudent way to budget these funds to meet needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic, to make the initiatives more sustainable, and to help stretch our general fund dollars.

Our plan for the ARP ESSER funds includes the cost of two of our current instructional tutors and two additional instructional tutors to help support our students and address any identified learning losses or gaps. We also plan to provide two counselors at our elementary schools and an additional district-wide school psychologist to help meet the growing social-emotional wellness needs of our students. We believe these additional positions will help address the identified growth areas, as well as support students’ increased stresses or anxieties because of the pandemic. As an additional use of our funds, we plan to hire an additional school nurse to help continue meeting the physical health needs of our students.

As required by the ARP ESSER, we have prepared a Safe Return of In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan, which is posted on our website. This plan provides additional details regarding the uses of our federal funds and how we will continue to evaluate the specific needs of our students.

BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Hall of Fame Class of 2021

Skylar Fleak

Steve Fleak

Megan Zirger

Ellie Jindra

Thank you to BHWS student, Ethan Swager, his family, and fellow Eagle Scouts for updating the Hylen Souders' playground fence as his Eagle Scout project.

INTRODUCING OUR EAGLE PROFILE

At Big Walnut, our goal is to ensure students are successful in a constantly evolving and changing world. After graduation, whether students decide to ENLIST in the military, ENROLL in higher education, or be EMPLOYED in the workforce, they need universal life skills that will help them be successful in any future endeavor. We know that many of our students will work in careers that do not even exist today; therefore, teaching students universal skills that are most valued by employers is critical for future success.

In order to meet this goal, we created our Eagle Profile, which identifies five key skills needed to be successful in today's workforce.

During the 2019-20 school year, we worked with our Academic Advisory Committee to review research and identify which components would be most beneficial for us to explicitly focus on in the Eagle Profile. We surveyed our community to determine the final list for our Eagle Profile, found on the next page.

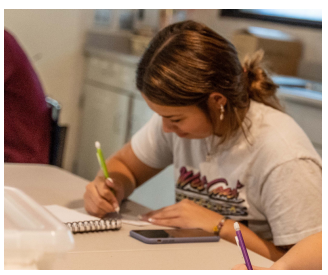
Over the next year, we will be working with our staff to explicitly teach and evaluate these skills in the classroom, then align these components to our report cards. We look forward to helping our students grow in these areas.

We will continue to follow our Big Walnut Academic Vision to Personalize Instruction, Engage Students, and Grow Minds as we emphasize the importance of these skills in our classrooms.

CHECK OUT OUR EAGLE PROFILE VIDEO

SCAN ME

Welcome back to school!



BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS | INSPIRE & GUIDE

OUR EAGLE PROFILE

All students will be taught and given feedback on all five skills.

ADAPTABLE LEARNER
Responds productively to change and feedback

COLLABORATOR
Works respectfully with diverse teams to accomplish common goals

COMMUNICATOR
Listens actively and articulates thoughts effectively to a variety of audiences

PROBLEM SOLVER
Analyzes and develops solutions to complex issues

RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN
Demonstrates integrity and empathy while making positive contributions to the community

OUR GOAL

Big Walnut graduates will be successful when they decide to:

- **ENLIST** *(Military)*
- **ENROLL** *(Higher Ed)*
- **EMPLOYED** *(Workforce)*

WHY IS THE EAGLE PROFILE SO IMPORTANT?

> "Fifty years ago, before the Internet, it made sense for schools to teach kids 'just facts.' But in today's world there is no longer a competitive advantage in knowing more than the person next to you because knowledge has become available with the swipe of a finger." Most Likely To Succeed Tony Wagner & Ted Dintersmith

We will continue to implement our Big Walnut Academic Vision to help our students master the skills in our Eagle Profile.

PERSONALIZE INSTRUCTION

ENGAGE STUDENTS

GROW MINDS

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

ANTHONY DENTAL CARE
740.965.4090
www.anthonydental.com

BIG WALNUT'S MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

WHO: MILITARY-CONNECTED FAMILIES

WHAT: AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET & TALK WITH OTHER MILITARY FAMILIES & SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR YOUR SERVICE

WHEN: FRIDAY OCTOBER 8, 2021
DINNER @ 5:45; GAME STARTS @ 7

WHEN: BWHS- DINNER OUTSIDE IN THE SOUTH END OF STADIUM

***WE WOULD LOVE TO CELEBRATE YOUR MILITARY FAMILY AT THE GAME BY DISPLAYING A PICTURE. PLEASE SEND IN OR EMAIL A PICTURE AND COMPLETE THE ATTACHED INFORMATION WITH YOUR CHILD(REN) BY OCT. 1, 2021 TO MATT COX AT MATTCOX@BWLS.NET.*

Sunbury Chiropractic
www.sunburychiropractic.com
740.965.4301

Johnstown Chiropractic
www.johnstownchiropractic.com
740.967.2225

Your local path to wellness™

40th Anniversary Extravaganza Coupon

40% off

One in-office product*

Redeemable only at our Sunbury location on October 21, 2021

*Not valid on services. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase.

Sunbury Chiropractic is celebrating 40 years of serving YOU!

Join us on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at Sunbury Chiropractic for our 40th Anniversary celebration. We will have cookies from Boy Mom Bakery, kolaches and coffee from Kolacheez Coffee Bar, and Dr. Tom Erndt will make a guest appearance to draw our raffle winners!

Be sure to enter our **FREE** raffle at every appointment between now and October 21, 2021.

Raffle prizes include:

1. 60-Minute Massage Gift Certificate
2. Two Olentangy Berlin High School Winter Athletics Season Passes
3. Dinner/Dessert Combo ($100 PJ's Family Restaurant & $25 Whit's Gift Cards)
4. $100 Top Golf Gift Card
5. Family Plus Membership to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Don't miss out on celebrating 40 years of service to the Sunbury community!

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As the Big Walnut area continues to see exceptional growth, the Community Library in Sunbury continues to see increased demand for library services. Over the past five years, the use of the library collection grew on average 5% annually. During the three years before the coronavirus, we were averaging close to a 14% increase annually in program attendance.

Considering that the growth in population is not expected to slow any time soon, the Community Library has been developing a master facility plan to help us prepare for the additional demands on the library.

Throughout the past several months, Community Library has been working with Williams Architects to evaluate collections, programs, and services and to project demands on the library, so that we can adequately prepare for the future. As part of the process, we met with residents and community leaders to help us identify areas of potential growth.

Following is a quick summary of the identified areas of growth.

- Expanded children's area
- Dedicated teen space
- Expanded space for adult collections
- Additional meeting rooms
- More group study rooms
- Outdoor program space
- Expanded local history room
- Additional family restrooms
- Additional parking

As we finalize the plan, we would like to get community input to ensure that we are addressing the most pressing needs. To that end, we have scheduled two open houses at the library, where residents can review our plans and provide feedback.

The first open house is on Wednesday, September 29, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. The second open house is on Thursday, September 30, from 10:00am to 12:00pm. The more comments we get from the community, the better the plan will be, so we invite everyone to attend one of these sessions and let us know what you think.

The Community Library is located at 44 Burrer Drive in Sunbury. If you have any questions, contact us at info@yourcl.org or 740-965-3901.

This space was paid for by the Community Library.

Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT COULD GO HERE!

The Eagle Examiner is delivered monthly to approximately 13,000 households in our community.

For more information, email jenniferwilson@bwls.net

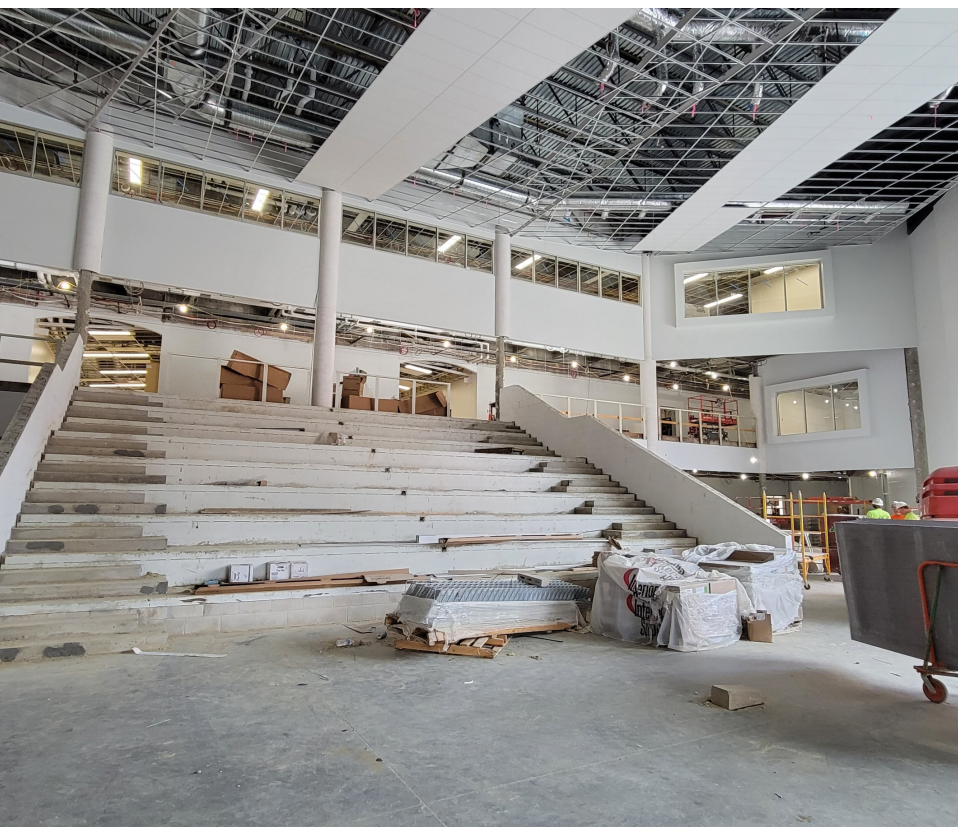
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Check out the progress on the new Big Walnut High School

Hallway leading to extended learning area

Courtyard off of the student dining area

Main gym with walking track



Academic commons learning stairs

Two classrooms with small-group room and extended learning area

Baseball/softball dugouts

Multi-use athletic building with ticket booth, restrooms, and concession stand

Home stands