

**BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS**  
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**BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS**

# The Eagle Examiner

 **JULY 2020** *Our mission is to inspire and guide each student to his or her maximum potential.* 

## A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG



This past school year, our administrative team broke into groups to explore professional books of interest. I chose *UnSelfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Today’s All-About-Me World* by Michele Borba. I was interested in this topic as both an educator and a mother. In today’s instant-gratification society that seems to become more polarized by the minute, I am convinced that empathy is the key to improving this world for our children. I highly recommend the book, and I especially appreciated the practical activities parents and educators could implement to help children develop empathy. One of the key ways students can learn empathy is through reading narratives that force them to “step into someone else’s shoes.” With the racial tensions and political polarization happening in our country today, our children are confused and are experiencing stress and anxiety at higher levels than usual. Summer is a great time to explore biographies and literature that may expose children to other points of view, which leads to the development of empathy for anyone with a perspective or culture “different than mine.”

I couldn’t agree more with Board President Brad Schneider’s column this month. He shares our approach to emphasizing the importance of respect for all people. We strive for this every day. As Brad mentions, we aren’t perfect. With just over 4000 students and all of the associated staff and parents that go with them, there are multitudes of opportunities for interactions between people in our district on a daily basis. We try to front load activities and lessons that teach respect as much as possible, but we know that like any school community, our students and adults don’t have a perfect record. As educators, we try to use these failures as an opportunity to learn and improve behavior moving forward. As a former middle school principal, I can tell you that my number one goal in dealing with conflict between students was to work with the students to help them see the other person’s perspective. Students who were able to do this were much more able to put their differences aside and move forward together.

*Continued on the back page*

“ **Self-absorption in all its forms kills empathy, let alone compassion. When we focus on ourselves, our world contracts as our problems and preoccupations loom large. But when we focus on others, OUR WORLD EXPANDS.** ”

*-Michele Borba*

REPENING

CHECK OUT PAGES 4-5 FOR  
BACK-TO-SCHOOL INFO



PLANS FOR FALL 2020

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Brad Schneider

Respect. It's a simple concept, but at times can be so difficult to give to others when we are angry, frustrated, think poorly of ourselves, or think only of ourselves.

Forms of behavior that take away another person's dignity or self-respect have never been tolerated within our District in my time on the Board. I have yet to meet a board member who would tolerate such behavior.

With that said, there are times where those behaviors occur in our community and times where members of our community are targets of those behaviors. Those behaviors can be demonstrated within our community, in our state, in our country and in the world beyond. Whether or not they occur here, they can have a deep impact on us.

So, what can we do about it in our school district? Our focus has



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

consistently been on supporting and teaching behaviors that improve the focus on respecting others. This includes listening to those who may be different from us and being respectful to their personal experiences.

These efforts start with our Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies at the elementary level and expand through our high school. At the higher grade levels, some of our programs focus on exposing our students to other students with similar goals, hopes and dreams, but happen to have different skin color, economic status, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or any number of other experiences that may make it hard for one to understand the perspectives of another.

Like any of our efforts in working with our students, we will never have a perfect batting average in making every student feel comfortable and respected during their school experience, but we have been, and always will be, committed to listening to all members of our community who experience situations that leave them feeling disrespected and work to eliminate that feeling as diligently as possible.

Additionally, we will continue to create conversations that will focus on the importance of respecting all people. Our actions will reflect those conversations.

How can you help? Demonstrate empathy and truly listen to those who are different from you physically, spiritually, and ideologically. Be respectful of everyone around you and model the behaviors of respect that you want to see all members of our community enjoy.



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



**Looking at Prairie Run Elementary (PRE) from the second floor of the high school**



**Watching the 3-floor classroom wing being built at the new high school**



**Looking at the new PRE dining area**



**Watching the construction of the high school's academic commons**



**Looking inside the new high school competition gym**



## SCHOOL FUNDING MADE MORE CHALLENGING BY PANDEMIC



**Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk** The end of another fiscal year is upon us, and we are working hard on our final procedures to close out one school year and prepare to start a new one. This spring and end of the school year have been unlike any we have experienced before and have felt like a roller coaster. Some of the peaks and valleys we have seen include mandated remote learning, canceling an election less than 24 hours before voting was to begin, passing our continuing substitute levy, having 14.7% of our state funding cut in May, and receiving 5.9% of this cut back in June. As we have tried to make our way through the challenges and unknowns, it has been a reminder of how important it is to plan, yet be able to adjust our plans, and take one day at a time.

Although there have been ups and downs, our revenues and expenditures are shaping up to be fairly balanced. Our general operating fund revenues will likely be under original estimates due to the 14.7% state funding reductions, which were put in place to help balance the state budget shortfalls from COVID-19. However, legislation was just approved that provides a payment to school districts like Big Walnut to ensure a district's net funding loss was not greater than 6%. The net loss amount takes into consideration the governor's fiscal year 2020 reductions and CARES Act allocations. Fortunately, this should provide us with \$375,206 back of the \$935,802 funds that were previously cut, for a net cut \$560,596.

On the expenditure side, all staff (instructional, support, and administrative) continue to have a focus to meet the needs of the students, but challenge themselves every day to try to meet these needs in the most cost-effective and efficient way. It is this strong team effort at every level of our district that has again allowed us to have successful academics while meeting the challenges of tight budgets. In addition, students and staff not being in our buildings due to remote learning have provided some level of savings, too. While these cannot be counted on during normal times, we estimate that several hundred thousand dollars of accumulated savings from areas such as extra time for staff, substitutes, utilities, classroom supplies, copier usage, building maintenance supplies and transportation supplies (including fuel) have aided us in remaining balanced.

We now turn our eyes to next year, which will be filled with many new challenges and unknowns. I am thankful for the hard work of all within our district and our supportive community. I am proud of how everyone pulls together in both the good and challenging times, and I hope next year is another good year, but less of a roller coaster ride.

## LEGAL NOTICE:

Big Walnut Local Schools will hold a public meeting to solicit community input regarding the use of all state and federal grants. The meeting will be held virtually on **Monday, July 20, 2020 from 1:00-1:30 p.m.** at the following ZOOM meeting link: [tinyurl.com/BWzoommeeting](https://tinyurl.com/BWzoommeeting). Please RSVP to: [lauralawrence@bwls.net](mailto:lauralawrence@bwls.net) to ensure access to this virtual meeting. The district welcomes input from all community members. District residents who are parents of students currently attending non-public schools are also invited. Written comments will also be accepted through Friday, July 24, 2020. Please send comments to Laura Lawrence, Director of Student Services, at the following address: Big Walnut Local School District, 110 Tippet Court, Sunbury Ohio 43074. Upon request, the district shall make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities to be able to participate in this public meeting. Please contact the Student Services Department at 740-965-7846.

## CONGRATS TO OUR STUDENTS ON STATE SCIENCE DAY HONORS

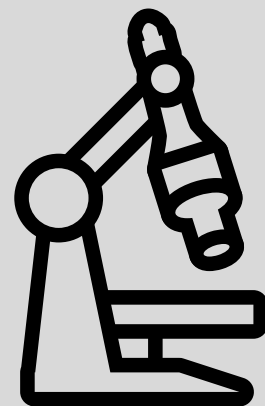
*The results are in- Big Walnut students did very well at the first Virtual State Science Day. Congratulations to the following students:*

### Big Walnut Middle School

- Adeline Butler (8th grade) - Superior

### Big Walnut Intermediate School

- Will Freter (6th grade) - Superior
- Sahana Katta (6th grade) - Superior
- Suhaas Katta (5th grade) - Superior
- Gracyn Alexander (6th grade) - Excellent
- Ali Del Vesco (6th grade) - Excellent
- Kylie Cochran (5th grade) - Excellent



## BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS PREPARING DURING COVID-19



**Athletic Director  
Brian Shelton**

A lot has happened with the landscape of high school athletics since March 16, 2020, the date we were informed school was closed and spring athletics was postponed. Since then, the spring sports season was completely canceled, which was devastating news for our seniors and spring sport student-athletes.

We have recently been transitioning back into training our student athletes with limitations.

Based on the information provided by Governor DeWine and the Delaware County General Health District, a safe training plan was put in place to protect our student-athletes and coaches- including taking the temperature of each student-athlete/coach prior to training, wearing masks within 6-feet of another person, and limiting the weight room capacity. The weight room was completely redesigned to meet 6-foot spacing guidelines and a thorough cleaning plan is ongoing daily. Hopefully, things keep progressing positively this summer.

Thanks to our student-athletes, parents, and coaches for embracing the challenges we are facing with COVID-19 and their willingness to adjust to the rapidly changing environment.

### What about fall sports?

No decision has officially been made, however, there are indicators fall sports will happen for our student-athletes. I would expect limitations, but those are to be determined. We will continue to keep you updated as we learn more.

# REOPENING

## PLANS FOR FALL 2020

**AS WE PREPARE** for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, we recognize that parents, students and staff are ready to kick-off the year with as much normalcy as possible. While we are excited for our students to return to the school buildings, we know that some of our students will benefit from continuing their education in a remote learning environment due to health and safety considerations. As a result, Big Walnut Local Schools will be offering two learning options for the 2020-2021 school year, in-person learning and remote learning. Working together, we can ensure that we continue to inspire and guide our students during the 2020-2021 school year.



### SCHOOL CALENDAR

In order to prepare our staff for the logistics of this school year and provide training, we are likely to modify the calendar for this year:

**AUGUST 17: STAFF RETURNS**

**AUGUST 24-28: K-12 STAGGERED START\***

**AUGUST 31: K-12 FIRST DAY OF FULL-DAY LEARNING**

*Due to special constraints for Preschool, TBD*

*At this time, we do not anticipate the last day of school being changed.*

*\*More details on the staggered start will be forthcoming.*



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

See our FAQ page at [bwls.net](http://bwls.net)



In order to finalize plans for staffing,

**FAMILIES MUST  
SELECT AN  
OPTION BY  
July 20**



**[www.bwls.net](http://www.bwls.net)**

Go to the *Select an Option* button on our website. It is important to make a selection for each child in your family.



### IN-PERSON LEARNING



This option represents a return to the typical school environment and schedule. Increased health and safety precautions will be in place, including requiring all staff members and students in third grade and higher to wear facial coverings.

Students may be switched to remote learning or a hybrid model if COVID-19 conditions worsen in a building, throughout the district or if mandated by the state.



### REMOTE LEARNING



This option represents students learning at home using a district provided Chromebook. Big Walnut will partner with a virtual curriculum provider to deliver remote learning via digital lessons and teacher interaction. Depending on enrollment, some classes may be instructed virtually by BW staff. Students enrolled in this model may not have access to all classes that may otherwise be offered in the in-person learning option.



### SWITCHING OPTIONS

A continuous and consistent learning environment is best for student success. For the sake of continuity, transfers from one learning option to another should not occur during the semester (August-December or January-May). A process will be outlined for students wanting to return to in-person learning during the semester.

# HEALTH



## GENERAL INFORMATION



- Big Walnut families will be expected to take student temperatures and do a symptom assessment daily before school.
- If students exhibit symptoms at school, they will be taken to a room set aside for possible COVID-19 cases, and parents/guardians will be notified to pick them up and to visit a medical professional.
- Social distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent possible.
- Cleaning and sanitizing buildings, especially high-contact areas, will be a high priority.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available in classrooms and common areas.
- Students will be educated on the importance of hand washing, hygiene, social distancing and the wearing of facial coverings.
- Facial coverings will be required for students in third grade and higher, unless they are unable to do so for a health or developmental reason. Facial coverings are strongly recommended for students in kindergarten through second grade in the hallways, restrooms and common areas.
- Staff members will be required to wear facial coverings, take temperatures and do a symptom assessment daily before work.
- Visitors and volunteers will only be allowed in extenuating circumstances.
- Classroom doors will remain open as much as possible.
- Water fountains will be closed, but water-filling stations will remain open. Students should bring their own water bottles.
- Student lockers will not be used.
- Field trips will not be allowed.
- Students will be required to bring their own school supplies, rather than sharing with the class.

# SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



## CAFETERIA

- Consistent seating will be used.
- Hand washing or hand sanitizing will be required before and after lunch.
- Students will be socially distanced to the greatest extent possible.

## TRANSPORTATION



- Parents are encouraged to transport their children to and from school when possible.
- All students will be given assigned seats (drivers required to have assigned seating lists updated and available at all times). Siblings will sit together.
- Students will be expected to use provided hand sanitizer when getting on and off the bus.
- High-contact areas on buses will be disinfected between runs.
- Each bus will be thoroughly disinfected at the end of each day.
- All students will be expected to wear facial coverings on school buses.
- Drivers will be expected to wear facial coverings.



## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Extracurricular activities will resume and will adhere to recommendations from OHSAA and the state. Athletes will be required to wear facial coverings while on the bus and in locker rooms, but not during competitions.
- Remote learning students will have the same extracurricular opportunities as students doing in-person learning.

- Social distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent possible.
- Hand washing or hand sanitizing will be required before/after recess.
- Facial coverings will be strongly recommended.



## RECESS

# PRESERVING THE PAST



**Chauncey Montgomery**  
Director/ Fiscal Officer

In 2008, with a grant from the Community Library Foundation, the Community Library in Sunbury started the Big Walnut Memory project. This project was an effort to digitize documents, photographs and other resources related to the history of the Big Walnut area. Our goal was to make information easier to access for researchers and students. Additionally, we wanted to make digital copies of aging documents for posterity.

The initial project began with a database and website that we built in-house. A dedicated group of volunteers, under the direction of Margaret Arnold, our local history librarian,

transcribed documents, which provided for full-text searching in the database.

It was not long before we saw the broader potential for such a project, and in 2010, the Community Library invited other libraries, historical societies, and governmental entities in the county to participate. At that point, Big Walnut Memory became Delaware County Memory.

For the following decade, Delaware County Memory continued to use the original database and website that the library had built. However, as the project grew, it became apparent that a more robust database with an intuitive interface was needed. After researching various options, we decided on using Omeka, an open source product developed by George Mason University.

Over the past year, staff and volunteers at the Community Library have been migrating items over from the old system. With

business slowing due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were able to complete the migration. We are pleased to announce that the public can now research local history on the new Omeka site.

To access Delaware County Memory, visit <http://www.delawarecountymemory.org>.

Visitors can browse collections, or search for specific names and places. Photographs and class pictures are always very popular items. The collection is always growing, so check back periodically to see what's new. We hope you enjoy exploring our local history. If you'd like more information about Delaware County Memory or the library's local history services, contact us at 740-965-3901 or [history@yourcl.org](mailto:history@yourcl.org).



**Community Library**  
Serving the Big Walnut Area

*This space was paid for by the Community Library.*



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Dr. Katelyn Miller

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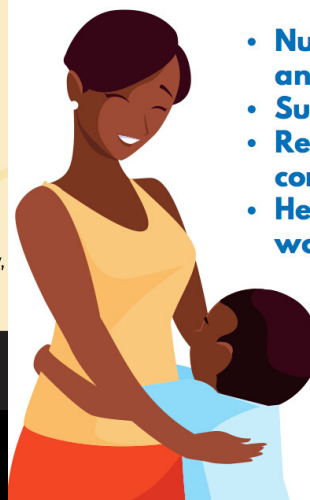
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SUNBURY OFFICE!**



**SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH  
STARTING JULY 9!**

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- Nutrition and breastfeeding education and support
- Supplement foods supplying key nutrients
- Referral to health care providers and community programs
- Height checks, weight checks and blood work for iron testing



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DELAWARE GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT SUNBURY OFFICE  
KROGER SHOPPING PLAZA - 137 ST. RT. 3 SUNBURY, OH

DELAWAREHEALTH.ORG



Our team of skilled and respected chiropractors — Dr. Aaron Erndt, Dr. Gabe Mendenhall, Dr. Jeff Willoughby, Dr. Amanda Golden, Dr. A. Renee Allen, and Dr. Kipp Hall — look forward to helping you on your path to wellness using natural healing techniques. Our office, founded by Dr. Tom Erndt, has been active in the Sunbury, Ohio community for over 38 years. We effectively utilize state-of-the-art chiropractic techniques and rehabilitative treatments to restore proper spinal function and maximize the body's natural healing ability. We offer: Wellness Chiropractic Care, Family Practice, Personal Injury, Worker's Compensation, Massage Therapy, Sports Physicals, Nutrition Consultation, Orthotics, and more. Please contact us Monday through Saturday at 740-965-4301 to set up an appointment and learn how chiropractic care can help you!

123 State Route 3 Sunbury, OH 43074 740-965-4301 [www.sunburychiropractic.com](http://www.sunburychiropractic.com)  
620 W. Coshocton St. Johnstown, OH 43031 740-967-BACK [www.johnstownchiropractic.com](http://www.johnstownchiropractic.com)

# PREPARING OUR BUILDINGS FOR STUDENTS



Assistant Superintendent  
Mark Cooper

As we continue planning for the school year ahead, which will include in-person student learning, I want to take this opportunity to share our district protocols for cleaning and disinfecting schools. As concerns for the pandemic progressed last spring, our building custodians were tasked with increasing our disinfecting protocols. When students return to buildings in the fall, our district will maintain or (if any new methods or guidance is released with regard to disinfecting for the virus) further increase these protocols. Our protocols for the new school year will include daily cleaning and disinfecting of all student desks and tables, cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces such as door knobs, water-filling stations and faucets multiple times per day, and using a disinfecting mist throughout buildings on a nightly basis. Our partnership with the Delaware General Health District regarding our procedures will continue as we learn more about COVID-19. We want to assure our students and parents that we will do everything we can to provide a safe, clean environment for learning.



## 7TH & 12TH GRADE FAMILIES, MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**WEDNESDAY JULY 15  
SATURDAY AUGUST 8**

**9AM - 4PM**  
470 SOUTH SANDUSKY ST.  
DELAWARE, OH

### FOR INCOMING 7TH & 12TH GRADERS

- TETANUS BOOSTER (TDAP)
- MENINGOCOCCAL ACWY
- MENINGOCOCCAL B
- HEPATITIS A
- HPV

### CLINICS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

**Call 740-203-2040**

to schedule an appointment

By law, students in 7th and 12th grades need their Meningococcal and Tdap immunizations, or must provide an immunization exemption form. Delaware General Health District is offering a convenient drive-up immunization clinic. Please call for an appointment.

Any questions, please contact District Nurse Megan Truax BSN RN at [megantruax@bwls.net](mailto:megantruax@bwls.net)

Big Walnut Prom 2020

## A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

USE THIS HASHTAG TO SHARE YOUR PHOTOS

#BWSTARRYNIGHTDINNER

Get dressed up  
and go to dinner  
with a few friends  
and share your  
photos on Friday,  
July 17th!

## GRADUATION UPDATE



High School Principal  
Andy Jados

On Wednesday, July 8, the School Board approved to have graduation in person on July 25. We are planning on an 8 p.m. ceremony. Due to COVID-19, our graduates will only be able to have a limited number of guests attend. More details pertaining to social distancing and additional safety procedures for the ceremony will be provided in the near future. It is extremely important that everyone adheres to these procedures so that we can have a safe and successful graduation. The ceremony will be streamed live on the District website. The rain date for graduation is Sunday, July 26. There will be a drive-through diploma distribution on Tuesday, July 28, for those who prefer not to attend the ceremony.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT (CONTINUED)

We are so busy in our society that it is easy to miss seeing the struggles and perspectives of others. Even as an adult, I have to force myself to slow down for a minute, take a step back, and try to understand someone else's perspective. A local health professional recently shared with me she has seen a significant increase in mental health issues with her adolescent patients this spring. We know our students are already suffering from anxiety and depression associated with COVID-19 and the losses they have experienced from school closure, loss of social time, and the suspension of their sports, music and other passions. Add in the racial concerns in our country, and our children are in need of additional support.