

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Eagle Examiner

SPONSORED BY THE SUNBURY/ BIG WALNUT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



FEBRUARY 2019

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



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE POLLOCK



As our community continues to grow, we continue to work to stay ahead of the growth. The opening of our new elementary allows us the opportunity to consider what is best educationally for students (our first priority), and how we can best use our existing spaces and limited resources as we continue to grow.

Our new plan for 2020-21 is to pull the preschool units out of the other elementaries and place them into one location: Harrison Street Elementary (HSE). Right now these units are spread throughout the district along with their resources. This makes it challenging for students and staff. If we consolidate, we will see many educational benefits. These include: standardization of programs (specials, etc.); central location for related services; space at elementary buildings for growth; opportunities for preschool teachers to collaborate; possibility for tiered intervention; possibility for age/developmental grouping; creation of unique preschool culture and procedures geared toward age group; streamlining of ODE/Step-Up-To-Quality paperwork (currently done in each building); and growth potential for tuition-based, full-day daycare and/or economically disadvantaged preschool units. Additionally, by moving the preschool classrooms from the elementary schools, we essentially shift open space to those buildings.

With consolidating the preschool units, we will eliminate the need to add 10.5 positions that would be needed if we changed nothing and continued with our existing model and simply went from four to five elementaries (principal, secretary, intervention specialists, etc.). Additionally, we would not need to add preschool administrative staff, as we would plan to relocate a central office administrator and administrative assistant who are already working with preschool. By making these changes, we should save a minimum of \$500,000 in our annual operating budget. *(Continued on back page)*



OUR NEXT LIVE ACCESS CALL WILL BE
MARCH 11, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M.

**WE WILL BE GIVING A CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, AND YOU WILL HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE FEEDBACK ON THE NAMING OF THE NEW
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

MESSAGE

FROM THE BOARD

Brad Schneider, President

Leadership Team. I look forward to continuing the high standard he set as our President.

I will use this space to encourage your involvement in your District and keep you updated on some key issues facing all of us.

I'm encouraged to hear the initial feedback from our Facilities Committee regarding the future of Harrison Street Elementary. They are favorable of these recommendations that could help us manage the challenge of growth, while mitigating the risks with operating that treasured, but aging, building.

A committee like this generates and evaluates potential strategic facility recommendations for the Board. This input guides the Board to make effective decisions by using you and your neighbors as experts.

In the spirit of that mission, we are seeking members for our Finance Committee. This committee is led by our Treasurer and is designed to explore the complex environment that is school financing. These volunteers will provide insights and recommendations to inform the Board's decision-making process.

If you have some expertise in finance, bonds, investment strategies, or other similar disciplines, this could be a good fit for you. Please contact Jeremy Buskirk (email at jeremybuskirk@bwls.net or call 740-965-3010) if you would like to learn more about this important opportunity to serve.



Andy Wecker, Mindy Meyer, President Brad Schneider, Doug Crowl, Vice President Liana Lee

I'm sitting in front of the computer and thinking of the shoes and column inches that I have to fill replacing the incomparable Andy Wecker. Andy provides a steady hand for our Board and

CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST

Artifacts and Stories from the Red Edwards Big Walnut Museum



Top row- J.Fravel, D.Meeker, V.Howard, J.Overturf, W.Fravel.
3rd row- J.Alexander, P.Snyder, B.Perfect, J.Baracus, B.Geddis, L.Penn, S.Turnbull, T.Root.
2nd row- J.Lake, B.Meredith, C.Neilson, V.Edwards, D.Whitney, J.McKibben, D.Rutherford, B.Jones.
1st row- Miss Nelson, K.Whisman, K.Whisman, E.Shoemaker, J.Hoskinson, W.Gallogly, J.Crowl, A.Morris, M. Barcus.
Mardell Wilcox-Mascot

1947

Not pictured Tom Kilbury.



This month, we are pleased to share pictures of Sunbury High School Marching Band memorabilia with you. The drum and uniforms were used from the mid-40s into the first year of the Big Walnut High School Marching Band, until the new district could purchase new equipment. Many thanks to Red for keeping our heritage alive!



BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

State Budget: Not Likely a Savior



**Treasurer
Jeremy Buskirk**

Every two years, many across the state wait, watch, and prepare for a new state biennium budget to be proposed to the General Assembly. As a new governor, Governor DeWine has until March 15th to propose a new state budget. As we wait to see what a new state budget will provide, we hope for the best, but plan for the worst.

Even though Big Walnut Local Schools has seen enrollment growth of around 500 students (approximately 15%) since the 2014-15 school year, we have seen state resources, as a percentage of our

operational funds, decline by an estimated 2.5%. The reason we see this is a gradual peeling away of resources, such as rollbacks on property taxes or adjustments to the funding model, which has caused our district's state funding to remain fairly flat. The result is that we are more reliant on our local community for support.

We continue to share our funding concerns and advocate for state help, but at the same time, we have to plan within the confines of our funding realities. With the permission of Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, I have posted to our District website a very well written and insightful article titled "History of Ohio Public School Funding," that further discusses state funding and historical challenges. The article can be found at www.bwls.net/Treasurer.aspx. Please reach out if you have any questions.



Holiday Program Served 113 Families

Each year the BWLS Administrative Services Department organizes the Big Walnut Holiday Wish Program, sponsoring local families in need. This program provides them with items on their holiday wish lists.

As a Big Walnut community, we served 113 families this year. Big Walnut staff, along with the BWHS Spanish Club, French Club, and National Honor Society contributed to help make sure our area families had the best holiday possible.

Not only did BWLS groups donate, families were also sponsored by Genoa Fire Department, Anthony Dental, Side-By-Side, American Showa Inc., Sunbury United Methodist Church, Bridge Church, BW Realtors Group, Renick Orthodontics, Ohashi, Sunbury Christian Church, Noah's Ark Learning Center, City North Church, Sunbury MOMS Group, Hylen Souders Elementary PTO, Big Walnut Intermediate School PTO, and a host of other individuals and organizations. There were more than 30 givers – some wishing to remain anonymous.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone for making the Big Walnut Holiday Wish Program a success!



2020 VISION

SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Students at General Rosecrans Elementary have loved working in their Eagles' Nests this year, multi-grade groups that are held once a month and are focused on our Keys to Success. Each Eagles' Nest is made up of students in kindergarten through fourth grade and has around 12-15 students. All building personnel-- including intervention staff, classroom teachers, secretaries, related arts teachers, the instructional facilitator and even the principal-- have their own Eagles' Nests. Each month, the Nest leader reads or shows a story that is related to the month's topic. Students then watch a short skit planned by a grade-level team of teachers and finally complete an activity together in the small groups. This amazing experience allows students and staff to maintain a small-school feel and help ensure that every student is connected to a family-like group within the school. In Big Walnut, all students should know they matter, and Eagles' Nests are just one way to show this at GRE!



GRE students collaborate in small groups each month in their Eagles' Nests.

What is our 2020 Vision?

Check out the Academic Achievement portion of our website to see how we're personalizing instruction, engaging students, and growing minds.

January's STUDENT & ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Student of the Month: Audrey Coulson, from Harrison Street Elementary School, is pictured with her family and Board member Mindy Meyer



Artist of the Month: Madilyn Dible, from Harrison Street Elementary School, is pictured with her family and Board member Doug Crowl

SUNBURY / BIG WALNUT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Community Expo & Job Fair

Hosted by Sunbury/Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce and Big Walnut Local Schools

"Living, Learning & Working in the Big Walnut Area"

Thursday, April 25, 2019

5:00 - 8:00 pm

**Big Walnut High School Gymnasium
555 S. Old 3C Highway, Sunbury, Ohio**

Free Admission and Pizza from Jet's! Concessions available!

We hope you'll join us!

Enjoy a demonstration from Perdue Taekwondo students!



Big Walnut Local Schools

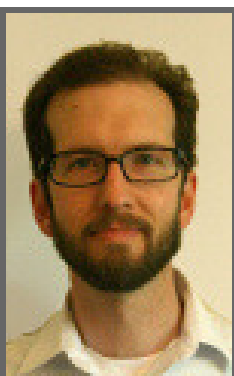
Sponsorship opportunities and Exhibitor tables are available now!

Please contact the Chamber office for more details

740-965-2860 or info@sunburybigwalnutchamber.com

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

REVIEW OF 2018



Chauncey Montgomery
Director/Fiscal Director

Each year, the Community Library in Sunbury strives to provide resources that enrich and empower all individuals with a diverse collection of physical and digital resources. During 2018, we saw some of the strongest usage numbers of those resources in the history of the library. Over the last 12 months, use of our physical collection grew 6%, ebook and digital audiobook use increased 10%, and research database use increased 7%. Overall, the community borrowed nearly a quarter-million items in 2018. Other services, such as our mobile hotspots and public Internet remained popular. Mobile hotspots went out over 500 times, increasing 59%, and about 75 people connected daily to our wireless network.

Library Program attendance increased exponentially as well. Storytimes experienced

up to 50 patrons per session. Likewise, about eight Big Walnut school classes visited each month during the school year. Our diverse programs and workshops for adults, such as yoga and tai chi classes, writing group, art and craft workshops, and film discussions, were also well attended. About 400 individuals participated in programs weekly. In total, program participation grew 8% last year.

In looking back at the successes of 2018, we acknowledge our effectiveness is dependent on our community input and support. We hope to maintain this momentum as 2019 gets underway. To that end, we are updating our strategic plan. This plan gives us an opportunity to collect public feedback and use it to improve current services and develop new ones. Later this year, we will also ask residents to renew the library levy. We depend on your local financial support to provide quality programs and collections to the community. We are extremely honored to assist you in pursuing knowledge and

cultivating your interests.

If you want to keep up-to-date on library programs and new materials, subscribe to our online newsletter at <https://newsletter.yourcl.org>. As always, if you have any comments or questions, contact me at chauncey@yourcl.org or 740-965-3901.

We look forward to serving you in 2019.



Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area



UPCOMING SPRING & SUMMER CHAMBER SPONSORED EVENTS

MARCH:

1st – Building Business over Breakfast—Guest speaker
Bill Geraci of Magic Health Insurance Solutions

APRIL:

5th – Building Business over Breakfast— Guest speaker
Patrick Hartory, acclaimed speaker & marketing influencer
25th – Community Expo & Job Fair

MAY:

10th– Membership Quarterly Breakfast:
Student Recognition Breakfast
18th – Farmers' Market begins

JUNE:

1st— 1st Annual Chamber Big Shot Sporting Clay Classic
20th– Joint After Hours w/Delaware Chamber

JULY:

4th – Independence Day Celebration
26th – Membership Quarterly Breakfast: Back to School
11th Annual Golf Outing

*For information on any of these events or questions
regarding Chamber membership, please visit our website at:
www.sunburybigwalnutchamber.com or call 740.965.2860*



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jhildret@amfam.com



BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Director of Facilities
Doug Swartz

Last month, we used this column to inform the Big Walnut Community about the many meetings taking place in January and February with the Village of Sunbury (VOS) related to the Zoning and Rezoning process and approval of the new elementary and high school project. As of the publishing of the February edition of *The Eagle Examiner*, we are anticipating final approval from the Sunbury Village Council in late February/early March 2019*.

Upon receipt of these approvals, the District will move forward with the following action items (as required to transition the overall project from the design phase into the construction phase):

- **Land Purchase:** The District has an executed purchase agreement with one of the two property owners and plans to finalize the other one this month. When combined, the parcels create the 104.5 acre school site on the north side of Sunbury. Closing on the properties is planned to occur within days of receipt of zoning approval from the VOS Council.
- **Guaranteed Maximum Price - GMP #001:** GMP #001 is the first true construction contract the Board of Education will award as part of this project.

The GMP #001 bid package includes the following initial scope associated with the start of construction:

- Earth work / grading
- Stormwater management systems
- Water lines

As a reminder, the District is utilizing what is known as a **Construction Manager at Risk (CMR)** project delivery model. This model places all of the construction contractors under the CMR. Big Walnut has hired Gilbane Building Company to serve as our CMR. The projected GMP #001 construction start date is March 11, 2019 - pending VOS approvals and weather. As mentioned in last month's article, our official groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled later in the spring.

**Note: The Village of Sunbury Council meeting dates/times and the associated agenda items are established and set by the Council. Please reference the VOS website for final dates and times, as well as agenda items reflecting Big Walnut School project items. The dates and times are subject to change!*

JOIN OUR LIVE ACCESS CALL

MARCH 11, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M.



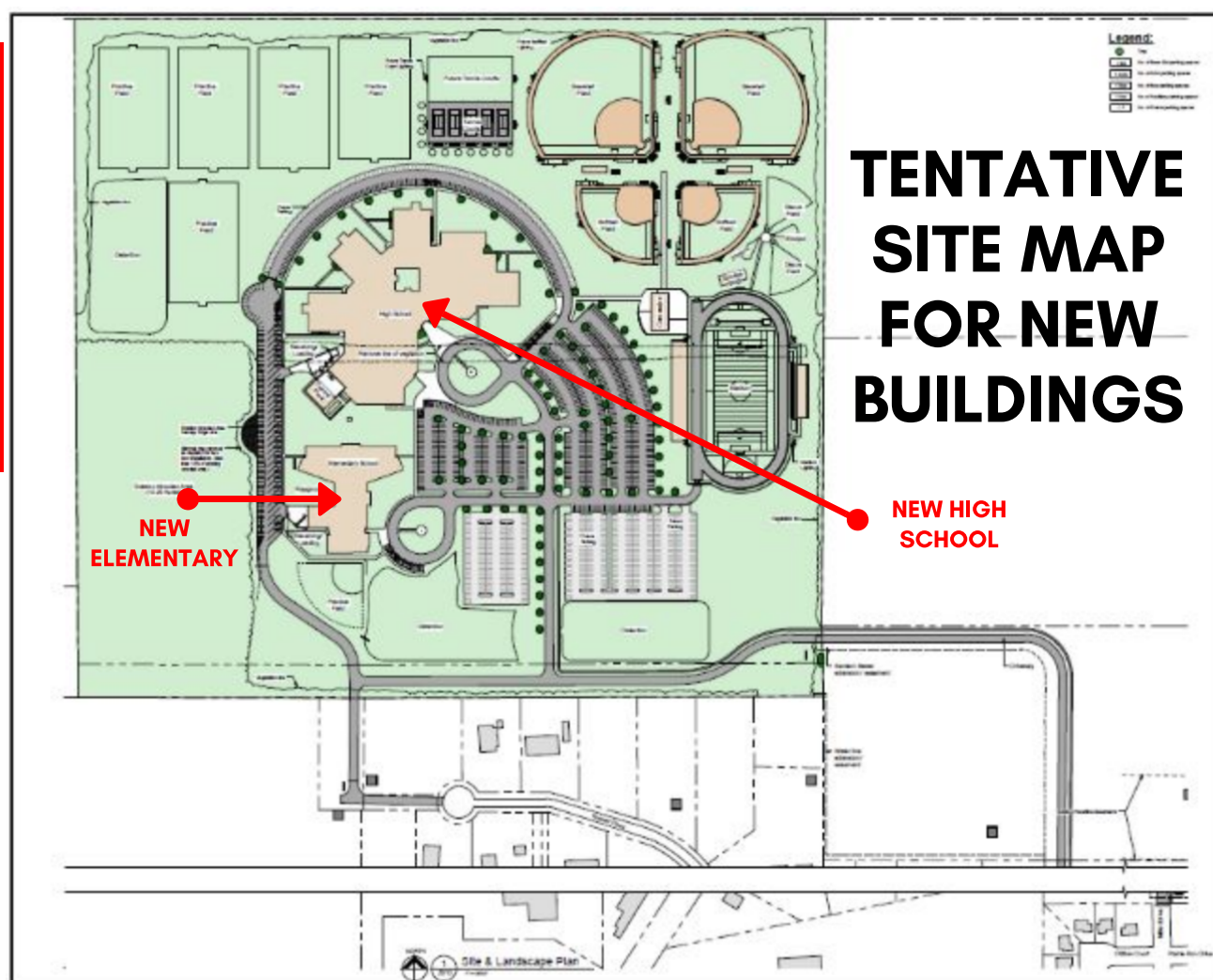
LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE FEEDBACK ON
THE NAMING OF THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CONGRATS



ELI

Eli Hall, 6th grader at Big Walnut Intermediate, won the 2018-2019 National Geography Bee School Competition.



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CLEANERS AND LAUNDRY



“I like the unique school atmosphere. There’s something different going on every day.

I’ve also connected with a lot of the students in my program. We like to do the same things even though our interests within the program are different. We can be ourselves without being judged.”

- Paige Tinnel
Digital Design Junior
DACC & Big Walnut

Paige Tinnel

Digital Design junior at DACC & Big Walnut.

Attends DACC for both her Digital Design program and her academic classes.

Works 2 part-time jobs, both of which are giving her great experience in photography and customer service.

Considering attending CCAD or The Modern College of Design to study graphic design, photography or interior design after graduation.

What kind of students attend DACC?

According to Paige, DACC students:

- Are planning for their future
- Are focused
- Enjoy coming to school
- Get to work on projects that interest them
- Are determined

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www.DelawareAreaCC.org



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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS: STUDENT RAGE PAGE

Senior Nights for Winter Sports

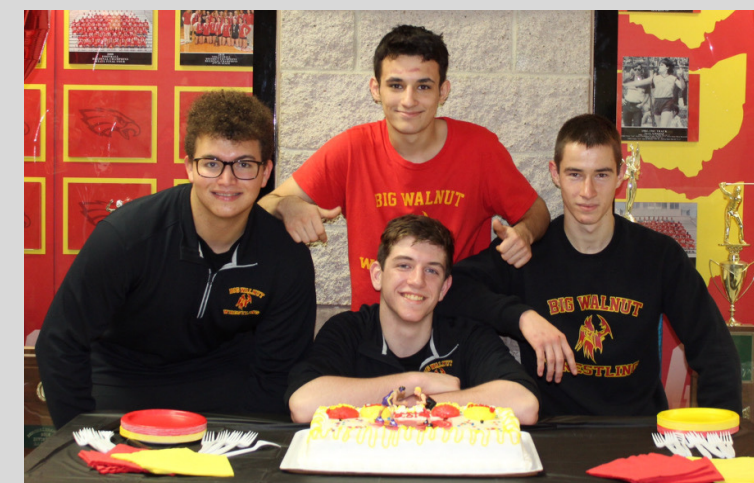
Winter sports' Senior Nights are underway for Big Walnut High School



Senior Kayla Hildebrand was recognized in December 2018 for her time on the gymnastics team



Our outstanding bowling team had their senior night on February 1



The wrestling team celebrated their graduating teammates with a Big Walnut cake on February 7



Seniors on the girls basketball team are pictured with their families during their night on February 8

The boys basketball senior night is Friday, February 15. Congratulations to all of our seniors on their seasons! Go Eagles!



The seniors from the swim and dive team had their senior night on February 1

- 3.5.19 Harlem Wizards Game
- 3.15.19 Spring Sports Team Picture Day
- 3.17.19 Big Walnut Youth Sports Organization Meeting
- 4.26.19 Academic Signing Day
- 5.6.19 Senior Academic & Athletic Awards
- 5.7.19 College Signing Day

UPCOMING DATES

To find more details on spring schedules, team information, and upcoming youth clinics and camps, visit our athletic website at bigwalnutathletics.net

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS: STUDENT RAGE PAGE

What Would You Do?

By: John Elliott and Kaitlyn Morrison

EXPLORING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL



Would you pocket an unopened pack of gum if someone dropped it in front of you?

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GATHER TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ANONYMOUS EXPERIMENT

School is often the epicenter of a young person's development. An education provides kids, teens, and young adults the opportunity to learn and succeed; yet, what lessons do our students learn the moment they step outside of the classroom?

The following experiments were designed to test the social development of students at Big Walnut High School, in hopes to begin understanding the state of society for young men and women.

The first test analyzed conformity by selecting a group of students to form a single file line in front of a graph and answer a simple question: which of five lines on the graph matched the sixth in height?

All but the last student in line for the test was in on the experiment. The first students in line all gave the same *wrong* answer, and the response of the last student could potentially indicate conformity.

Will he or she disagree with the majority, or conform to the group, knowing the answer was wrong?



After several trials, all but one student gave the correct answer; even though that meant disagreeing with their peers.

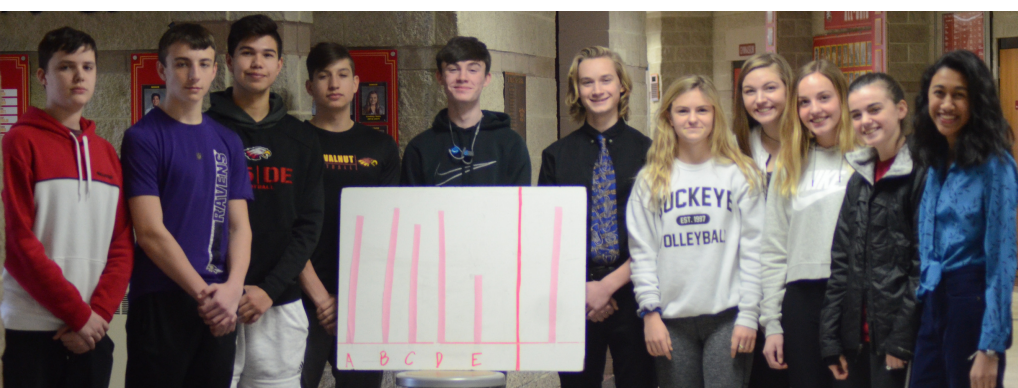
The second experiment attempted to expose the integrity of students at BWHS.

The conductor of the test would "accidentally" drop a pack of unopened, mint chewing gum in front of onlooking peers, while an observer noted their reactions.

Would the students do the right thing and return the gum? Or would they snatch it and scurry off?

Results showed that not a single Big Walnut student pocketed the gum. All decided to return the item to its owner.

This recent series of experiments conducted at BWHS revealed students are learning more than just Algebra and English. These students have demonstrated their independence and honesty, presenting a hopeful generation of young men and women.



BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS



Family, Fun, and Food!

The Harlem Wizards basketball team is returning! Come see Big Walnut teachers and coaches compete against the Wizards.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m.
Gym doors open at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Big Walnut High School gym
(555 South Old 3C Road, Sunbury)

NEW THIS YEAR:

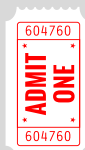
TIME: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: BWHS Cafeteria

MENU/ COST: Catered by Big Walnut Grill

Children: Hot dog, macaroni & cheese, drink—\$3.00

Adults: Pulled pork, pulled chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, drink—\$7.00

TICKETS



Student tickets—\$10.00

Adult tickets—\$12.00

Age 4 & under—free

Tickets for the event and dinner may be purchased at the following locations: Online at www.harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets, Sunbury Subway, and the Athletic Director's office.



Big Walnut
Education
Foundation

Calling BW Seniors and College Students

It's time to prepare your BWEF scholarship application. Contact the high school guidance office for your application, directions, and deadlines. Scholarships are available for Big Walnut graduates for 4-year and 2-year degrees in addition to trade programs. Applications are due in the guidance office by April 5th, 2019.

Through generous gifts from businesses, families, and individuals, the Big Walnut Education Foundation supports Big Walnut seniors and graduates—ultimately benefiting our community, country, and world.

To learn more or make a gift, visit bigwalnuteducationfoundation.org.

Volunteer Board Members

Dave Brehm, Diana Butts, Warren Cox,
Nicci Scanlan Hess, Bob Hetterscheidt,
Linda Rano Jonard, Mark Predeiri,
Jerry Rensi, and Kelly Forman Roberto



(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE POLLOCK

The idea to consolidate the preschool is not a new one. Instead, we are proposing to move up the timeline for this to occur (2020-21). The district was previously planning to consolidate the preschool units in 2023-24, when Big Walnut Intermediate reopens as an elementary. Our Facilities Committee and Academic Advisory Council, two community-based advisory groups, were given an opportunity to provide feedback on this new plan. Both groups were supportive of this revised plan.

When we open new buildings or change building configurations that affect elementary grades, it is usually necessary to go through a redistricting process, in which elementary boundaries are redrawn to achieve the right number of students in each building. Once we determine how many students and sections of grades are needed in each building, we will go through a process of assigning principals and staff to the buildings. We are making the decision on HSE now, as the number of K-4 buildings will obviously impact elementary redistricting. We plan to begin redistricting, with input from a community-based committee, in late summer.

While change is always hard, we are happy that we can offer a solution that is educationally best for students, while keeping the HSE building open and saving operational dollars.

If you have any concerns or questions, please reach out. We are always happy to discuss your concerns.

