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August 2017

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

A Message From Our Superintendent:

Angie Pollock

@angiepollockBW @AngiePollock2

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! It is hard to believe that a new school year is about to start with all of its exciting opportunities and challenges-- weren't we just celebrating our Class of 2017 graduates?! The summer certainly flew by, but we have been working hard getting ready to welcome back our students on August 16.

Over the summer and throughout the school year, there is significant work and planning that go into running a school district. There are times, too, when one part of that work rises to the top in terms of urgency and right now that means enrollment, facilities and finances. Without a doubt, these three are interrelated and together represent the single biggest issue facing our district.

Much of the information in this edition is based on conversations that Board of Education members and I have had with community members since the failure of last November's bond issue. In here, we answer questions like, "How has the district planned for growth? Why can't we just add on to our existing buildings? Is there a design for a new high school?" You will also find information about the growth challenges our schools are facing and how we are addressing the existing enrollment growth. We appreciate your support and flexibility as we work through these challenges.

We realize that some of this information is repetitive from previous editions or from other sources, but we want to make sure that all community members are informed on this issue. Between now and the election, we will be releasing more detailed information and will continue to answer questions as we receive them. You can continue to send questions to facilitymatters@bwls.net, and visit bwls.net for more information and videos on the ballot issue (click on the "November Ballot Issue Info" button on the left side).

Thank you for supporting our students and schools. We are looking forward to a fantastic 2017-2018 school year. I hope you enjoy the exciting updates for buildings, information on our 2020 Vision for Instruction, and general back-to-school information in this edition. Please contact any building or district office with questions.

Community Library to Offer Mobile Hotspots

Starting in August, library patrons will be able to borrow mobile hotspots from the Community Library in Sunbury. Mobile hotspots are small, portable devices that provide internet access for any wifi-enabled device, such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops.

For years, the Community Library has offered free, high-speed wireless Internet at the library on 44 Burrer Drive. However, it is not always convenient to visit the library when an individual needs to connect to the internet. In some cases, especially for students that can't drive yet, getting to the library may be impossible.

This need became apparent to us when Big Walnut Schools announced last year that all students in grades 5-12 would be getting Chromebooks to complete their school work. It is essential that these students have access to the internet for their school work. While it seems like high-speed internet is easily accessible, there are still many homes within the district that do not have adequate service. The mobile hotspots will help fill that gap. In addition to connecting students to the internet, mobile hotspots are very useful for general patrons. For people who have recently moved and have not set up home service, a hotspot can provide them with internet until home service is established. The hotspots are also convenient for travelers, allowing patrons to connect to the Internet almost anywhere.

The mobile hotspots will check out for two weeks and can be renewed if not on hold for other patrons. Once the loan period expires the device will be deactivated until it is returned. We are eager to see how the new service is received and hope the community will benefit from this new service. For more information, visit www.yourcl.org or call 740-965-3901.

Chauncey Montgomery
Director/Fiscal Officer
Community Library

Big Walnut Local Schools

A Message From Our Board

As summer winds down, the 2017-18 school year is about to begin at Big Walnut Local Schools. Things will be a little different than they were when school let out in May. Increased enrollment puts added pressure on Big Walnut, and the summer was spent getting ready for additional students. The number of students in our incoming Kindergarten class has already exceeded the number of graduates from our 2017 graduating class, and we're continuing to enroll more children.

Teachers will be working with larger classes, making things more difficult and decreasing the frequency of one-on-one learning for each student. Trailers will go into use at two of our elementaries and become more prevalent across the district, as will busier, more crowded hallways and other common areas such as cafeterias. In the 2018-2019 school year, for example, the high school will transition to four lunch periods, due to lack of space, with the first group of students eating at 9:30 a.m.

As stewards of our schools and community stakeholders, none of this should be okay with us. The Big Walnut Board of Education is asking voters to consider a more permanent response to the ongoing increase in enrollment with a November 7 ballot issue. After last year's bond issue did not pass, the board used more time talking with the community and listening. From what we learned in those exchanges, we think we have a revised proposal that most of Big Walnut's voters will support.

The need is real, and it is immediate. With two elementaries and the high school already over capacity, and other schools to follow, we must act quickly to avoid using our operating budget to band-aid the larger issue of our facility needs. A general rule of thumb is that it costs roughly $100,000 per trailer, taking into account the purchase, shipping, site preparation and utility hook ups.

Big Walnut is a district known for excellence in education. It is also known for having people who care for and are involved in their schools. This is a community of three generations - children, parents and grandparents. Thank you for being an involved and informed citizen. As always, feel free to contact me or any of the other board members with questions or comments. What we do today to prepare our children for tomorrow is important.

Sincerely,
Andy Wecker
Board President

MEET THE NEW SOUDERS PRINCIPAL: MR. MATT COX

Hometown: I was born in Hamilton, Ohio but consider Sandusky my hometown.

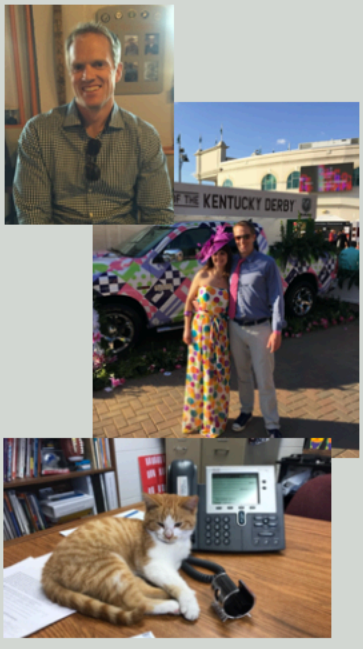
Education: I graduated from Capital University with a 1-8 teaching license, then earned my Master's degree from Ashland University in administration.

Family Stats: I've been married to my wife, Maria, for 9 years. We have 2 cats, Calvin and Hobbes. Most of my family lives in the Columbus area including my parents and brother, Mike.

Hobbies: We love to travel; we usually go to Michigan several times a year, then try to head south at least once a year. We went to Panama a few years ago and are going to Costa Rica for winter vacation this year. I also like mountain biking - usually at Alum Creek - and attending sporting events / concerts.

What does #InspireAndGuide mean to you? I want our students to enjoy learning. Learning is work, but it should be very rewarding work. As educators, we should be guiding our students, but we have to be careful not to unintentionally limit our students. I never want to close the door for a student. Rather I want to open doors that students never knew existed.

Anything else you'd like our families to know? I have fun at work everyday and believe the enthusiasm for what I do is contagious. I am very excited to come "home." I loved my first eleven years at Big Walnut [as a sixth grade Language Arts teacher], and I am excited to return.



Big Walnut Local Schools

Athletic Information

Follow us @bigwalnuteagles

Team Schedules and Forms
All team schedules and student athletic forms can be found by going to www.bigwalnutathletics.net

Pay-to-Participate Fees
High School $150.00 per person per sport
Middle School $75.00 per person per sport
w/ District Family Cap of $300.00

Tickets
Our OCC athletic league as voted to increase ticket prices at the high school.
Varsity $7.00 and $5.00
JV & Freshman $5.00 and $3.00

Big Walnut Athletic Season Passes
We have the following passes available: One year, Two year, Fall, Winter, and Spring Family, Adult, and Student passes, along with Senior citizens passes. For more information, check out this website. tinyurl.com/BWpasses

DATE	EVENT	TIMES	LOCATION
August 7	Fall OHSAA Parent Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Big Walnut High School Auditorium
August 10	BWHS Athletics Student Leadership Session	7:00 p.m.	Big Walnut High School Auditorium
August 11	Fall High School Sports Picture Day	7:00 a.m.	*Look for an email with specific times and locations for each
August 25	First Football Game	7:30 p.m.	Johnstown
September 7	Thursday Night Football - TV Game	7:00 p.m.	Dublin Scioto
Oct 2 to Oct 6	Homecoming Week Homecoming Game Friday, October 6 vs Franklin Hts 7:00 p.m.		
October 14	Big Walnut Alumni and Hall of Fame dinner	7:00 p.m.	Big Walnut Middle School

All high school varsity football games begin this year at 7:00 p.m. (other than the first game at Johnstown which is 7:30 p.m.)

Congrats BW Senior Austin Becker 2017 17u National Baseball Champions

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

All of our lunch menus can be found at tinyurl.com/lunchmenus1718

In the upper right corner, is the "Go Green" link where parents and students can sign up to receive our menus via monthly e-mail.

Going Green! Menus

Click to sign up to have your menus emailed automatically

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Overcrowding Felt in the Classroom

With the main emphasis being on facility space, or lack thereof, we have significant needs across the district. In fact, we remain on pace to be over capacity at every school building within a year or two.

Overcrowding comes with challenges to both learning and safety, as it means larger classes and tighter hallways filled with kids.

"I am concerned about what our classrooms will look like in the next few years if we do not address increased enrollment."
-Jenny Horman

"I value the ability to have as much one-on-one time with my students as possible, and larger classes drastically reduces the chances I can do that," said Jenny Horman, kindergarten teacher at Big Walnut Elementary.

There are quite a few issues that overcrowding has already had on the high school. For example, students were turned away from classes, such as Materials Engineering Academy, due to lack of space. This is also an issue in the weight room, locker rooms and the basement, where all the occupants of the school cannot possibly gather in the event of a tornado. However, the biggest inconvenience will be seen during the 2018-19 school year. The cafeteria is not large enough, so there will be an expansion to four lunch periods, which would mean 25 percent of the students would eat lunch as early as 9:30 a.m.

Similar challenges can be seen throughout the district. Parking is an issue in many lots, lack of gymnasium availability is a constant issue and young children often have practices late into the evening. Band and choir concerts are already congested, and some schools cannot hold building-wide assemblies due to a lack of space.

In order to provide a more long-term solution, the school board voted to place an issue on the November 7 ballot. That ballot issue would remedy the immediate space issues in the schools.

Sunbury / Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce

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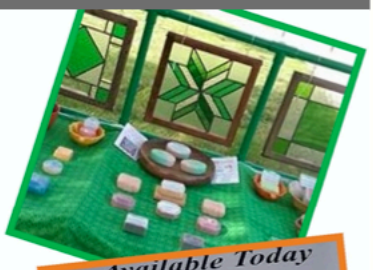
The Sunbury Farmer's Market is managed by the Sunbury/Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Middlefield Bank. New vendors always welcome—just $10 per week! Vendor registration & details at www.SunburyBigWalnutChamber.com.



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Tractor Tug Pull, 11:00 AM
Antique Tractor & Machinery Display
Music: Whiskey River Band
2nd Annual Fun-For-All Auction
Saturday Night: Fireworks

Sunday: Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 AM
Car Show Registration, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Community Church Service, 10:00 AM
Music: Fox Valley Harvest Band
Steve Ball

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Big Walnut Local Schools

WHAT'S NEW

Big Walnut High School

Principal Andy Jados

The high school is looking forward to kicking off another school year by introducing the new Materials Engineering Academy. This is a course designed to use a hands-on approach to learning basic concepts in Math (Trig and Algebra 3), CAD and Wood Technique and applying them to real-world practice, college, and future careers. The class is designed to be a three period course and fulfill three credits (math, science and an elective). Students will participate in whole group, small group, labs, explorations, and researching to gain access to the content and develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills. The class will have a flexible schedule and will receive guided instruction from three teachers, over three class periods, and the projects will be hands on and guided by the student.

Big Walnut Middle School

Principal Josh Frame

BWMS will be transitioning related arts elective classes from quarters to semesters in 2017-18. This scheduling change will provide students with a richer experience due to increased time, greater student and teacher collaboration and relevant classroom projects. Likewise, BWMS is excited to offer three new related arts elective courses this year, which includes Creative Media, Global Citizenship and Musical Theater. Our other related arts classes (art, Exploratory Technology, Wellness and Physical Education/Fitness) will be divided into the respective 7th and 8th grade levels for deeper learning, additional support and collaboration.

Big Walnut Intermediate School

Principal Ryan McLane

The 2017-18 school year will bring the expansion of more academic opportunities for BWI students. Due in part to the success of our 6th grade Wellness class, we will be including it in our 5th grade specials rotation as well. We will once again present our students with more music opportunities this fall with the addition of our orchestra program. Fifth grade students can select from band, choir, or orchestra, while our 6th grade students can participate in band and choir.

Big Walnut Elementary

Principal Annie Clark

We are excited to start a new year at BWE. We have numerous changes happening, including the addition of another preschool section. Miss Megan Howell will be joining the BWE staff as our new preschool teacher. Mr. Patrick Flanagan will also be joining us as our new PE teacher. We are so excited to have both of these fabulous educators on our team. BWE will also be implementing "Girls on the Run." This program's mission is to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum that incorporates running. Finally, we are so thankful that our PTO purchased a brand new playground for our preschool and kindergarten students!

General Rosecrans Elementary

Principal MeganRose Forman

This year, GRE is expanding to have five sections of 1st and 2nd grade to help with the growth. To accommodate these additions, we will have a trailer for 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms on the back playground. Due to losing the play space, our wonderful PTO has helped us add different components to the playground that will provide new opportunities to play and climb. We will also have a raised bed for staff and students to use for gardening.

Harrison Street Elementary

Principal Kim Castiglione

Harrison Street is thrilled to have four new teachers join our family for this upcoming school year. We welcome Katie DeWitt as a full-day kindergarten teacher, Brady Prugh as our PE teacher, Melanie Albertson as our art teacher, Natalie Siclair as our STEM teacher, and Heidi Bridge as our music teacher. We are eager for them to share their talents with our community and can't wait to see what great things they bring to happy Harrison Street. Looking forward to a great upcoming school year.

Hylen Souders Elementary

Principal Matt Cox

We are eagerly anticipating a new year at Souders Elementary. We are happy to welcome back yoga instructor Laura Coulson who will be working with both students and teachers. She will educate them on strategies to strengthen mindfulness, focus, and body control, as well as methods to reduce stress, anxiety, and anger. Special thanks to kindergarten teacher, Mandy Bailey, for expanding this program school-wide.

STUDENT FEES

Preschool Tuition (typical peers)	$165/month
Full-Day Kindergarten Tuition	$175/month
Grades PS-4 School Fees	$55.00
Grades 5-8 School Fees	$65.00
Grades 9-12 School Fees	$100.00*

**In addition to the $100 flat fee, grades 9-12 may be charged for supplemental items.*

DID YOU KNOW?

Full-day kindergarten tuition was reduced by $50/month this year.

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11:00am to 11:00pm

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Realtors, from left: Jennifer Fielding, Roland Higgins, Martin Forman, Mike Forman (Broker), Michael Pankuch, Don Poland, Steve Barbeau, Linda Wehrle, and Kelly Forman

Big Walnut Local Schools

Key Information on November 7 Ballot Issue

How are we addressing any overcrowding right now?
As overcrowding occurs, we will do one of the following, depending upon the situation:
-Allow class sizes to increase
-Purchase/renovate trailers to use as classrooms
-Bus students around the district to where there is room

Can't we just make the growth work with doing all of that?
No. The growth is here and only continuing at a steady pace. We need a long-term solution to a long-term issue.

In addition, the above solutions present concerning safety issues and stress our operating budget. In fact, with the growth headed our way, we would need approximately 67 classrooms provided by trailers over the next eight years. That's a cost and safety inefficiency that we cannot afford.

What is on the November 7 ballot for our schools?
A combined bond and permanent improvement levy, two issues combined into one vote. The bond will be for 37 years and will appear on the ballot for 6.6 mills, although we anticipate the millage to decrease after this year's reappraisals. The permanent improvement levy will be continuing for 1.25 mills.

ESTIMATED COST PER $100,000 MARKET VALUE

	2018	2019	2020	2021	Ballot
Estimated Cost	$54.60	$99.40	$226.10	$229.60	$274.75
Estimated Millage	1.56	2.84	6.46	6.56	7.85

*Based on interest rate assumptions and estimated growth in property values, the school district does not expect costs to exceed those shown.

The total millage for the combined ballot issue is 7.85 mills. This amount includes 6.60 mills for the bond issue and 1.25 mills for the permanent improvement levy. Based on estimated growth of property value in the community and a plan of finance that phases in the bond issue debt during four separate years, the school district does not expect the full amount of 7.85 mills to be collected early in the repayment schedule. The above figures are estimated millage amounts and costs per $100,000 of market value during the first few years and eventually may reach the ballot amount toward the end of the 37-year repayment.

What will the bond issue provide?
A new high school and additional elementary school as well as security upgrades to our existing buildings. The remaining grades would be switched once these buildings open according to the following:

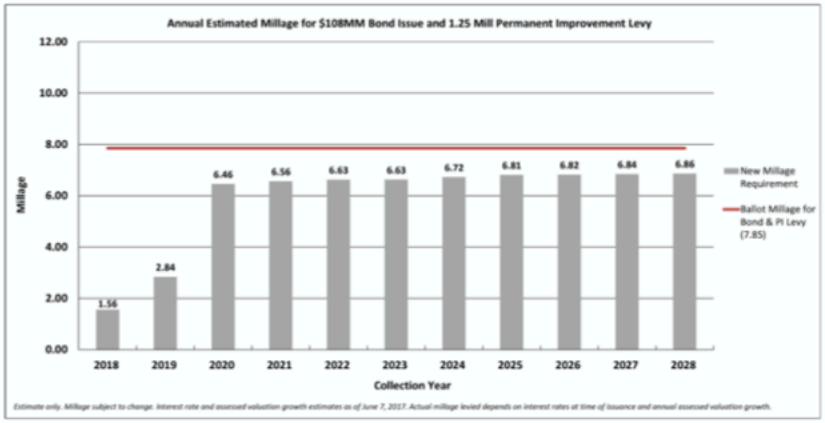
What would the permanent improvement funds provide?
The modest permanent improvement issue will establish important and dedicated funding for the regular upkeep and maintenance of our buildings. We currently do not have a dedicated fund for this and must divert funds from our existing operating budget.

Why are these two issues combined into one ballot issue?
After listening to community input, we believe this is the best solution to meet both our needs for new space and upkeep on our existing facilities.

Is this the same ballot issue put forth last November?
No. The new building projects are the same as they both are needed right now. The board scaled back the request on the original bond issue funds to care for existing buildings, and has shifted to a smaller permanent improvement levy request to cover some of the needs of those buildings. It's not that there were unnecessary projects from that original request; the decision has been made to postpone some projects based on community feedback regarding the size of the ballot issue.

How has the district planned for growth?
We have a community-based Facility Planning Committee that has looked closely at enrollment projections, current building spaces, and anticipated needs to create a recommendation for the ballot. We work closely with our two villages and six townships, as well as Delaware County, to get housing numbers that drive the enrollment projections from Future Think, Inc.

How are we funding the overcrowding that we have right now?
Funds are being diverted from our daily operating budget. The daily operating budget is intended for day-to-day operations in our



Big Walnut Local Schools

Key Information on November 7 Ballot Issue

Continued from page 10

schools and classrooms like teachers, utilities and supplies. Until we have dedicated funds for facilities, this is our only solution. We are using operating funds to purchase and renovate trailer spaces for classrooms.

But doesn't that begin to drain our operating budget?
Yes. Overcrowding and having to divert funds for short-term solutions is the biggest threat to our future fiscal stability.

Big Walnut has seen growth like this before, right?
No. We are growing at twice the rate we did five years ago, and new homes are continuing to be built.

Isn't the growth relegated to just one part of the district?
No. The most critical space needs are at the high school and elementary level, but every building in the district requires attention. In the next two years, every building except the middle school will be over capacity and the district is falling behind.

Does the district have land for a new high school?
No. We do not have the funds to purchase the land. That would come as a result of bond issue passage.

Do you know where a new high school would be?
No. That depends on many market factors, such as sewer lines, pricing and willing sellers. Once we have the funds, we can begin pursuing the land that makes the most sense. Luckily, we have the Facilities Planning Committee to help us with this work, and with assessing land purchases.

Is there a design for a new high school?
No. That requires architectural fees and those are funds we do not have at this time. Once a ballot issue is approved, then we will be in a better position to develop a plan. Any plan that is developed will be with community and staff involvement and it will reflect the needs of Big Walnut, not of any other district. The estimated amount for the HS that drove the ballot issue amount is from early planning that we did with an architectural firm and is based on market costs for the size of building that we need to accommodate our number of students. When we arrive at a budget for the building, we will stay within that budget.

Why can't we just add on to our existing HS?
When our Facility Committee looked at the costs to add on to existing buildings-- including replacing undersized common spaces such as cafeterias, auditoriums, and gyms; building bigger music rooms to accommodate our increasing enrollment; and upgrading mechanical systems to support the larger facilities-- it would actually be more expensive to do multiple additions than it would be to use the plan that is on the ballot.

What happens if the ballot issue passes?
Then we can move forward immediately with security renovations on existing buildings and design of new buildings to protect the quality that we expect in our schools.

What happens if the ballot issue fails?
If it fails, then overcrowding worsens and we only further delay a long-term solution. More trailers and short-term fixes only serve to divert funds from the classroom and drain our operating budget.

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Correction from last edition

Big Walnut Sophomore Kaley Rammelsberg competed at OHSAA State Championships yesterday in the high jump! Great job! #InspireAndGuide

Congrats to Big Walnut Junior Mac Podraza who was part of the USA Volleyball Team, winning the 2017 Junior National Championship for 16 Open! #InspireAndGuide

Big Walnut Local Schools

August Community and School Events

DATE	EVENT	TIMES	LOCATION
August 5-12	**Hartford Fair**		
August 5	**Sunbury Farmer's Market**	9:00 a.m. - noon	Sunbury Square
	Movies on the Square featuring *Moana* presented by the Big Walnut Civic Association	11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	
August 7	**Schedules Posted Online - BWHS**		Parent Portal
August 10	**Schedules Posted Online - BWIS and BWMS**		Parent Portal
August 12	**Sunbury Farmer's Market**	9:00 a.m. - noon	Sunbury Square
August 15	**Meet and Greet - BWIS**	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	BWIS
August 15	**Meet and Greet - BWMS**	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	BWMS
August 15	**Meet and Greet - Elementary**	3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Elementary Schools
August 16	**First Day of School (Grades 1 - 12)**		
August 16 - 18	**Kindergarten Screening**		Elementary Schools
August 19	**Sunbury Farmer's Market**	9:00 a.m. - noon	Sunbury Square
	Sunbury Sizzle & Sounds on the Square presented by the Big Walnut Civic Association	11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	
August 21	**First Day of School - Preschool and Kindergarten**		Elementary Schools
August 21	**Curriculum Night - BWIS**	6:00 p.m.	BWIS
August 22	**Curriculum Night - BWMS**	6:00 p.m.	BWMS
August 23	**Curriculum Night - BWHS**	6:30 p.m.	BWHS
August 24	**Curriculum Night - Elementary**	6:00 p.m.	Elementary Schools
August 26	**Sunbury Farmer's Market**	9:00 a.m. - noon	Sunbury Square
	Movies on the Square	Dusk	
August 26	**Galena Summerfest**	11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Galena Square

NEW PARENT INFORMATION

Big Walnut High School
555 South Old 3C Highway
Sunbury, OH 43074
Principal: Andy Jados

Phone: (740) 965-3766
Guidance: (740) 965-2243
FAX: (740) 965-1954

Big Walnut Middle School
777 Cheshire Road
Sunbury, OH 43074
Principal: Josh Frame

Phone: (740) 965-3006
FAX: (740) 965-6471

Big Walnut Intermediate School
105 Baughman Street
Sunbury, OH 43074
Principal: Ryan McLane

Phone: (740) 965-7800
FAX: (740) 965-7801

Big Walnut Elementary
940 South Old 3C Highway
Sunbury, OH 43074
Principal: Annie Clark

Phone: (740) 965-3902
FAX: (740) 965-3168

General Rosecrans Elementary
301 South Miller Drive
Sunbury, OH 43074
Principal: MeganRose Forman

Phone: (740) 965-8900
FAX: (740) 965-8993

Harrison Street Elementary
70 Harrison Street
Sunbury, OH 43074
Principal: Kim Castiglione

Phone: (740) 965-7850
FAX: (740) 965-7851

Hylen Souders Elementary
4121 Miller Paul Road
Sunbury, OH 43074
Principal: Matt Cox

Phone: (740) 965-3200
FAX: (740) 965-3986

Administrative Services
(Transportation, Food Services)
117 North Kintner Parkway
Sunbury, OH 43074
Director: Ron McClure

Phone: (740) 965-8967
FAX: (740) 965-8984

District Administrative Office
110 Tippett Court
Sunbury, OH 43074
Superintendent: Angie Pollock

Phone: (740) 965-3010
FAX: (740) 965-7838

School Hours:
Elementary: 8:45-3:35
AM KG/PS 8:45-11:30
PM KG/ PS 12:50-3:35
Intermediate: 7:45-2:25
Middle School: 7:40-2:20
High School: 7:40-2:20

District Website:
www.bwls.net

PowerSchool:
tinyurl.com/BWpowerschool

School Fees/Lunch Payment:
www.payforit.net