Big Walnut Local Schools
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THE EAGLE EXAMINER

October 2016

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

Big Walnut
School Bond Issue
2016

on the ballot
November 8

THIS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

- will be mailed quarterly to update the community about Big Walnut Local Schools
- is mailed using Every Door Direct Mail through the United States Postal Service to reduce postage costs

8¢ The cost of postage for each newspaper to be mailed

12¢ The cost to print each newspaper

11,000 The number of newspapers printed and delivered

A Message From Our Superintendent: *Angie Pollock*

Welcome to our 2nd edition of *The Eagle Examiner!* In this edition, our first goal is to share detailed information about our work toward achieving our 2020 Vision. Great things are happening in our classrooms and our Director of Academic Achievement, Jen Young, explains the 2020 Vision for instruction and shares an infographic on page 2. Next, our principals share examples of how our teachers are working to reach our vision to Personalize Instruction, Engage Students, and Grow Minds. Our Director of Student Services, Laura Lawrence, answers many questions that we often receive about the services provided in her department. Many residents do not realize that we have some of these service requirements, and Laura does a great job in her article of explaining the role her department plays in helping students with special needs achieve the 2020 Vision.

Our next important objective in this edition is to provide our residents with information to make an educated decision on the Big Walnut bond issue, which is on the ballot on November 8. In the graphic below, please find the plan for building usage as recommended by our Facility Committee, which was comprised of 24 community members and school officials. Treasurer Terri Eyerman explains the ballot language and the difference between market and taxable value, and provides a millage comparison between Big Walnut and other area districts; our Board President, Mindy Meyer, gives the Board's perspective on the bond issue; Assistant Superintendent Mark Cooper explains our current enrollment and need for additional space; and Athletic Director Brian Shelton explains how our new football scoreboard will pay for itself and generate advertising revenue for the athletic department. Also featured in this edition is our first Quality Profile, which we are proud to share with the community! See my article on page 3 for more information on this new communication tool.

FACILITY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION

And finally, speaking of communication, I would love for you to host a coffee chat! You can host the chat in your home or, if you would prefer, in our central office. As the host, you invite a group of friends, neighbors, or colleagues who live in the district for coffee and conversation about the district. These coffees are one of my favorite things to do as superintendent as I love getting to have two-way conversations with community members in small groups. Please contact Tami Lee at 740.965.8953 or at tamilee@bwls.net to schedule.

@angiepollockBW
@AngiePollock2

Thank you for your continued support,
Angie Pollock

DID YOU KNOW?

Our current K-8 classes are an average of 32% larger than our most recent graduating class. These are the largest classes in Big Walnut history.

Spotlight

Check out our enrollment info

(See page 6)

Road to the 2020 Vision

Director of Academic Achievement: Jen Young
@jen_young

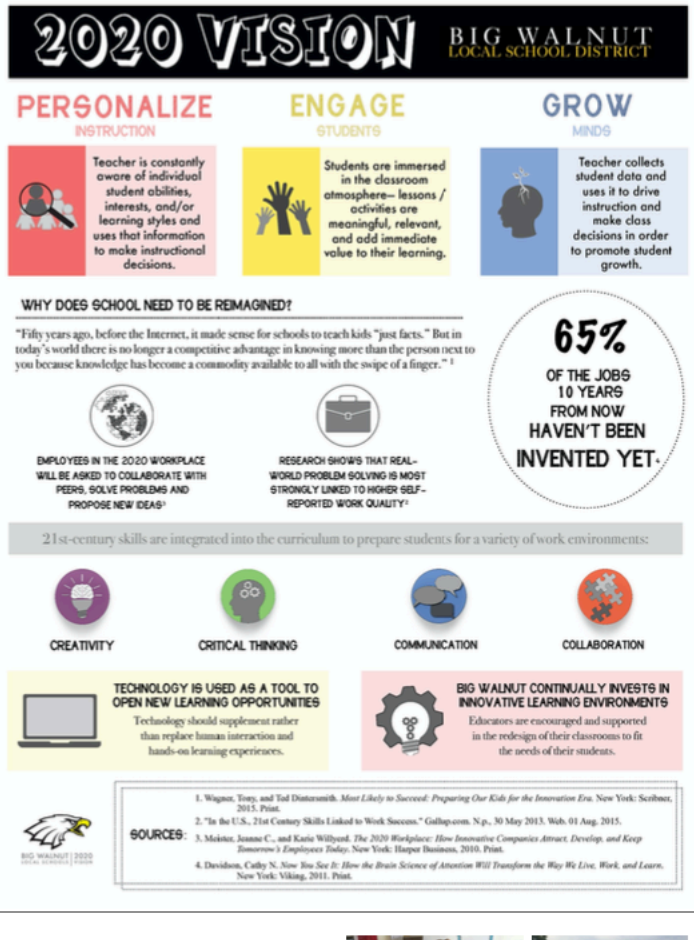
Over the past 100 years the world has changed, jobs have changed, but our U.S. education system has lagged behind. At Big Walnut, we are committed to ensuring that we are preparing our students to be successful in the 21st century. We are educating students to be problem solvers, critical thinkers, collaborators, communicators, and innovators. Our 2020 Vision (shown in the infographic to the right) is aligned to ensuring that happens.

We have a variety of supports in place as our teachers work toward our 2020 Vision. We have an instructional coach/facilitator assigned to each building that serves as a mentor and guide for teachers. These coaches are highly qualified teachers with classroom experience, whose primary job is to work with teachers in order to improve their craft and better meet students' needs.

Because the world of education is changing, we aim to equip our teachers with the tools they need by offering a variety of personalized professional development (PD) opportunities each month. These PD sessions are focused around teacher-requested topics and are often led by teachers. In fact, our teachers logged over 4,000 hours of PD last year! The fact that we had over 120 teachers attend a voluntary PD day during their last week of summer break, speaks volumes to the commitment level of the Big Walnut staff to provide a top-notch education for our students.

Our dedication to the 2020 Vision means that we allocate our resources as such. Our 1:1 Chromebook initiative is just one example. By 2017, all students in grades 5 - 8 will have Chromebooks issued to them for their daily use. Additionally, we use an in-house research and development initiative to allocate resources. Through this program, teachers are able to submit their visions for their ideal instruction, engage classrooms, personalize and grow minds. In 2014, we had 9 teachers apply for the program and funded 9 innovative learning environments. In the 2016-17 school year, we have 83 teachers involved, which means we have 83 teachers in the district that have stepped out in a leadership role in order to make the 2020 Vision a reality.

For more information on our 2020 Vision, please check out the Academic Achievement section of our district website.



What is CCP?

College and Career Readiness Coordinator: Penny Sturtevant

College Credit Plus (CCP) is an opportunity for 7th -12th grade students to earn college credit and high school credit at the same time. Big Walnut is deeply committed to the CCP program and to providing this pathway as an option for our students. Big Walnut currently offers 6 courses for college credit and will be looking to build its offerings in the coming years. This semester, we have 150 students currently participating in the CCP program, and over 940 hours of college credit will be earned by students on our campus.

The CCP program is part of the process in developing a seamless and successful bridge for each student between his/her high school career and post secondary destination. If you have questions regarding this program, please contact me at 740-965-7753 or by email at pennysturtevant@bwls.net. For more detailed information, you can visit the ohiohighered.org website. Click on "Earn College Credit in High School" under the student section at the bottom of the home page.

We are excited to share our first Quality Profile (QP) with the Big Walnut community! As our state report cards become more complex and difficult to comprehend, assessments change each year, and targets are all over the place, many districts are moving toward creating their own QPs to share the "whole picture" of education beyond one day of testing for our students. While our state testing scores are a small piece of a larger data picture, we believe that we have a more comprehensive story to share and are pleased to share it in our QP. You can access our QP in three ways: scan the QR code below to go straight to the PDF, visit our web page (bwls.net) and click on the "Quality Profile" button on the left, or pick up a copy in any of our school offices or at our administrative office at 110 Tippett Court in Sunbury.

BW Scoreboard Will Generate Revenue for Student Athletes

Athletic Director: Brian Shelton

@sheltonOSU1

With the school bond issue on the November ballot, we have received many questions about the funding of the football field scoreboard. The original price of the scoreboard was $117,100. The Big Walnut Athletic Department made a down payment of $36,520.41 and is soliciting sponsorships to pay for the scoreboard and then generate ongoing revenue for our student programs. We are excited to announce revenue from the football field scoreboard project is already on pace to completely pay for the scoreboard in three years. The end goal is to produce $50,000 of annual revenue to be used on uniforms or other expenditures directly impacting our athletes. Thank you to all of our local sponsors!

Helping All Students Reach the 2020 Vision

Director of Student Services: Laura Lawrence

@LauraLawrenceBW

What is the purpose of the Student Services department?
The Student Services department oversees the health, welfare, and learning needs of all students. Areas of focus include Special Education, Preschool, Gifted, English Language Learners, Mental Health/Behavioral Services, School Nurse Services, Home Schooling, Homeless, and all Federal Programs.

What are special education services?
Big Walnut provides a continuum of special education services and supports to children ages 3 - 21 identified as disabled under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Special education services are provided in accordance with Ohio's Operating Standards for Ohio's Schools Serving Children with Disabilities. Public schools are required by Federal and State law to evaluate any child from ages birth through 21 suspected to have a disability, as well as provide special education services through the public schools for children ages 3 - 21 identified with a disability.

What special education services does Big Walnut provide?
Eligibility for special education services is a team decision based on a child's individual needs. Big Walnut has approximately 308 students eligible for special education and receiving services through an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students can receive specially-designed instruction in the regular education class with supports, co-teaching (where the general education teacher and intervention specialist teach together), small group learning in a Specialized Learning Center (SLC), placement in an alternative education environment or home-based instruction. Based on the child's individual needs, the following support services can be provided: adaptive physical education, an aide, audiology, counseling, a guide, medical/nursing services, orientation/mobility/physical therapy, speech and language therapy, interpreter services, transition planning and transportation.

Do any students receive special education services outside of Big Walnut Schools?
A child's school team may place some students out-of-district in specialized behavior schools or autism programs, or Ohio School for the Deaf or AG Bell School for hearing impaired youngsters. Some students are also court-placed in alternate school settings.

2016-2017 Preschool Child Check Schedule
Friday, November 11, 2016
Friday, February 10, 2017
**Contact Heidi Koon at 740-965-7846*

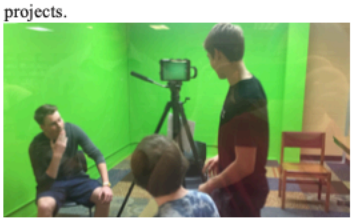
BUILDING SNAPSHOTS

Big Walnut High School

Principal: *Andy Jados*
Assistant Principal: Kelley Bloomer
Assistant Principal: Jim Hall

Jados

The BWHS social studies team is a diverse group of instructors as far as years of experience, but they all have truly embraced the 2020 Vision. This group of teachers frequently utilizes technology to engage their students. They are currently using applications such as Edpuzzle and Voxer, which are tools that enable teachers and students to communicate through digital assessments and a 21st Century walkie talkie. These tools are so captivating that students often need no encouragement or direction and they enjoy using them to collaborate outside of class with their teachers and peers. This group also likes to assess students through presentations and projects. Soon students will be preparing for their community government fair, psychology research presentations to be judged by a panel, and countless other engaging activities and projects.



Follow us: *@AndyJados* *@BigWalnutHS*

Big Walnut Middle School

Principal: *Josh Frame*
Assistant Principal: *Darin Prince*

Frame

The language arts department at Big Walnut Middle School--comprised of Jenny Ainsworth, Ryan Balaz, Erin Barr, Stacye Hamby, Lori Hayhurst, Mike McGann and Laura Wood--continuously collaborates to Personalize Instruction, Engage Students and Grow Minds. For example, this team of teachers will frequently utilize literature circles to empower students to take high ownership of their learning while digging deeper into the current book or text of study. With students working in small groups, teachers can personalize techniques to support deeper understanding. The language arts teachers encourage students to make connections to everyday life and utilize classroom rubrics to support student self-assessment and high expectations for both growth and achievement.

Follow us: *@BigWalnutMS*

Big Walnut Intermediate

Principal: *Ryan McLane*
Assistant Principal: *Sarah Wytzka*

McLane

Our 5th grade teaching team of Wendy Austin and Rachel Middleman is creating an innovative learning environment for their students at BWI. Currently housed in the former fiscal offices, these teachers and their students essentially have a double classroom, which provides them the opportunity to create unique experiences. Instead of being taught math, science, social studies, and language arts in isolation, this space allows teachers to combine their classes and students can engage in learning activities that combine elements from each content area. Mrs. Austin and Ms. Middleman are able to work with groups of different sizes and meet each student's learning needs.

Follow us: *@bwisoh*

Big Walnut Elementary

Principal: *Annie Clark*

Follow us: *@BigWalnutbwe*

Our 1st grade (Mrs. Yankie, Mrs. Estep, and Mrs. Bojc) and intervention (Mrs. Badger, Mrs. Tarney and Mrs. Lederer) teams are making it a priority to personalize math instruction. They consistently administer pre- and post-assessments to gauge student ability. They implement a co-teaching model, where a general education teacher partners with intervention specialists, tutors, or educational assistants to deliver personalized instruction to students with special learning needs. This model allows opportunities for repeated practice, modeling, small group instruction, corrective feedback and extra assistance. A gifted intervention specialist may also team with the classroom teacher to provide extension activities for our higher learners. The continuous data talk between the staff members helps all students grow to their maximum potential.

General Rosecrans Elementary

Principal: *MeganRose Forman*

Follow us: *General Rosecrans Elementary*

GRE has every staff member striving to achieve our 2020 Vision, including our fabulous related arts team-- Mrs. Doran (art), Mrs. Bridge (music), Mrs. Grieger (P.E.), and Mrs. Keller (STEM)! Students are exploring personal interests in art with choice-based stations and activities that include technology, architecture, and origami. In music, students personalize their learning through creativity using instruments and movement of their choice. Our third graders, for example, organized and wrote their own ostinatos using words, instruments, and movement. In PE, students are given a variety of choices to personalize learning as different stations are set up in the gym. In our playground games unit, students were able to explore stations and create new variations of the games. In our new course, STEM, kindergartners are exploring and discovering coding with Ozobots and 1st graders are transforming boxes after reading "Not a Box." Our 2nd graders are modifying a mini go-cart to make it go faster, and students are creating "All About Us" sculptures in grades 3-4. Our specials are well on the way to meeting our vision!

Harrison Street Elementary

Principal: *Kim Castiglione*

Follow us: Harrison Street Elementary

Heather Smith and Karen Snyder, 3rd grade teachers at HSE, along with their intervention specialist, Amy Keep, work diligently to personalize their math instruction. These teachers meet each week to analyze data, brainstorm ideas, and define a myriad of ways for students to show their learning. Activities have included: creating a comic strip about fractions, showing shapes made from Play-Doh and labeling their parts, writing a song about fractions, writing in an interactive notebook, displaying work on a Chromebook, playing games in groups, and completing a project-based learning (PBL) activity to plan a trip to Ireland. In their classroom, students work with two teachers in a small group and complete these above-mentioned independent activities on a daily basis. This classroom is the epitome of personalization and engagement as teachers inspire and guide their children to reach their maximum potential and grow their minds.

Hylen Souders Elementary

Principal: *AJ Hoffman*

Follow us: *Hylen Souders Elementary*

Mrs. Bailey's passion for educating the whole child shines through in many ways. The kindergarten team created a personal interest inventory for parents to complete about their children. This information is used to tailor each student's experience. Mrs. Bailey partnered with yoga instructor, Laura Coulson, to expose learners to movement and yoga, implemented "Turn It Off Tuesday" where her classroom takes a break from technology, and also partnered with a parent to create a farm day for the entire kindergarten when a student expressed her passion for farming. Mrs. Bailey continues to provide instruction that is personalized, activities that are engaging, and she maintains a focus on growing minds.

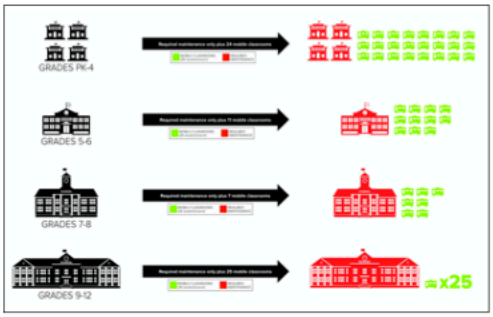
District Enrollment and Facilities

Assistant Superintendent: Mark Cooper

@_MarkCooper

A quick drive within the district is all that it takes to see that we are experiencing a fast pace of residential growth, and for Big Walnut Schools that means that our enrollment is quickly growing. As a matter of fact, our growth over the last 5 years (2011-2015) has been at twice the rate of growth from the previous 5 years (2007-2011). Our enrollment at the start of this school year is already proving to outpace previous years. We are excited to have the opportunity to work with every one of our 3,650+ students and their families. Unfortunately, the realization of our growth projections will have us over capacity in every school building within the next 3 years. Our district Facility Committee, comprised of 24 community members and school officials, met over the majority of last school year to discuss many possibilities for accommodating this growth. The committee made a recommendation to the Board of Education that is the most cost-effective and fiscally-responsible option. This will include repurposing and fully using each of our current building spaces, while adding on to our current middle school and building a new high school and elementary school. The Board has moved forward with placing this recommendation on the ballot for the November election as a bond issue for our voters to decide. The cost of not building will result in students potentially being bussed to other buildings that may have available capacity over the next year or two. We will also need to add trailers to each of our building campuses; an estimated 67 trailers will be needed across the district to accommodate our projected growth over the next 9 years. The district is hopeful to follow through with the committee's recommendation, given voter approval, and get to work immediately on this plan as it typically takes 3-4 years to build a high school large enough for our projected growth. For more information, please visit our website at www.bwls.net and click on "Planning for Growth."

Without additional space, the district will need an estimated **67 trailers** to accommodate our projected growth over the next 9 years

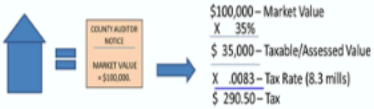


Proposed Bond Issue Explained

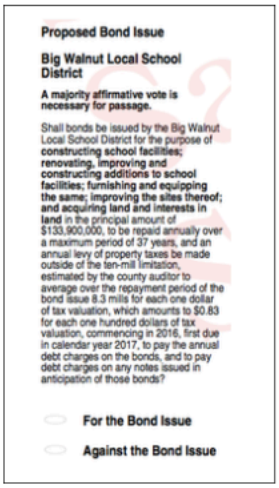
Treasurer: Terri Eyerman

The word is out! Big Walnut is a great school district and people are moving here to be a part of it. A proposed bond is planned to purchase land and build a new high school, add a new elementary school, add a wing onto the current middle school building and take care of much-needed updates and renovations in our existing buildings. In approximately four years, with passage of the bond, all building levels will shift. The current high school will become the middle school; the current middle school will become the intermediate school; the current intermediate school will become another elementary school that will also serve as the district's "in-town" early education site.

The ballot issue, which is requesting 8.3 mills not to exceed 37 years, is a yes or no issue - yes, you support the issue or no, you do not. To calculate what 8.3 mills means to you, visit the County Auditor's Website: www.delawarecountyauditor.org. Once on your property information screen, use the tax estimator tab on the top right of the screen under the gray bar, enter your market value and choose "calculate estimated tax." You will see the estimated Big Walnut Schools Bond Issue annual tax calculation. If you prefer to calculate the estimated tax on your own, keep this in mind - 8.3 mills is paid on the tax valuation of the home or parcel. In the state of Ohio, tax valuation is equivalent to 35% of market value. Below is an example of the calculation on $100,000 Market Value.



This is an actual sample of the ballot you will see when you are in the process of casting your vote.



Proposed Bond Issue

Big Walnut Local School District

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall bonds be issued by the Big Walnut Local School District for the purpose of **constructing school facilities; renovating, improving and constructing additions to school facilities; furnishing and equipping the same; improving the sites thereof; and acquiring land and interests in land** in the principal amount of $133,900,000, to be repaid annually over a maximum period of 37 years, and an annual levy of property taxes be made outside of the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the county auditor to average over the repayment period of the bond issue 8.3 mills for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to $0.83 for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation, commencing in 2016, first due in calendar year 2017, to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?

○ **For the Bond Issue**

○ **Against the Bond Issue**

A Message From Our Board

We all know how important the State of Ohio is during a presidential election year - the sheer volume of commercials, print advertising and phone calls is evidence of that. While you are wading through it all, I hope you find the facts you need to make an informed decision regarding the Big Walnut bond issue that is also on the ballot on November 8th.

Anyone can drive around the district (all 110 square miles of it) and see evidence of growth in the form of new houses being built, more businesses coming to the area, and an increase of cars on the road. Those visual signs bring more students to our district, too. Students we cannot turn away even though some of our buildings are already full, but students who come here to get the best education possible. An education that perhaps you, your children, and/or grandchildren have received or are currently receiving in Big Walnut.

The bond issue on the ballot will allow us to accommodate the students who are already here and the ones who are coming. It will also allow us to make needed repairs to the majority of our aging buildings so that they are safe places for our students and staff members. Having the space to continue to provide a top-notch education for our students is a vital part of the process. If you have been around Big Walnut for awhile, you will know

Vice President Andy Wecker, President Mindy Meyer, Nicci Hess, Allison Fagan, Brad Schneider

that we aren't fancy or showy, but we are smart, efficient and good stewards of our community resources.

One of the hardest parts about going to the taxpayers for a bond issue is timing. Not all of our buildings are operating at maximum capacity today so it may seem premature to go on the ballot right now. Our district is growing at twice the rate it was 5 years ago and the rate is expected to continue to increase. Big Walnut High School (built in 1991) has a capacity to hold 1,100 students and right now there are 1,000 students in attendance. It takes 4 years to complete a high school from design to move-in, so according to growth projections, we are already behind. The current high school will be above capacity by the time the new one is ready even if we start today!

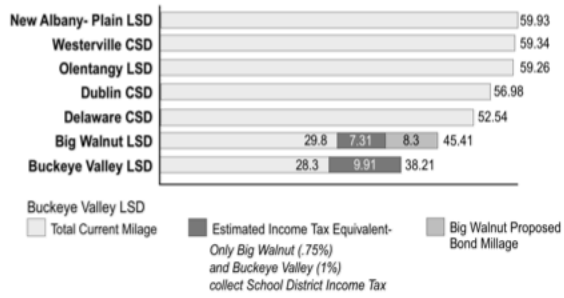
There is so much more to the bond issue on the ballot so I want to encourage you to look into it. Go to the district website for factual information about what the bond encompasses and the data on which the growth projections are based. Dig into the issue and ask questions. We want you to make an informed decision when you vote on this issue. It not only impacts our students and staff, but each one of us as residents in the district. Good schools and good communities go hand in hand. It is hard to have one without the other. If our schools and our community were not good places to live, work and raise our families, then people wouldn't be moving here -- we wouldn't be experiencing growth, and we wouldn't need more space.

Again, I want to encourage you to get involved to really understand what is happening here. Attend a coffee with the superintendent, the State of the Schools event on November 1st, or a township/village meeting where the information will be discussed and your questions can be answered. We want everyone to understand the need and the timing driving this issue.

With Eagle Pride,
Mindy Meyer
Board of Education President

@MindyMeyer1

School District Property Tax Comparison



Big Walnut's tax rate would still be the second lowest when compared to districts in Delaware County and surrounding areas, *even with the passage of the bond issue.*

A Bond vs. A Levy

Bonds and levies each require approval from voters who live within the district's boundaries, and both are paid through property taxes. A bond issue raises money that, by law, can only be used for capital purchases such as new buildings, renovations to current buildings, new vehicles, and equipment. A levy generates money for operating costs, which include utilities, classroom consumables, and employee salaries. The November 8 ballot issue is a **bond issue**.

#BWLS2020

mrs. doran @GREartroom · Aug 35
1st graders exploring the choice based learning stations in art! #GREartroom #bwls2020
Steph Pearlmutter @SPearlmutter · Sep 1
Learning about kinetic friction in science. #bwls2020 #inspireandguide
Katie Graven @katie_graven · Aug 23
Green screen to personalize & explore the Western Hemisphere to start the year! #welch #bwls2020 @DonorsChoose
Our Western Hemisphere Wish Trips
mrsplowman @plowgirl5 · Sep 8
Kurena/Plowman Math Class took it outside to play Island Hop to work on Rounding! #bwls2020 #cotaughtmath
Round Down
Round Up
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Rounding Rollercoaster
Jen Young @jen_young_ · Sep 13
Innovative learning environments at their best! #bwls2020 #inspireandguide @barbaradean09
bwmsci129
Follow
30 likes
bwmsci129 Marshmallow STEM challenge this morning in Science #bwls2020 #bwmpbl
nlyaziabbabescience Hi, how is made this challenge.
Mrs. Heller @Heller_Mrs · Sep 13
CSI The Lost Colony of Roanoke #investigatingpossiblescenarios #bwls2020
Katie Grijak @KGrijak · Sep 29
2nd grade Reading Workshop: Guided Reading & Flexible Seating! #bwls2020 #inspireandguide
Dawn Norris @DonorsChoose · Sep 27
Harrison Street handprint art. Just like each of our handprints is unique, the students art is also different and creative. #BWLS2020
BWI @BWISOH · Sep 13
Double classroom, plenty of possibilities. #bwls2020
marymthonsanchez
Big Walnut High Sch...
Follow
30 likes
marymthonsanchez New year, new staff #publishing #yearbooklife #bwls2020
Follow marymthonsanchez to like or comment.
Kristen Macklin @BWHS_IC · Sep 13
Rowley's class works in the green screen room/Ellison machine as they collaborate on projects in the IC #BWLS2020
Big Walnut Elem @bigwalnutelem · 13m
First graders are using math to measure a whale #bwls2020