

Big Walnut Local Schools
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Sunbury, Ohio 43074

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THE EAGLE EXAMINER

May 2017

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

A Message From Our Superintendent: *Angie Pollock*



It is hard to believe that the 2017-18 school year, which seems to have just begun, is coming to a close. We look forward to seeing our seniors rewarded for their hard work at our upcoming graduation ceremony on May 20. This is just one of many events celebrating our students' accomplishments around our campuses this month.

As the year is ending, our focus has shifted to finalizing plans for next school year. What continues to rise to the forefront is the overcrowding and enrollment increases across the district. As we plan for the necessary number of sections of each course or grade level, we are closely monitoring the available spaces in each building and planning to add temporary space-- trailers-- as needed.

We are taking steps to manage this growth, but the overcrowding will soon be a reality in most of our schools throughout the next school year. Crowded and makeshift spaces, like trailers, do affect our ability to provide the education that our students are used to receiving. We strive to provide an environment that aligns to our 2020 Vision for academics (see page 2). Our excellent teachers have been able to come up with creative ways to inspire and guide our students despite facility limitations, but this becomes more difficult as we grow.

This month, the board is expected to move forward with placing an issue on the November 7, 2017 ballot. We will continue watching class sizes closely to see where additional spaces are needed.

I greatly appreciate all of you who contacted me either in person or online using our facilities questionnaire. Please reach out to my office with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support of our schools. I hope you have a relaxing summer, and we look forward to seeing you in August!

Coming Soon!

We are excited to announce that, in partnership with the Community Library in Sunbury, the Sunbury/Big Walnut Chamber of Commerce, and the Big Walnut Civic Association, we will be providing a monthly newsletter to share information with our community. These organizations will be providing funds to defray the costs of the newsletter.



@AngiePollock2 @angiepollockBW



Congratulations Class of 2017



Graduation Information

May 20, 2017

7:30 p.m.

BWHS Football Stadium

**Weather permitting*

DID YOU KNOW?

At Big Walnut, we value whole-child education. We are proud that 40% of our middle school students participate in our music program.

Spotlight

Big Walnut Middle School students help the community for Service Day (see page 6)



District Adds New Courses to Meet Student Needs

Jen Young, Director of Academic Achievement



@jen_young

We are always reflecting and looking for ways that we can make our curriculum more personalized and engaging to prepare students for life after high school. After surveying students

and families, we are excited to be expanding our educational offerings for students next year! Our new courses will provide real world experiences for students, expand the options for students interested in performing arts, offer additional free college credit for courses taken at BWHS, combine math/science and English/social studies to make connections between subjects, and give students internship opportunities.

While each of these courses will be new, it's important to note that this does not mean new teachers were hired for every course. Most of these courses will be taught by current Big Walnut teachers. By looking at student interests, we were able to change some of our offerings to meet the needs of our current student population. In addition, we spent a great deal of time reviewing how our staff is being used and ensuring that we maximize their time in order to best serve our students.

If you would like more information about the new offerings or are interested in getting your child registered for a course, please contact the school counseling office.

BWIS

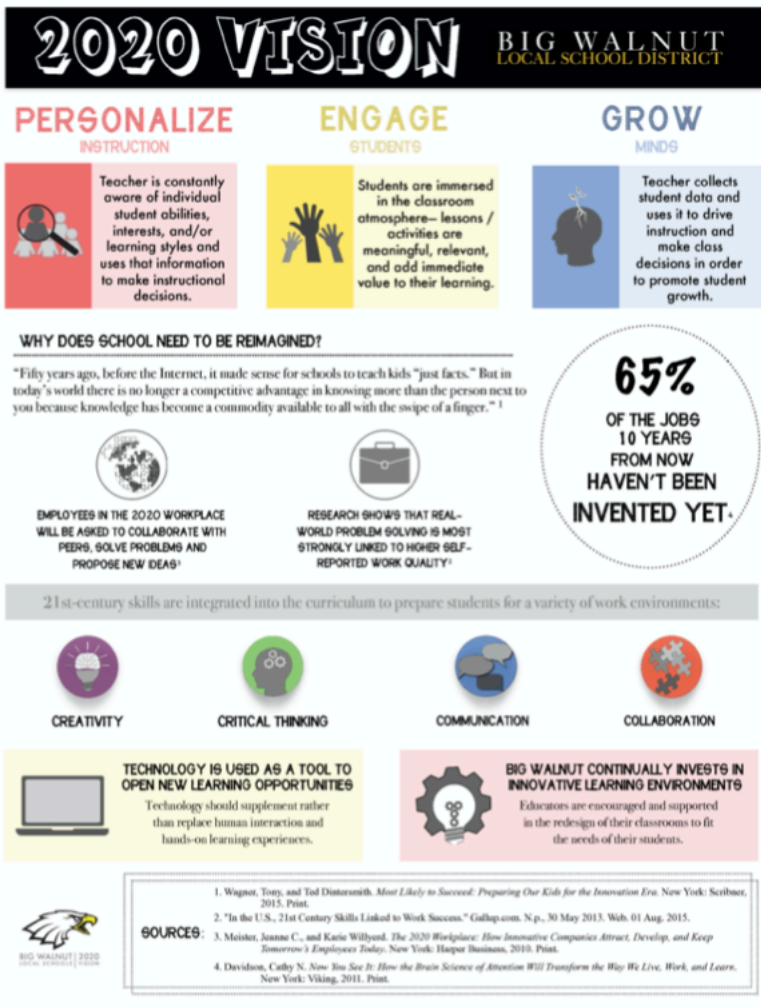
- Orchestra (5th grade elective)
- Wellness (all students)

BWMS

- Creative Media (elective)
- Global Citizenship (elective)
- Humanities- Language Arts/ Social Studies combined (7th grade)
- Musical Theater (elective)

BWHS

- American Studies- American History/English 10 Combined
- BWHS Print Shop Internship (elective)
- Drama II (elective)
- Glass Arts II (elective)
- Introduction to College Biology (College Credit Plus)
- Jazz Band (elective)
- Life After Graduation (elective)
- Materials Engineering- Science, Math, Wood Technology combined
- Mechanical Principles (elective)
- Speech (elective)
- US History 1151 (College Credit Plus)
- US History 1152 (College Credit Plus)



BWHS student Brayden Anderson using Mr. Frank's 3D printer for project

The Big Walnut 2020 Vision is our roadmap to creating an educational experience that prepares students for the 21st Century. We thrive to personalize instruction, engage students, and grow minds. The above infographic is an overview of what we're working towards by the year 2020.

Handling Enrollment Increases

What's Ahead for Next School Year

Our district has already experienced the effects of enrollment increases and is preparing for overcrowding this fall as even more students move to our schools over the summer months.

So, what can parents expect with the new school year? Already the district knows some class sizes will be larger when school resumes in August. This is necessary, while not ideal. Larger class sizes make it more difficult for teachers to get one-on-one time with students, which in turn makes it tough to personalize learning for students.

By taking a big-picture look at the district, decisions will be made on whether to bus some students away from their neighborhood elementary schools to another where there may be more space. At this time, this only impacts kindergarten students, but may impact older students as we continue to grow.

We are refurbishing our existing double-classroom trailer at Big Walnut Elementary for use next school year, and we are adding another double-classroom trailer for General Rosecrans Elementary, with many more on the horizon without a permanent fix.

"Although these fixes are not ideal we are doing all we can to fit students into our schools," said Superintendent Angie Pollock. "Looking ahead, what concerns me is without a long term solution our enrollment projections show that over the next nine years, we would need approximately 67 trailer spaces to serve as classrooms."

"Our common spaces, like the cafeteria and hallways, were not built for this many students."

-Carol Burchett

"It's really difficult to manage spaces when they are overcrowded. There is no room for students to even eat in the cafeteria, and we are

holding study hall in the auditorium. That is not an ideal situation for studying, but it is what we have available," said Carol Burchett, high school Spanish and French teacher.

Pollock agreed. "With each passing week we only pick up more students. With enrollment growth a factor at all levels, we will be asking students and parents to be extra patient next year as there are some definite inconveniences that come with overcrowding."

Pollock noted that it may take longer to dismiss at the close of the school day and seating and parking for activities such as concerts and plays will continue to be at a premium.

"It's far from perfect," said Pollock, "but we are doing all we can to take care of each student."

Best Buddies Friendship Program Heading to BWHS

Erin Curtis, Student Services Coordinator



We're excited to share that we will have a Best Buddies Friendship program within our high school starting in the 2017-2018 school year. The

Best Buddies Friendship program builds one-to-one friendships between people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), offering social mentoring while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion for a population that is often isolated and excluded. Through their participation, people with IDD form meaningful connections with their peers, gain self-confidence and self-esteem, and share interests, experiences and activities that many other individuals enjoy.

Big Walnut High School is looking for students who would be interested in being peer buddies and willing to commit to building a friendship with a student with a disability. Part of the commitment is to agree to a minimum of two social activities outside of the school day with their buddy,

as well as communicate with them as they would with any other friend- through social media, texting, phone calls, etc.

The Best Buddies Friendship Program at BWHS will provide students the opportunity to assume leadership roles. The student leadership members will meet with high school staff advisors to plan upcoming social gatherings and activities that "buddies" can participate in together.

It is strongly encouraged to have parent liaisons to participate in the student leadership and staff advisor meetings. If you are interested in being a part of this great opportunity, please contact Erin Curtis, BW Student Services Coordinator through email at erincurtis@bwls.net.



Mr. Adams' students working together to "escape" the BWHS Innovation Center



GRE students getting ready for Mrs. Okoneski's lesson



Students in Mrs. Corven's class at BWI learning about decimals



A Message From Our Board

Throughout the school year, our students had many notable achievements. Overall, this was a great year for our schools. Without a doubt, we provide a great value to residents: An excellent education at a low price. We work hard every day to provide this to our community.

One of our highest priorities this year is addressing enrollment growth, overcrowding and school facilities. As our superintendent has frequently noted, our facility and enrollment growth collectively represent the single biggest issue facing our schools right now.

We are continuing to grow at a rapid rate and many of our schools are either at or near capacity. It takes time to construct a new school building – four years for a high school– which is why we are working so diligently and have placed this issue as a top priority. The more overcrowded our facilities get, the more it affects the safety and operations of the buildings. It also impacts the educational quality that we can provide. If teachers do not have space for their resources or enough space to appropriately

teach students, then it hurts our ability to reach students in all the ways we know we can. That concerns us and we know it concerns many of you, too.

As we begin looking toward a November ballot issue, we have spent time listening to residents and reflecting upon the November loss. While the need has only worsened since that time, we heard the community and intend to pursue a trimmed back version of last year's ballot issue. That means that voters will decide on the most critical facility needs now and we will put off on the other necessary facility needs until later.

Thank you to all of those who participated in our survey, or contacted us individually or as a Board to offer your thoughts and input into next steps. When residents are heard and informed, it makes for a stronger and better community and school system.

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing summer.

Brad Schneider
Vice President

GRE's Mrs. Rowe working with a student to see all the skills he's mastered this year



2016 - 2017 BWHS Principal's Leadership Team

Alumni Hall of Fame

Once again, our BWHS Principal's Leadership Team recognized our distinguished alumni at a luncheon on March 9 at the high school.

This entire process, from the selection of inductees to the organization of the awards luncheon, is completely student-driven.

Our new alumni inductees- Tommy Hatfield



Tommy Hatfield, Don "Red" Edwards, Jim Hildreth

(Class of 1983), Don "Red" Edwards (Class of 1956), and Jim Hildreth (Class of 1977)-- were presented their awards by our student leaders and were given an opportunity to share their experiences and wisdom with the group.

Our students did an amazing job of introducing the recipients, and it was great to witness the students interacting with alumni.

As we continue to grow, it becomes even more important that we remain connected with our alumni and maintain the rich traditions that are a part of our school and larger community. Our student committee will be seeking nominations in the spring for the next class of inductees.

Board To Pursue Scaled Down Bond Issue

The Big Walnut Local Schools Board of Education is expected to vote on a proposed bond issue this month that will appear on the November 7, 2017 ballot.

The board spent time following last fall's ballot issue failure, listening to the community's input about possible solutions to the district's enrollment growth problem. This included in-person conversations, an online questionnaire and the involvement of the district's community-based Facility Committee.

After months of reflection and deliberation, the board is expected



Zach MacDonald recognized as student of the month

to vote to approve a scaled-down version of last fall's bond issue. Instead of asking for the two needed buildings, as well as additional funds to address the existing aging facilities, the plan is to ask for the funds to build a high school (\$87 Million) and elementary school (\$16 Million) as well as funds to create secure entries in the five older buildings.

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HSE students working together to build a tower in Mrs. Priestas' class

Single Most Important Issue Facing Schools?

Enrollment, Facilities

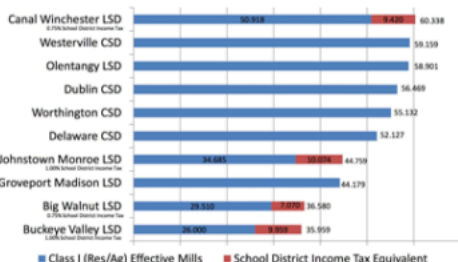
Enrollment growth and overcrowding creates definite difficulties in running a school building.

The lack of space creates safety and educational challenges on a day-to-day basis. To address the growth with trailers, or any other temporary fixes, it means that we must divert funds from the operating budget to try to solve them. Those are funds that are otherwise dedicated to the classroom and for our day-to-day operations.

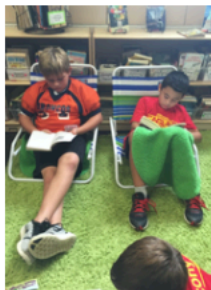
"Short-term fixes place strain on our daily operating budget because we must divert funds in order to help remedy the problem immediately," stated Pollock. "We want greater efficiency in our facilities and we want to protect the educational value we provide to residents but that cannot come through short-term fixes."

Pollock noted that the district's tax rate is lower than nearly every other school system in our area. Big Walnut spends less per pupil than the state average and less than most districts around us while providing an excellent educational value.

Big Walnut residents pay a low tax rate and get a great value from their schools



Sources: Delaware, Franklin and Licking County Auditor's Offices; Ohio Department of Education; Ohio Department of Taxation



HSE's Peyton Phillips and Tyler Young reading in Mrs. Truax's class



Mrs. George helping students with a project at BWI



Huyen Souders custodian, Mr. Johnson, helping with a STEM project



Miss Sliva reading to her 2nd grade students at Big Walnut Elementary



HSE's Cooper Schick is enjoying a good book in a quiet reading space



Chatting about their lesson in Mrs. Desormeaux's class at SOU



Braylon Rogers dressed up with BWE's preschool teacher, Mrs. Cordas



FAQs

Listed below are some of the frequently asked questions we have received lately. Have a question? Send us an email at facilitymatters@bwls.net.

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 the new high school will be located?

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 the 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. When we arrive at a budget for the building, we will stay within that budget. Our budget is primarily based on the state recommended amount per square foot for the number of students.

Why did Central Office move?

Ultimately because it frees up space and district funds. It was cheaper for us to move than to build classroom space, which is what Central Office was occupying.

I heard that Huyen Souders Elementary has empty classrooms. How can elementary schools be reaching capacity soon, but there are empty classrooms?

There are no empty classrooms at Souders. All classrooms are in use. If anything, we may need to convert a computer lab to regular classroom use. We are also facing the need to move services such as physical and occupational therapy and tutoring from a classroom to hallways to create classroom space.

BWMS Students Help the Community for Service Day



Aaron Rockwell preparing soil for the Community Garden at the Sunbury Library

Our middle school students and staff were happy to join youth across the world for Global Youth Service Day. In collaboration with community partners, we held the second annual Big Walnut Service Day on April 21. We are proud that 100% of staff and students at BWMS participated in service learning at over 44 different service sites. A variety of student-selected activities were available to impact the local community, our region and the world. Throughout the year, a committee of 25 student leaders prepared for this event by surveying the students, meeting with local community partners and establishing goals for service sites within our greater Big Walnut learning community. The students, staff and community utilized resources from Global Youth Service Day planning templates to

identify areas of need, clarify the work to be completed, and identify the resources necessary to complete these tasks. Based on these responses, 560 students, 60 staff members and additional parent and community volunteers were divided into teams and sent out across our county. Altogether, the service hours from this event totaled over 2,170 and deepened the pride in our community.

On the day of the event, service teams began together to build rapport and excitement with targeted activities before an assembly to kick off the event with local musician and community leader, Mr. Dave Martin. Service teams then traveled by school bus to their sites to serve before returning to school to share and reflect upon the lessons learned from the service activities.

Overall, service learning promotes good deeds and academic achievement, but its greater potential lies in preparing students to be engaged citizens. Given the purpose of this event was to serve others, we hope that the biggest impact will be not on ourselves, but those that benefit from our unified service.



Students working in the kitchen at the Glass Rooster Cannery



Tyler Colvin, Sam Thomas, Abby Coey read to 1st graders at GRE



One group works together to mulch the Sunbury square



Team helping with the Barn at the Glass Rooster Cannery

Board To Pursue Scaled

Down Bond Issue

Continued from Page 4

While this millage will not provide enough funds to address many of the older buildings' needs, it will provide some funds while keeping overall millage down. The Board is also considering adding mills for ongoing Permanent Improvement needs, such as maintaining roofs and heating components.

Getting additional student space is the district's top priority for the next ballot issue. "It takes two years to build an elementary school, and even longer for a high school," stated Superintendent Angie Pollock, "That's why it is important that we start addressing this now. The growth is already here and the new houses around the district show that it is only expected to continue in a strong and steady way."

Land purchase expected to be part of the plan

While the district does have two potential sites from developers that would accommodate an elementary school, it does not currently own land for a new high school. There simply are not extra funds in the existing budget to purchase that land now; any land purchases would need to occur once a bond issue is passed.

"Our Facilities Committee has studied potential options," stated Pollock. "And we even have a few in mind, but making those public at this point would be premature, and could only serve to potentially drive up the purchase price. That would hurt not only the district, but ultimately our taxpayers."

Pollock continued, "There are a lot of decisions that go into determining a good piece of property, including having a willing seller at a fair price. We have a few sites in mind, but a lot can happen between now and when we obtain the funds."

The Facilities Committee, made up of local experts in construction and other areas, is vital to planning when it comes to determining what is needed and what is most important.

It is common for questions to arise when a community has schools with major needs. Anyone having questions should direct those to the Superintendent's Office.

#BWLS2020



AJ Hoffman @ajhoffman · Feb 28
Chess and craft club during recess. Both completely developed and run by the students. Thanks for supervising @NatalieSclar #bwls2020



Megan Everett @mjevett · Apr 24
Everyone got a food truck today for their Econ project. I wish it was that easy! #columbusfoodtrucks #bwls2020



Mrs. Lindsey Fries @lfrs · Apr 7
Passion projects in full swing @BigWalnutBWLS2020 #bwls2020



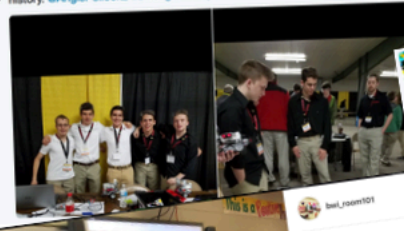
Big Walnut Elem @bigwalnutbwe · Apr 13
Third graders using the 4cs to escape! #inspireandguide #bwls2020 #escaperoom



Brittany Moser @bmuser · Apr 12
Enjoying some new seating choices! #bwls2020



Andy Jados @AndyJados · Apr 11
BWHS competing in the National Robotics Challenge for the first time in school history. #AnglePollock2 #bwls2020



Jen Young @jen_young · Feb 28
Kindergarten learning about mindfulness and literacy topics through yoga. Partnering with the community. #bwls2020 #inspireandguide @ajhoffman



BWHS Art @BARTBW · Apr 21
#servicelayer middle school student mentoring 5th grade student in drawing and shading @BWHSCH @BigWalnut_BWLS #bwls2020



Regina Foster @foster · May 4
That this student created his own fidget spinner! #bwls2020



Danielle LaBelle @dlaBelle · Apr 21
First grade leaders hard at work! Stem bins, lessons, movies, and classroom #bwls2020



Mary Mitton-Sanchez @marymitton · Apr 21
Journ Sis practiced shooting portraits that captured different angles, emotions to go w personality profiles. Coached by news staff. #bwls2020



Community Summer Calendar

DATE	EVENT	TIMES	LOCATION
May 20	Sunbury Farmer's Market	9:00 am - noon	Sunbury Square
May 24	Community Library's Summer Reading Kick-Off! Kids can build their own ice cream sundaes and enter to win tickets to Kings Island! Summer Reading program is for all ages and runs May 24th through July 15th.	6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Community Library
May 27	Sunbury Farmer's Market	9:00 am - noon	Sunbury Square
May 29	Memorial Day Parade & Flea Market		Sunbury Square
June 3	Sunbury Farmer's Market Movies on the Square - featuring <i>Zootopia</i> presented by the Big Walnut Civic Association	9:00 am - noon Dusk	Sunbury Square
June 10	Sunbury Farmer's Market	9:00 am - noon	Sunbury Square
June 17	Sunbury Farmer's Market	9:00 am - noon	Sunbury Square
June 21	"Bubble Trouble" - Jeff Troyer's one-man bubble extravaganza. Free for all ages - registration required.	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Community Library
June 24	Sunbury Farmer's Market	9:00 am - noon	Sunbury Square
July 1	Sunbury Farmer's Market Movie on the Square featuring Jungle Book presented by the Big Walnut Civic Association	9:00 am - noon Dusk	Sunbury Square
July 4	2017 Independence Day Celebration: *parade beginning at BWHS *Antiques, Arts & Crafts Fair, Kid Zone & Hot Dog Eating Contest on Square *Outhouse Races & Memorial Volleyball Tournament at BWHS *More details at www.sunburybigwalnutchamber.com	See website for details www.sunburybigwalnutchamber.com	BWHS & Sunbury Square
July 4	Galena Flea Market & Community Yard Sale	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Miller Park
July 8	Sunbury Farmer's Market	9:00 am - noon	Sunbury Square
July 15	Sunbury Farmer's Market	9:00 am - noon	Sunbury Square
July 22	Sunbury Farmer's Market	9:00 am - noon	Sunbury Square
July 29	Sunbury Farmer's Market	9:00 am - noon	Sunbury Square

August dates will be included in our next edition.



Students learning how to play their recorders at BWE with Mrs. Blocher



Miss Thomas checking in with a student on her progress at GRE



Mrs. Kessler working with a small group at Souders



HSE's principal, Mrs. Castiglione, enjoying a snack with students