

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

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The Eagle Examiner



MAY 2021

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



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG



Dear Members of the Big Walnut Class of 2021,

Congratulations on your pending graduation from Big Walnut High School! On behalf of our entire staff and Board of Education, I want to wish you well as you move on to your next chapter in life. Although your last 1.25 years at Big Walnut was not what any of us expected for you, your graduation is really the culmination of years of classes, teachers, projects, and many experiences that helped shape you into the person you are today.

As you leave the halls of Big Walnut High School, I encourage you to reflect on how your unique senior year may have taught some valuable lessons. You are graduating at a time when our country is in the throes of great controversy.

In addition to the other skills we hope you have learned while a student at Big Walnut, this year has undoubtedly taught you many lessons in flexibility and prioritizing what is important, which should serve you well as you step into leadership roles throughout life. During your time at Big Walnut, it is my hope that you have also learned academic skills that will help you in your future schooling or career, as well as skills that will help you to become a productive citizen. Our goal was that you grew in the areas of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication, as these are skills you will need regardless of where life takes you. I also hope you have acquired the ability to empathize with others, which is greatly needed in today's society.

As you move through the many stages of life, it is my hope that you will value the education you received at Big Walnut. As an adult, I hope you will support the schools in whatever community you call home, whether that is in Big Walnut or elsewhere. Strong schools equal strong communities and strong home values. Support your schools with your time, efforts, and taxes because local services (such as education) will have the biggest impact on your community.

As you continue on your journey, I hope you will fondly remember the great community where you were raised. When you become a parent, I think you will gain an even greater appreciation of this community, and how our residents always come together to support our students. While this is something I have always seen in Big Walnut, our community has exceeded my expectations lately in coming together to support each other through awesome programs like Neighborhood Bridges. When you face challenges in life, and you will, remember the many people here who want to help and support you. When things are good for you, remember to "pay it forward" to help others. Congratulations!

**CHECK OUT PAGE 5
FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR STAGGERED START DATES**

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Brad Schneider

This month is a good month to think about gratitude. If you asked me on August 1 of 2020 for my prediction on what would happen with this school year, I would have said something like, "I'm looking forward to getting started and hopeful we can go as long as we can without having to go fully remote."

With a few weeks remaining, it looks like we are going to finish the year with our students having the opportunity to be in school 5 days per week for the entire school year.

I am struggling to figure out where to begin expressing my gratitude for the effort it took for our community to realize a full school year for our students and families who wanted to be in the building every day.



Doug Crawl, Vice President Liana Lee, President Brad Schneider, Sherri Dorsch, Stephen P. Fujii (This picture was taken prior to COVID-19.)

This effort took a collective sacrifice by everyone in our community who made our environment as safe as possible for our students and staff in order to press forward with our mission to inspire and guide students to reach their maximum potential. I don't choose the word sacrifice lightly, as almost every one of us accepted some aspect of the circumstances facing us with some degree of frustration. However, our ability to stay focused on our students and trying to find the safest and most effective options for them ultimately led to a successful year despite the odds.

I hope our parents and students can adequately express their appreciation and gratitude for the staff members who made this year as successful as possible. I also hope that our staff members can find the best ways to express their gratitude to the students and parents who adapted and engaged with them as the dynamics of the year evolved.

Thank you to everyone in our community who had any part in making this year an example of the positives that can evolve from challenging situations. Hopefully we can stay focused on making the best choices we can to support our students, who have been challenged with a set of obstacles most of us have never had to endure.

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS | INSPIRE & GUIDE



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Check out the progress on the new Big Walnut High School



Below is the rendering of the new BWHS Academic Commons, which highlights Big Walnut High School's **EAGLE Strong** program. Students are recognized when they demonstrate one of the high school's five core values, which were selected by students and staff.

Eagle Strong program values:

- Excellence**
- Acceptance**
- Growth Mindset**
- Leadership**
- Effort**



Typical classroom with a small-group room starting to take shape



Student dining area facing gym and front entry



CAREFUL DEBT MANAGEMENT HELPS OFFSET RISING CONSTRUCTION COSTS



Over the last couple of months, I have had several conversations related to our District-bonded debt with community members, and I thought it would be beneficial to share this information with the entire community. I am proud of what we have been able to do to earn additional dollars for construction projects and what we are doing to reduce costs to save money.

Since the community approved this initiative in November 2017, we have shared

Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk

the financing plan for selling bonds in phases. This aspect of bonded debt is like an individual taking out a mortgage to purchase a home. The multiple bond issues allowed us opportunities to phase in our millage amounts over several years to help taxpayers, while still providing funds at the right time to allow us to certify and approve construction contracts, keeping our construction projects on schedule. A fortunate benefit of issuing the bonds when we did and strategically planning out estimated cash flow needs is that we were able to invest the funds to gain over \$3 million in investment earnings. The dollars earned from tax-exempt bonds are not allowed to be used for day-to-day operations, but they have been a positive benefit and an additional resource to help offset some of the cost challenges in construction. If you have recently seen how much the cost of lumber has increased for your own home projects, it may give you a glimpse of some of the construction cost challenges.

The second aspect I wanted to share is how we look for opportunities to reduce costs when we can by refunding bonds, which is like refinancing your own personal mortgage. When we have an opportunity to do a refunding, we work with our consultants to review if it makes sense to proceed. We continue to monitor the interest rates right up until the day of the scheduled sale because rates can change quickly. We also look at whether it makes sense to restructure our outstanding debt, which could include paying some amounts off on a different time schedule and issuing different types of debt than what was previously issued. We were fortunate in February 2021 to be able to perform a refunding, which is anticipated to provide over \$2 million in savings for our district and community.

When you think about our schools, debt is probably not the first thing that comes to mind. However, these are some of the things that we work hard to do to continue to provide great opportunities for our students at a good cost to our community.



CURRENT BWHS FIELD SLATED FOR TURF

On April 8, 2021, the Big Walnut Board of Education approved an agreement with the North Coast Athletic Association to replace the current grass field at Big Walnut High School with synthetic turf. Under this agreement, the North Coast Athletic Association will be paying for the entire cost of the project (\$650K) in exchange for use of the field for their youth recreation soccer program. We will have the first right of refusal to schedule use of the synthetic turf.

This unique partnership will provide an exceptional opportunity for our Big Walnut student-athletes to be able to participate on the synthetic turf throughout the entire year. There will be a maintenance cost savings of not having to mow, fertilize, seed, and water the grass field in the off-season to prepare for the actual game season. This offset in costs, along with facility rental fees, will fund the maintenance and replacement costs of the synthetic turf.

Astroturf, the same company installing the turf field at the new high school, has been contracted to complete the synthetic turf installation. Pending the finalization of the permitting process, the work is scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2021 or after the completion of the Big Walnut HS fall athletic season.

Thanks to Athletic Director Brian Shelton, Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk, Facilities Director Doug Swartz, the Big Walnut Board of Education, and Phil Nichols from the North Coast Athletic Association for their work to make this partnership a reality.



April's STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Due to COVID-19, pictures were taken with immediate family members only and not with Board members



Audrey Schneider from Hylen Souders Elementary



Maggie Adams from Prairie Run Elementary

NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS CONTINUE TO BEAUTIFY THE COMMUNITY

Big Walnut High School's Art Honor Society painted murals in the building of the Sunbury Fraternal Order of the Eagles Aerie 3614.

Planning for the mural began back in August with over 50 BWHS students participating throughout the process. Students spent an entire day painting and beautifully detailing the mural. Students were extremely driven to create high-quality work since the initial planning meeting back in August 2020 when the conversation about the mural first began. The leadership team of Sydney Foxworthy, Ashleigh Westervelt, Kassie Swank, and Jaiden Hilton planned alongside teacher Melissa Maxson, who began the Art Honor Society program back in 2009.

The goal of the National Art Honor Society is for students in grades 9-12 to work alongside local community members to design and create murals for local nonprofit organizations. The aim of this program is to preserve and promote the constitutional rights of these individuals to freely create works of art, to encourage social growth among themselves and within their community and to create a climate that is welcoming not only within the immediate group, but within the neighborhood as a whole. Deep-rooted principles in art serve as the framework and display to students how to be ethically and morally responsible through mural-based service learning.

The Art Honor Society has served other organizations in the community, such as the Sunbury VFW and the Delaware County Humane Society.

If you would like a mural created for your organization, or know of a group that would be interested, please reach out to Melissa Maxson at melissamaxson@bwls.net

IN OTHER *art* NEWS...



The BWHS Print shop designed Ace Hardware's store logos and created front window signs to be installed in their new Johnstown store. According to owner Wendy Weiler, who worked with the print shop students, "This has been a fantastic experience. The kids have been delightful to work with. They have been attentive to our needs, flexible, and responsive... more so than many adult firms we deal with!"

The more important thing, to me, is that these kids are learning so many life skills.

I already have more projects I am going to ask them to work on in the few weeks before school gets out!" If you'd like to work with the BWHS Print Shop, email BWHSPrintService@gmail.com.



MESSAGE SUBMITTED BY THE BIG WALNUT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Big Walnut Alumni Association has existed since the inception of Big Walnut Schools in 1950. Alumni banquets have been held each year until Covid-19 interrupted. During recent years, attendance and interests have waned. Funding the celebration has continued to be subsidized by the members of the organization's leaders for many years. Currently, the funding account is about \$50, not even enough to buy the postage for the postcards sent to the graduates up through 1971, the 50-year class. Many classes don't even have 25-and 50-year celebrations and have little interest in the alumni banquet. Many of the committee members have left, so we are ending the banquet plans for now.

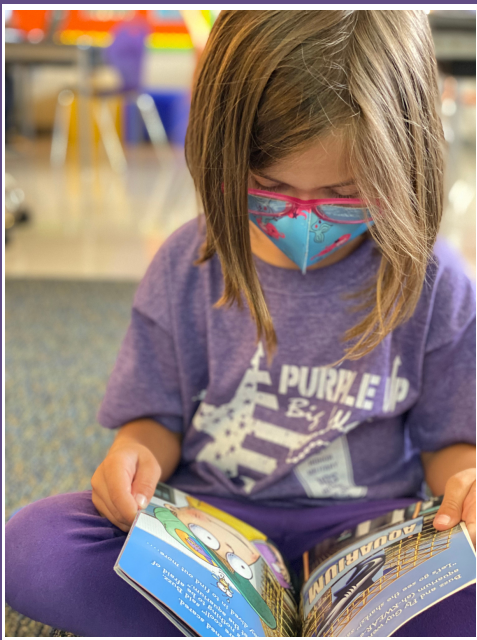
The Big Walnut Education Foundation will be gifted the treasury unless someone suggests otherwise. If you wish to see the alumni banquets continue, volunteers are needed. Make your voice known now to Edwin Roshon 614.946.0772, Class of 1966, alumni records keeper.

LEGAL NOTICE:

Big Walnut Local Schools will hold a public meeting to solicit community input regarding the use of all state and federal grants. The meeting will be held at the Big Walnut Administrative Office (110 Tippet Court) on Thursday, June 17, 2021 from 3:30-4:00 p.m. All current COVID-19 safety measures will be followed for in-person gatherings. The District welcomes input from all community members. District residents who are parents of students currently attending non-public schools are also invited. Written comments will also be accepted through Monday, June 14, 2021. Please send comments to Laura Lawrence, Director of Student Services, at the following address: Big Walnut Local School District, 110 Tippet Court, Sunbury, Ohio 43074. Upon request, the District shall make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities to be able to participate in this public meeting. Please contact the Student Services Department at 740-965-7846.



PURPLE UP



On April 15, our students and staff honored our military families.



In addition to Purple Up day, BWLS also wanted to show support to our military-connected families by writing letters and cards to be sent to deployed heroes in care boxes.

The Purple Star Committee organized Hat Day, where students could donate \$1 to wear a hat to school. This fundraiser generated almost \$1,500, while other fundraisers raised \$4,000 to use in scholarships for students going into ROTC in college next year and for college-bound children of active duty parents.



AUGUST 2021

BACK-TO-SCHOOL INFORMATION

Based on positive feedback this year, and in order to best serve our students, we will again use a "staggered start" approach for all students, including PreK, in August.

This allows our students to get to know their teachers and acclimate to their new surroundings in smaller groups. During the staggered start days, each teacher will have only a small group of students from his/her class. Each student will attend ONE staggered start day, and ALL STUDENTS will begin together as a whole class on

Monday, August 23.

AUGUST 18: STAGGERED START DAY (LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH A-G)

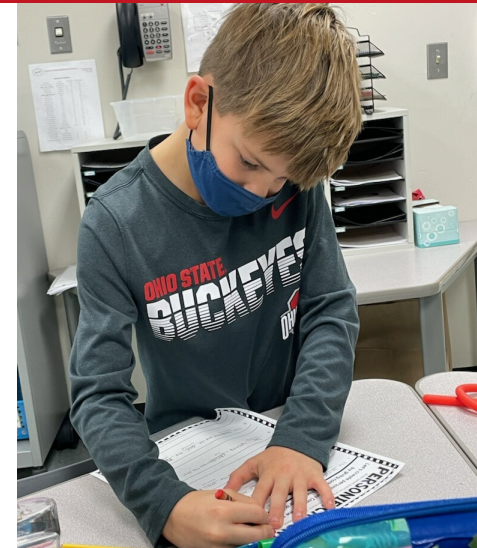
AUGUST 19: STAGGERED START DAY (LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH H-O)

AUGUST 20: STAGGERED START DAY (LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH P-Z)

AUGUST 23: ALL STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL



Thank you for your support during this unique year of learning



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Sports Physicals Are Available Now!

We offer convenient, efficient, and affordable sports physicals for athletes any time of the year. On designated days throughout the year, our office hosts special sports physical days where the money for the cost of the physical is donated back to the athlete's sports organization. Call today to get your athlete scheduled for an annual sports physical.

Please contact us Monday through Saturday to set up an appointment at our Sunbury or Johnstown location and learn how chiropractic care can help you!

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SUMMER READING AT THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY



Rachel Coffield
Youth Services Director

What an unusual school year it has been! One wouldn't think that the impact COVID-19 had on the schools would have a ripple effect big enough to influence daily life at the public library, but it has. Our 2019 calendar looks far different from our 2021 calendar.

There were only six days in May 2019 before school ended that we didn't see classes of children at the library. How we miss the sight of the yellow buses pulling up in front of the library, unloading excited students! As part of their visit to the library, we would always tell the students about our Summer Reading Program and show them the possible prizes they could win just for reading.

For students in grades K-12, we ask that they keep track of how much time they read (or listen to audiobooks). To motivate our readers, they earn prizes along the way. Once they have read 10 hours, they're entered for a chance to win one of our many grand prizes.

To participate in our Summer Reading Program, go to www.yourcl.org and click on the appropriate age group to sign up. Registration begins May 26. If online is not an option, stop by the library or come through our drive-through and pick up a reading log. Check our Facebook page or visit events.yourcl.org for other upcoming events and information.

Happy Reading!

The buses might not be rolling in, but our Summer Reading Program is still fast approaching. As we have every year, Community Library is offering a reading program for all ages (May 26-July 24). There is some variation based on age, but the general concept is the same – read books, earn prizes!



This space was paid for by the Community Library.



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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!



In 2021, BWEF awarded \$93,000 to 75 BWHS graduates through the following scholarships.

Mitchell Young Memorial

Braden Buckler
Ashlynn Hathaway
Kyle Lortz
Jacob Ross
Owen Wilhelm

Brandi Griffin Memorial

Avery Wagner

Jim Burkhardt Memorial

Owen List

Jeff Dingus Memorial

Alena Lefevre

John Scanlan Memorial

Sarah Von Hollen

Eugena L.Hoke Memorial

Olivia Rasar

Judy Denton Memorial

Taylor Schirtzinger

Deck Masters

Jacob Ambrose

Forman Family

Ean Compton

Fraternal Order of Eagles

Jacob Gardner

Abigail Spangenberg

Anika Anderson

Sunbury Ace Hardware

Justin Hill

Audrey Justice

Multi Plastics

Dylan Oglesbee

Matthew Fry

Kaelyn Lortz

Jordan May

Lindsey Stevens

Samuel Tluchowski

Jonathan Daniel

Peyton Family

Adeline List

Ciara Matos

Logan Shinkle

Abigail Clawson

Isiah Lott

Gabriel Petrarca

Hetterscheidt Family

Ethan Herrel

Re/Max Linda Jonard

Cassady Joseph

Shidecker Memorial

Victoria Murnieks

Colin White

Rebecca Fitch

Trisha Wilhelm

Max Muhlbaier

Zach Grieser

Trevor Ambrose

Judah Lozano

Camden Edwards

Kassie Bowmar

Autumn Imhoff

Hailey Krinn

Sean Mott

Lauren Erickson*

Charles Jaeger*

David Lott*

Noah Fitch

Kaydn Mathews*

Cole Wecker*

Holden Goff

Abigail Brown

Anna Klingensmith

Abigail Myers

Jenna Hard

Samuel Metzger

Karley Becker

Kaitlyn Maze

Miranda Markel

Sarah Barth

Caleb Faust

Emma Gardner

Jonny Gartner

Hanna Moroz

Faith Myers

Emma Blair

Mackenna Ames

Riley Stone

Eric Livesay

Isabella Truax

Ethan Benjamin

Allyson Truax

Evan Stefanik

(* indicates a multi-year winner)



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Thank you to all donors.

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