

December
2025

The
Eagle Examiner



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

SALUTE OUR HEROES





MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT

We are near the halfway point of the 2025-26 school year. I want to congratulate our football team on its state playoff run, which unfortunately ended in the state semifinals at Historic Crew Stadium. I also want to thank our community for showing up to support the team. I was not at all surprised by how many people braved the elements to cheer on the team in person. It's yet another example of what makes Big Walnut special. It was an incredible atmosphere and an experience our kids will remember forever.

The midpoint of the school year is the end of the calendar year, and with that, some changes. I want to congratulate and welcome our two newest board members, Jessica Parent and Molly Snodgrass, who will join the Board of Education in January. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Doug Crawl and Alice Nicks for their service as members of the Board of Education. I will forever be grateful to them for giving me this opportunity in the summer of 2022.

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving Break and enjoy the upcoming holiday season with your friends and family. If you are traveling, be safe, and we'll see you next year.

Ryan McLane



Ryan McLane

CONGRATS TO OUR BACK-TO-BACK REGIONAL CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAM!





VETERANS DAY AROUND BIG WALNUT



In the days leading up to and following Veterans Day, schools across our district took time to honor the veterans in our Sunbury community. Veteran family members were invited to join students in special celebrations, where the significance of the day and the flag was shared with everyone in attendance. It was a heartfelt tribute to all branches of the military. The Big Walnut Local School District extends its gratitude to all veterans for their service and sacrifice.





BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL FLIGHT PROGRAM

FLIGHT Students Host Staff Lunch and Showcase Independent Living Skills

Big Walnut High School's FLIGHT program recently welcomed several high school staff members for a special lunchtime event—one entirely planned and executed by the students themselves. From the earliest stages of preparation to the final clean-up, FLIGHT students took the lead, transforming the experience into a meaningful hands-on learning opportunity.

In the weeks leading up to the lunch, students worked together to create a menu, develop a shopping list, and purchase all necessary ingredients. On the day of the event, they prepared and cooked a full taco meal, offering chicken or beef along with a colorful spread of toppings and sides. Guests were treated to a warm, welcoming atmosphere as students took on the roles of hosts, servers, and table bussers.

This event is just one example of the authentic real-world skill-building that the FLIGHT program provides. Students practiced communication, teamwork, meal planning, food preparation, and hospitality—all while taking pride in serving their school community.

The lunch was a great success, and staff left both well-fed and impressed by the students' hard work. Thank you to our FLIGHT students and staff for creating such a thoughtful and memorable experience!





COMMON CENTS

Big Walnut Treasurer/CFO Honored with a National Eagle Award



Scott Gooding
Treasurer/CFO
Big Walnut Local Schools

Big Walnut Local Schools is proud to share that Treasurer/CFO J. Scott Gooding II has been selected as a 2025 ASBO International Eagle Award recipient—one of the highest honors in the school business profession. This national recognition is awarded by the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) and celebrates individuals who exemplify exceptional leadership, integrity, and service to students, staff, and their broader educational communities.

Gooding is the only recipient from Ohio this year, a distinction that reflects not only his professional accomplishments but also the strong financial stewardship, transparency, and collaborative culture that define Big Walnut. The Eagle Award recognizes leaders who model ethical decision-making, prioritize student outcomes in financial planning, and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of school business management.

Scott credits this achievement to the support of the Big Walnut community and the collective effort of staff across the district.

"This award represents the collective effort of an incredible group of professionals who are committed to doing what is best for kids every day," Gooding shared. "I'm honored by the recognition, but even more grateful for the people who make this work possible."



As part of this honor, Gooding will have the opportunity to continue elevating the profession through mentoring future leaders, promoting ethical and student-centered budgeting practices, and sharing strategies that support fiscal responsibility and long-term sustainability in school districts nationwide.

Big Walnut Local Schools congratulates Scott on this well-deserved honor and thanks him for his continued dedication to ensuring a bright financial future for our students, staff, and community.



Turkey Trot at General Rosecrans!





AROUND THE DISTRICT

Kindergarten at Hylen Souders Elementary wrapped up their Plant CKLA Unit!

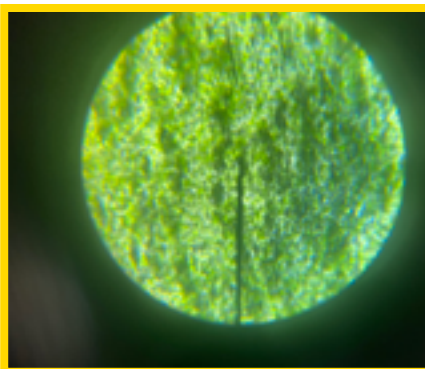
Kindergarten students recently wrapped up their CKLA plants unit with a hands-on review project that combined drawing, vocabulary, and teamwork. Students rotated around the room adding illustrations and facts to posters that highlighted what they learned about roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and seeds.

The activity encouraged students to build on each other's ideas while practicing key terms in a fun, collaborative way. Teachers noted that students confidently used vocabulary from the unit and enjoyed showing their understanding through art and writing.

This end-of-unit project supported CKLA's focus on helping young learners build knowledge and express what they know in age-appropriate ways. The finished posters are now displayed in classrooms, giving students a chance to revisit concepts and celebrate the learning they accomplished together.



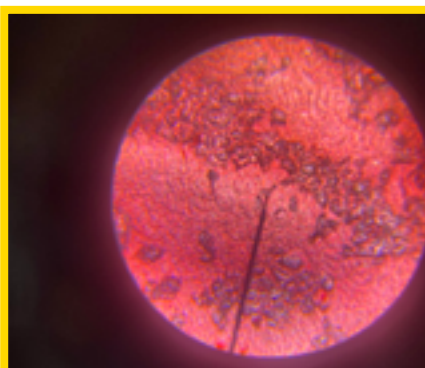
6th Graders Explore "Thanksgiving Dinner Under the Microscope"



Sixth grade science students recently kicked off their unit on microscopes with a hands-on investigation that brought a seasonal twist to the classroom. In the "Thanksgiving Dinner Under the Microscope" lab, students examined prepared slides of familiar holiday foods—such as cranberries, green beans, potatoes, and turkey—to discover what these traditional dishes look like at a cellular level.



Working in pairs, students practiced how to properly set up, focus, and adjust a microscope, all while sketching their observations and comparing the structural differences between plant and animal cells. The activity sparked curiosity and lots of questions, especially as students recognized that everyday items can look completely unfamiliar under magnification.



Along with gaining skills in scientific observation, students learned to identify repeating patterns, textures, and cell structures, then record what they saw using labels, color, and descriptive notes. Beyond the science skills, the activity brought an element of fun and creativity to the classroom as students worked together and compared discoveries with their classmates.

The Thanksgiving-themed lab not only helped students build confidence with microscopes, but also highlighted how science connects to the world around them—even to something as ordinary as a holiday meal.



AROUND THE DISTRICT



Sarah Hill
Hylen Souders Elementary

Big Walnut Staff Spotlight!

At Hylen Souders Elementary, Sarah Hill is the person who quietly keeps everything moving. Mrs. Hill is not just our building secretary, but she's the friendly face that greets families, the problem-solver staff rely on, and the calm voice that somehow makes even the busiest days feel manageable.

Mrs. Hill has a knack for knowing what people need before they even say it. She helps students with anything from lost gloves to hurt feelings, keeps parents in the loop, and makes sure the building stays organized and on track. If someone has a question, chances are that Mrs. Hill either has the answer herself, or knows someone who does.

She never asks for attention, but her impact is everywhere. Hylen Souders simply runs better because Mrs. Hill is there, keeping things steady, welcoming, and warm for everyone who walks through the door.



Girls on the Run Finishes Strong — and Gives Back

The Girls on the Run team wrapped up their season with an energetic and heart-warming 5K celebration, joining runners from across Central Ohio to cross the finish line together. The event was filled with encouragement, teamwork, and plenty of cheering as our students accomplished a goal they have been working toward all fall.

But the finish line wasn't the end of the story—it was the beginning of the team's final service project. Girls on the Run emphasizes not only healthy habits and confidence, but also community impact. This week, the girls put those lessons into action by creating handmade fleece blankets for animals at the Humane Society. Students worked together to design, cut, and tie the blankets, turning piles of fabric into cozy beds for shelter cats awaiting adoption.

The project sparked meaningful conversations about compassion, responsibility, and how small acts can make a big difference. Staff members shared that students were excited to imagine their handmade blankets comforting real animals who need a little extra love.

In the coming weeks, the team will visit the Humane Society to drop off the blankets and take a short tour, giving students the chance to see firsthand where their work is going and meet some of the animals they're helping.

This season of Girls on the Run has blended physical activity, confidence-building, and service—all while providing students with a supportive space to challenge themselves, build friendships, and make a positive impact in the community. We are so proud of what they accomplished, both on and off the course.





AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

American FFA Degree Recipients

Five members of our FFA chapter—Lilly Cappitte, Mallory Cline, Olivia Jenkins, Maddy Jones, and Haylie McComas—were recognized with the American FFA Degree at the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo on November 1, 2025.

This prestigious award is the "Gold Standard" of the National FFA Organization, signifying the highest level of achievement for its members. The degree requires years of dedicated commitment, showcasing excellence in leadership, community service, academic performance, and significant investment in their work-based learning programs. Earning this honor places these young women among the top half of one percent of FFA members nationwide.

This achievement reflects their hard work and dedication, bringing great recognition to our local chapter and highlighting the powerful impact of agricultural education. We celebrate Lilly, Mallory, Olivia, Maddy, and Haylie on reaching this monumental milestone.



Introducing Mr. Alex Fletcher

Mr. Alex Fletcher will join our Agricultural Science program in January as a teacher and co-FFA advisor! Mr. Fletcher currently serves as the Career Connections teacher at Big Walnut Middle School. He is a familiar face and proud Big Walnut alumnus, bringing a strong agricultural background, instructional expertise, and an existing connection to our community.

Mr. Fletcher is highly qualified for this role. He holds a degree in Agriscience Education with a minor in Production Agriculture from The Ohio State University and will hold his CTE Agriscience license in 2025.

We are confident that Mr. Fletcher's agricultural knowledge, hands-on experience, and existing relationship with the Big Walnut community will provide continuity and strong support for students as they prepare for the remainder of the year and for future success in the agricultural field.

We wish Mr. Jeffrey Stimmell well as he transitions to his new role with the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce in January.



Student Spotlight - Gracyn Dean

This month's student spotlight is Gracyn Dean! Gracyn is a senior and first-year member in the agricultural science program.

Gracyn chose to take the veterinary science class because she has always been interested in animals. Gracyn has shown goats for the past 8 years. Gracyn selected this class to broaden her understanding of various animal species.

In November, Gracyn advanced to the state Job Interview competition through the FFA. Gracyn placed second in her division. We are so proud of her hard work and dedication to preparing for the future.

Gracyn plans to attend college in the fall, but is undecided on whether she will study radiology or agriculture.



Gracyn Dean
Senior, Big Walnut High School



BIG WALNUT CHEERLEADING

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

& SILENT AUCTION



\$12
UNLIMITED
PANCAKES,
SAUSAGE,
OJ & COFFEE

**HELP SEND BW
GAMEDAY TO
NATIONALS!**

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 20TH
8-11 AM
BWHS CAFETERIA**

 **ANNAUX@BWLS.NET**



Big Walnut Theatre Presents “Class Action” – December 13 & 14

The Big Walnut High School Theatre Department will perform *Class Action* on Friday, December 13 at 7:00 PM and Saturday, December 14 at 2:00 PM. This play features a series of short scenes and monologues that explore the real, sometimes messy experiences of high school life—friendships, relationships, peer pressure, and big life decisions.

Set in the 1990s and written by Brad Slight, the show blends humor and heartfelt moments while tackling serious themes. Because some monologues address mature topics such as death and relationships, the production is not recommended for younger audiences.



[Tickets to Purchase
Click Here](#)





HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Big Walnut High School had yet another successful athletics fall season, thanks to the dedicated efforts of countless volunteers, coaches, parents, and athletes. The school's athletics program is devoted to fostering a culture centered on "Success" by prioritizing clear and concise communication, as well as developing the growth mindset, mental fortitude, and leadership abilities of every student-athlete. The final league place, records, and accolades for each fall sport are listed here:

Boys Cross Country

Team Record: 111-26
OCC Finish: 3rd

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete: Austyn Fox Gabe Zielinski	OCC 2nd Team: Frank Evener Jalen Jones	OCC Honorable Mention: Austyn Fox Ethan Shultz Gabe Zielinski	All District: Frank Evener Austyn Fox Jalen Jones Quincy Varughese
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Brian Shelton
Big Walnut High School
Athletic Director



Big Walnut Athletics

Girls Cross Country

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete: Grace Dorsten Mikayla Howell Leigha Kay Alexis Thornhill	OCC 2nd Team: Emma Shultz Lanie White	All District: Grace Buskirk Leighton Coey Leigha Kay Emma Shultz Brooklyn Terrero Grace Van Deusen Lanie White
OCC 1st Team: Grace Buskirk Leighton Coey Leigha Kay	OCC Honorable Mention: Brooklyn Terrero Grace Van Deusen	All Region: Grace Buskirk



FOOTBALL

Team Record: 13-2
OCC Champions

District Champions
Regional Champions



Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete: Brody Eckelbarger	OCC 2nd Team: Jackson Parsons Owen Pollock Clint Stover Maston Yano	OCC Honorable Mention: TJ Minor	Central District 2nd Team: Eli Stumpf Brady Taylor	OCC Player of the Year: Nolan Buirley
OCC 1st Team: Nolan Buirley Brody Hatfield Eli Helton Eli Stumpf Brady Taylor Jake Wecker	OCC Special Mention: Matt Green	Central District 1st Team: Nolan Buirley Brody Hatfield Eli Helton Owen Pollock Jake Wecker	Central District Special Mention: Clint Stover	Central District Player of the Year: Nolan Buirley
			Central District Honorable Mention: Maston Yano	



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

BOYS GOLF



Team Record: 196-61

OCC Finish: 2nd

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:

Ethan Irwin
Ethan Krebs
Cameron Patterson
Seth Tluchowski

OCC 1st Team:

Ethan Krebs

OCC 2nd Team:

Anthony Castiglione
Spencer Rice

OCC Honorable Mention:

Cameron Patterson

All District Honorable Mention:

Ethan Krebs

BOYS SOCCER



Team Record: 12-5-3

OCC Finish: 2nd

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:

Holton Forman
Sean Joyce
Cooper Large
Jacob Marshall
Nico Ranalli
Andrew Reichert
Noah Thompson

OCC 1st Team:

Connor Huston
Jacob Marshall

OCC 2nd Team:

Holton Forman
Dustin Kline
Cooper Large

OCC Special Mention:

Sean Joyce

OCC Honorable Mention:

Andrew Reichert

Central District 1st Team:

Connor Huston
Jacob Marshall

Central District 2nd Team:

Holton Forman

All Ohio:

Jacob Marshall

GIRLS SOCCER



Team Record: 13-4-3

OCC Finish: 3rd

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:

Sara Elliot
Alexa Morris
Ava Tackett

OCC 1st Team:

Anna McGough
Kamryn Pry

OCC 2nd Team:

Pyper Blackman
Ava Tackett

OCC Special Mention:

Addison Hamm

OCC Honorable Mention:

Kylie Cochran

District Champions

Regional Finalist

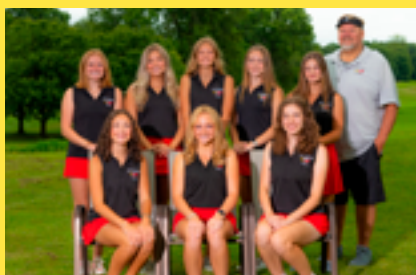
Central District 1st Team:

Pyper Blackman
Anna McGough
Kamryn Pry

All Ohio:

Anna McGough
Kamryn Pry

GIRLS GOLF



Team Record: 108-33-1

OCC Champions

Individual Accolades:

OCC 1st Team:

Gracyn Alexander
Charlie Burgess

OCC 2nd Team:

Joslyn Shaver

OCC Honorable Mention:

Addison Dickerson

Central District Honorable Mention:

Addison Dickerson
Joslyn Shaver

Central District Scholar Athlete:

Gracyn Alexander
Addison Dickerson
Julia Maynard

GIRLS TENNIS



Team Record: 15-5

OCC Finish: 2nd

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:

Tanvi Konduru

1st Singles - OCC Second Team

Anna Swager

2nd Singles - OCC Second Team

Addie Miller

3rd Singles - OCC Second Team

Lane Rothhaar

1st Doubles - OCC First Team:

Emma Austin & Allie Cunningham

2nd Doubles - OCC First Team:

Ella Valenzuela & Ella Zielinski

OCC Coach of the Year:

Ryan Balaz



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Individual Accolades:

OCC Scholar Athlete:

Ava Fox
Sydney Hamilton
Addison Oppliger

OCC 1st Team:

Audrey Coulson
Sophie Hamilton

OCC 2nd Team:

Abagale Swisher

OCC Special Mention:

Karson Joseph

OCC Honorable Mention:

Shelby Damron



Team Record: 19-7

OCC Finish: 2nd

District Champions

Regional Finalist

Central District 1st Team:

Audrey Coulson
Sophie Hamilton
Abagale Swisher

Central District 2nd Team:

Karson Joseph

CHEER



Ralph Young All-Sports Award

Big Walnut High School Athletics earned the Ohio Capital Conference Ralph Young All-Sports Award for the first time in 2019-20, again in 2021-22, and also in 2023-24 and 2024-25. This prestigious award honors the top athletic program across the OCC's schools based on seasonal sports performance. Winning this award highlights Big Walnut's commitment to athletic excellence, as it recognizes consistent, outstanding results across all sports seasons, underscoring the achievements of student-athletes and coaches who contributed to this historic recognition for the school. After another successful fall season, Big Walnut Athletes will again be at the top of the OCC for the Ralph Young award heading into the winter sports season.

Sport	Boys CC	Girls CC	Foot-ball	Boys Golf	Girls Golf	Boys Soc-cer	Girls Soc-cer	Girls Tennis	Girls Volley-ball
OCC Finish	3	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	2

MARCHING BAND



Winter Sports

Winter sports have started for most teams. Spectators are encouraged to purchase season tickets and save money at the gate. Big Walnut families age 60+ may get a blue pass at the gate of any ticketed home game with a valid ID.



Tickets/Passes

Sport	GPA
Cheer	
Boys Cross Country	3.79
Girls Cross Country	4.01
Freshmen Football	3.47
Football	
Boys Golf	3.63
Girls Golf	3.82
Boys Soccer	3.64
Girls Soccer	3.93
Girls Tennis	4.04
Girls Volleyball	3.99
Total Average	3.71



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS



8th Grade Boys Basketball



7th Grade Boys Basketball



8th Grade Cheer



7th Grade Cheer



Boys Wrestling



Girls Wrestling



Dive Team



BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL



Office: 740.965.3766 713 N Miller Dr
Fax: 740.965.1954 Sunbury, OH
Guidance: 740.965.2243 43074



BIG WALNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL



555 S Old 3C Hwy Office: 740.965.3006
Sunbury, OH Fax: 740.965.6471
43074



BIG WALNUT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



Office: 740.965.7800 777 Cheshire Rd
Fax: 740.965.7801 Sunbury, OH
43074



BIG WALNUT ELEMENTARY



940 S Old 3C Hwy Office: 740.965.3902
Sunbury, OH Fax: 740.965.3168
43074



GENERAL ROSECRANS ELEMENTARY



Office: 740.965.8900 301 S Miller Dr
Fax: 740.965.8993 Sunbury, OH
43074



HYLEN SOUDERS ELEMENTARY



4121 Miller Paul Office: 740.965.3200
Rd Fax: 740.965.3986
Galena, OH
43021



PRAIRIE RUN ELEMENTARY



Office: 740.965.7850 701 N Miller Dr
Fax: 740.965.7851 Sunbury, OH
43074



EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT HARRISON STREET



70 Harrison St Office: 740.965.7862
Sunbury, OH
43074