



## Opening Guidance and Procedures 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

The following information is accurate as of August 4 and is subject to change.

Big Walnut Local Schools will only offer daily, in-person instruction for the 2021- 2022 school year. We will begin with a staggered start August 18-20, with all students attending on August 23.



### BACK-TO-SCHOOL DATES

All events and dates are subject to change if any new restrictions are implemented at the state level.

#### STAGGERED START 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 K-12 students** 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 or 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**

#### EAGLES' FIRST FLIGHT (EFF)

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 17**

7:40 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (BWHS FRESHMEN & NEW STUDENTS)

Additional details will be communicated soon to students who are invited to EFF.



#### MEET AND GREET

**MONDAY, AUGUST 16**

##### MIDDLE SCHOOL

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (LAST NAMES A-K)

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (LAST NAMES L-Z)

##### INTERMEDIATE

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. (LAST NAMES A-K)

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. (LAST NAMES L-Z)

##### ELEMENTARIES

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (LAST NAMES A-K)

3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. (LAST NAMES L-Z)

##### PRESCHOOL

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. (LAST NAMES A-K)

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (LAST NAMES L-Z)

Staggered start information will be communicated through Schoology and email

## COVID-19 MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Schools will use layered mitigation strategies for the health and safety of the Big Walnut community.

Big Walnut Schools will follow the Ohio Department of Health guidance, which **strongly recommends** that those who are not vaccinated wear face masks while in school; however, **masks will be required on buses by Federal Order**. With the exception of individuals riding buses, parents and guardians will have the option to have their children wear face masks while in school or participating in school activities. We will continue to work with the Delaware Public Health District (DPHD) to monitor local data and make adjustments as needed. At this time, because we are not in a high-incidence area, the DPHD is not recommending universal masking. Any staff or students who wish to continue to wear masks in any situation should feel free to do so. Masks will be available. **Masks may be required if an outbreak is identified in a classroom or building. This will be determined based on the cases in the specific classroom or building and using data regarding community spread.**

Individuals will be distanced by at least 3 feet when possible.

Increased hand washing will continue to be emphasized throughout the school day. Hand sanitizer will continue to be placed throughout the buildings, and students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands throughout the day.

**Routine cleaning protocols will continue throughout all school buildings and buses.**

We continue to encourage our community to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The [Ohio Department of Health](https://www.ohio.gov/health) provides information on the benefits of the vaccine in a school environment. Visit [gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov) to find available vaccination locations in our area. The COVID-19 vaccine is not required for students and staff; however, per DPHD, fully-vaccinated students and staff will not be required to quarantine in the event of a positive contact.

# HEALTH AT SCHOOL

**Everyone is encouraged to do a self-assessment before entering a Big Walnut facility.**

Symptoms range from mild to severe and may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Please keep your child at home until he or she is symptom-free for 24 hours without medication. Please have your child remain at home with a known or suspected exposure to a COVID positive case until a definitive test result is known. Vaccinated individuals experiencing the symptoms to the right are asked to remain at home and follow current guidelines.

You may have COVID-19 if you experience one or more of the following:

- Fever (100.0 or greater) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Repeated shaking with chills

Similar to other optional vaccination clinics provided by the DPHD, a Big Walnut facility may serve as a vaccination site. Please watch for additional information regarding upcoming clinics.

## COMMUNICATION

The District Nurse will follow the Ohio Department of Health and DPHD communicable disease notification process and notify impacted classrooms and/or buildings per established guidelines. The communicable disease notification process is set forth by DPHD based on the Classification of Reportable Infectious Diseases in Ohio ([ORC 3701-3](#)), which sets a threshold of the number of cases each illness must hit within a classroom or building in order to trigger a notification of possible exposure.

The requirement for the COVID-19 dashboard has expired.

At this time, parent notification of confirmed school cases will not be emailed for individual cases.

## FOOD SERVICE/CAFETERIA PROTOCOLS

**All Big Walnut students are eligible to receive one breakfast and one lunch at no charge for the 2021-2022 school year through United States Department of Agriculture waivers.** Menus are available on the [food service webpage](#). Students who are eligible for free and reduced meals are encouraged to complete the Free/Reduced Application, also available on the food service web page, to determine eligibility for waived or reduced fees.

**Students will be encouraged to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer before and after lunch periods.**

Students will have assigned seats during lunch periods.

## BUILDING PROTOCOLS

**Essential visitors and volunteers will be permitted into school buildings, determined by the building principal.**

The building HVAC systems will continue to be programmed to bring in more outside air throughout the day, and air filtering will meet or exceed recommendations.

Water bottle filling stations will be open for use. Water fountains will continue to be closed.

# CONTACT TRACING

We will follow the DPHD, CDC, ODH and local protocol guidelines on contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine protocols.

**The DPHD will conduct all contact tracing for highly infectious diseases. District nurses have been trained in this process and will assist DPHD.**

Staff members and students should continue to report symptoms and positive COVID-19 test results. Our schools are required to report known cases to the DPHD for anyone physically in our buildings. As is the current policy, fully vaccinated individuals will not need to quarantine if exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual unless symptoms are present. Staff are required to report their symptoms, and families are required to share their child's symptoms with our school nurses.

Contacts are anyone who meets the criteria below 48 hours prior to the case's symptom onset (or test date if the case has no symptoms) through release from isolation of the case (typically 10 days after symptom onset for cases).

District Nurse Megan Truax  
[megantruax@bwls.net](mailto:megantruax@bwls.net)  
740.965.3010

For more information on Covid-19:

[Delaware Public Health District](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

## Not a Contact:

- Fully vaccinated individuals
- More than 6 feet apart
- Less than 15 minutes together (total/cumulative)
- Both parties wearing masks
- Sharing areas or supplies, but both are wearing masks or 6 feet apart
- Strenuous activity while both parties are wearing masks
- Strenuous activity, more than 6 feet apart

## Contacts:

- Less than 6 feet apart for greater than 15 minutes
- Sharing of food, drinks, or eating utensils
- Strenuous activities (i.e. increased breathing/heart rate regardless of time together, as noted previously)

**The DPHD may require more information to determine contact status if you are living with the case or have prolonged exposure in an enclosed environment (e.g. car, small office space).**

# TRANSPORTATION

Students registered for transportation may ride their assigned buses for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Per [Federal Order](#), face masks will be required to be worn on school buses by students and drivers. The order expires on September 13, at which time it may lapse or be renewed.**

Hand sanitizer and masks will be available on all school buses.

We will open as many windows as possible to increase ventilation.

Students will have an assigned seat and will be seated up to the bus capacity. We will continue to seat students from the same household together.

Each bus will continue to be cleaned and disinfected daily.

Questions regarding transportation should be directed to the Administrative Services Department via email at [transportationdept@bwls.net](mailto:transportationdept@bwls.net) or phone at 740-965-8967.