



BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL

"A Nationally Recognized School of Excellence"

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June 16, 2021

Dear Class of 2021 Graduates and Families,

As indicated in the letter from our superintendent, Dr. Shari L. Camhi, sent earlier, Governor Cuomo and the NYS DOH announced yesterday the updated guidance for pre-K-12 schools, including graduation ceremonies. As a result of this new information, the following updates are crucial for you to thoroughly review. The highlighted areas represent where changes have been made to our ceremony. Please remember that these changes are based on guidance, which we must follow.

COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL & YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTION – Thursday, June 17, 2021

Commencement Rehearsal is mandatory and will take place on **Thursday, June 17** in the High School Auditorium and on the football field, **RAIN OR SHINE. THIS WILL BE THE ONLY REHEARSAL.**

- No transportation will be provided.
- All seniors will be required to show their school ID and enter the building through the auditorium entrance on the west side of the circle. No senior will be permitted to enter the building prior to their rehearsal time.
- Rehearsals will be divided into 3 sections, see below for section times. Students can find their particular section number posted on Canvas.

Section 1 - 11:00 am–12:00 pm Section 2 – 12:15 pm–1:15 pm Section 3 - 1:30 pm–2:30 pm

- Yearbook distribution will follow each Section rehearsal.

CAPS & GOWNS, HONOR CORDS, TICKETS - Wednesday, June 23, 2021 – MANDATORY

- **TIME AND LOCATION** - Cap and gowns, honor cords and tickets will be distributed **only to seniors that have met all graduation requirements** and returned all school equipment and books in the Auditorium on Wednesday, June 23 as follows:

9:00 - 9:45a.m. - Students with last names beginning with **A through E**

9:45 - 10:30a.m. - Students with last names beginning with **F through M**

10:30 - 11:15a.m. - Students with last names beginning with **N through Z**

PLEASE NOTE: SENIORS WHO FAIL TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL. STUDENTS THAT DO NOT MEET GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT.

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If your child has not purchased their cap and gown, they may do so on June 23 **during the aforementioned time**. Please have your child see their senior class advisors. The cost will be \$50 - **CASH ONLY!**

In the event of an emergency and your child is unable to pick up their cap and gown, honor cords and tickets on June 23, you must immediately contact the Guidance Office.

COMMENCEMENT - FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021, 5:00 PM

Commencement will take place on Friday, June 25, 2021, on the High School Football Field at 5:00p.m.

Graduates should assemble in their assigned location at **4:00p.m. SHARP!** Each graduate will receive a name card which will be attached to his/her seat. Graduates will be required to sit in **alphabetical order** as designated during the Commencement Rehearsal.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES:

- **PARKING** – Due to limited parking on High School grounds, it is recommended that families park at the Municipal Parking lot behind Checkers. There are a **limited** number of parking spaces available for vehicles with a displayed, official handicapped parking permit or license plate on High School grounds.

- **A maximum of FOUR guests with tickets will be permitted per graduate. TWO tickets (lime green color) are for entry onto the field to sit with their graduate in a pod of three. TWO additional tickets (labeled bleachers only) are for sitting socially distanced in the bleachers only.** The ceremony will also be livestreamed. Go to www.baldwinschools.org to find the link to view the ceremony virtually.

MASKS/FACE COVERINGS – **Guests at the ceremony who are NOT vaccinated need to wear a mask or face covering at all times. Vaccinated guests are not required to wear a mask or face covering.**

GUEST ENTRANCE – In order to enter, guests must have their tickets as indicated above. There is no longer a requirement to show proof of immunization or a negative COVID-19 test result. Remember that as a community, especially during these times, we are responsible for one another and that if you do not feel well to *please* stay home.

- **INCLEMENT WEATHER** – In the event of inclement weather, a decision will be made to hold multiple, shortened ceremonies in the gymnasium in smaller groups of graduates. Each ceremony will be abbreviated and be organized by alphabet. A notice will be posted on the District website (www.baldwinschools.org) on the *Class of 2021 page*, and through a Parent Link message.

Once a decision has been made to hold smaller ceremonies in the gymnasium, the decision will not be rescinded.

Upon completion of the Commencement ceremony, both students and guests will exit the campus during the recessional. Guests sitting in the bleachers will be prompted to remain in the bleachers until the field is cleared. Then, staff will prompt you to exit campus directly to your vehicle. Please make arrangements in advance to meet up with your graduate and guests near your car.

- **ATTIRE** – Students should dress appropriately for this dignified ceremony. No sneakers, flip flops, jeans, shorts, tank tops, and/or beach attire will be allowed. Shoes are required. Students are not to make adjustments to the cap or gown.

- **PERSONAL PROPERTY** – All personal items, including electronic devices, should be left at home. No personal property may be left in the building during the graduation ceremony as we cannot be responsible for these items.

- **DIPLOMAS** – Graduates will receive their diploma and honors/awards during the ceremony.

- **REPORT CARDS** - All senior report cards will be published to the Parent Portal.

- **TRANSCRIPTS AND FINAL GRADES** - Seniors who wish to have their final records sent to a college/university or another post-secondary institution must inform their guidance counselors where they will be attending college. Additionally, students should indicate the college in their Naviance accounts.

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• **FLOWERS** - No flowers are to be worn during the procession. **NO FLOWER DELIVERIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

• **PHOTOGRAPHY** - Two professional photographers will be taking your child's picture when receiving the diploma. Proofs will be mailed to you that you may choose to purchase.

• **FIRST AID** - A school nurse is on duty in the building 6 Office, first floor. In addition, the Baldwin Fire Department will provide us with first aid van and trained personnel during Commencement.

• **LAVATORY FACILITIES** - Lavatory facilities on the field will be available before, during and after the Commencement.

• **SPECTATOR GUIDELINES** - Spectator outbursts, bugles, air horns, land or air vehicles displaying signs and any other inappropriate behavior that detracts from the dignified nature of Commencement will not be tolerated. These kinds of inappropriate behaviors will result in immediate removal from the ceremony. We ask for your support and cooperation in order to ensure that Commencement is a dignified and memorable occasion.

• **SPECIAL SERVICES** - If you need any special services such as a sign language interpreter, please call the Guidance Office no later than **Friday, June 11th.**

Graduates are expected to demonstrate proper decorum. They are expected to behave appropriately throughout the entire ceremony. Inappropriate behavior will result in your child being directed to leave the field during the Commencement exercises and not receive their diploma until after a parent-student conference is held with me on June 28.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Guidance Department at Baldwin High School. I look forward to seeing you at Commencement.

Sincerely,



Neil J. Testa, Ed. D.

Principal

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