



Baldwin Union Free School District

960 Hastings Street ♦ Baldwin, NY 11510-4798

www.baldwinschools.org



Shari L. Camhi, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

(516) 434-6010 ♦ FAX (516) 434-6803

August 12, 2019

Dear Baldwin Families,

“Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives - choice, not chance, determines your destiny.”

– Aristotle

The only way to describe our Baldwin school system is to equate it to one of excellence and high standards. We have elevated our expectations not only for achievement, but also for our ability to design and implement programs that encourage love of learning, high interest, inspire curiosity and align to skills needed for higher education and the world of work in 2035.

It is hard to believe, but this year we celebrate the graduating class of 2020 and welcome our graduating class of 2032! It seems like yesterday we welcomed the year 2000, with anticipation and trepidation for the new millennial. We take seriously our need to design an education system that prepares our students for their future; a future that will require a different set of skills and knowledge to be successful. At the same time, we enrich our current system to embrace inquiry, deepen learning, and practice kindness and mindfulness.

Last year was a banner year for our Baldwin schools. Alongside some of the most prestigious schools in Nassau County, our Baldwin High School was named a “Recognition School” by the New York State Education Department, achieving a 97% graduation rate. Joining Plaza Elementary School, Meadow was designated a National School of Character. Lenox was recognized with the New York State PARP award, while Meadow recently received the National PARP award. Plaza and Lenox were each named a PTA School of Excellence. In addition, Steele was excited to establish its inaugural Mentor and Mentee program, where the mentees will be part of a growing leadership team to build future leaders this coming year in the school’s community. The Middle School successfully launched the Better World Day program, a collaborative interdisciplinary project that aligns to the curriculum for all students in 7th and 8th grade.

Our district was just one of 20 nationwide to be invited to join the Innovation and Transformational Leadership Network, giving us access to strategies and skills needed to further develop the most leading-edge programs and learning spaces. Additionally, we partnered with Harvard’s “Strategic Data Project” to strengthen capacity for data usage, advancing critical analytic initiatives and developing a strong data culture.

We are Innovative...We are Inclusive...We are Involved...We are Baldwin!

In the past year alone, we welcomed visitors from Google, NYS Council of Educational Associations, Successful Practices Network (SPN), NYS School Boards Association, Nassau BOCES, NYS School Boards Association, Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association, NYS Education Department, Nassau County Legislators, AASA (The National Superintendents Association), AACC (The American Association of Community Colleges), NYS Council of School Superintendents, and other superintendents across Long Island. There are far too many accomplishments to list in this letter. Make sure to read your Points of Pride edition of the *Baldwin Beat*, which has a full list of student and faculty accomplishments.

These accomplishments are not possible without amazing faculty, staff, students, parents and community. Trustee Mary Jo O'Hagan was named the Dyer Award recipient, the highest recognition given to only one Board of Education member in New York State, for service to the community. The Harvard Club of Long Island honored Mrs. Megan Ferguson-Koci and Mr. Leonardo Rivera with the "Distinguished Teachers of 2019" award. The Long Island Business Teachers' Association named Michele Leonardo "Outstanding New Teacher of the Year." Molloy College recognized Dr. Jimmy Kalamaras, Director of ENL and Foreign Languages, as "ENL Administrator of the Year." Mark Coccarelli, Assistant Principal of Meadow Elementary School, placed second in the Multi-Affiliate Global Issues Competition, the adult division of Future Problem Solving Program International. Humbly, I was the proud recipient of the Education Partner award.

I am excited to introduce some new members of our Baldwin family; Dr. James Robinson, our Assistant Superintendent for Business and Administrative Services; Mr. Unal Karakas, our Brookside Principal; Dr. Neil Testa, our High School Principal; and Ms. Michelle Kwon, our Assistant Principal of Baldwin High School. An eBeat sharing a biography of each of our newest faculty members will be available on our website at the beginning of September.

Remember the words of Aristotle; *Excellence is never an accident, it is a choice.* Nurturing well-rounded, healthy, empathetic and smart young people is what we strive for every day. We appreciate our community and families for all you do to collaborate with our Baldwin schools to achieve this goal.

We look forward to welcoming back our students on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. It is going to be an amazing year of learning, creativity, inquiry and building friendships.

With much appreciation, I remain your very proud superintendent!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shari L. Camhi".

Shari L. Camhi, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

We are Innovative...We are Inclusive...We are Involved...We are Baldwin!