



Baldwin Union Free School District

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Dear Baldwin Families,

WOW! What a year!

The 2019-2020 school year will go down in history for an amazing amount of accomplishments and for an ending no one could have predicted. Ironically, the last week has been filled with happy faces, smiles and lots of honking! It has been such a joy to see our children again, together with their families, celebrating moving up and graduation. We made the best out of a difficult situation and ultimately, many were appreciative of the creativity, and the personal nature of the celebrations.

I want to thank our families for this amazing year. “It takes a village” and this Baldwin village has come together to nurture our children and to work as one community toward a common goal. We partnered to provide essential instruction, emotional support and continued encouragement to our youngest Baldwinites.

Most recently, our community came out **BIG TIME** to support our budget. Everyone predicted that school budgets would be defeated across the state, but our community overwhelmingly supported their Baldwin schools! For that, we thank you. Your faith in our system and in the dedicated people who work in service of our children is greatly appreciated.

The celebrations across the district were nothing short of amazing! From the car parades, to Seniors 2020 Illuminated, to drive-thru and in-person graduations, and virtual ceremonies, the creativity and dedication by our faculty and staff have been up front and center. I am grateful to see that every member of our Baldwin family rose to the challenge and excelled! Tonight, on Fox 5 news, starting at 5 pm, be sure to look for footage of Baldwin High School’s Drive-Thru Graduation Ceremony from earlier today.

As for next year, **please** remember to check your email over the summer for the latest updates. If history is a predictor of the future, we will be formulating and reformulating our plans for September. Much of what will happen is currently unpredictable. Decisions are being made without input from the local education community. We will deal with it the best we can, making sure that the final version of re-entry will work.

Ron Woodall, a guidance counselor at Baldwin Middle School, shared with me a motivational music video created by Baldwin families from our district. Inspired by the new way of living as a result of the pandemic, the hope was to encourage families in the community to take an optimistic approach on life. If you haven't seen it, here's the link to “Learn Something New:” <https://vimeo.com/426852116>

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Despite all the challenges faced this year, we managed to garner dozens of accolades within academics, fine and performing arts, and athletics. Most recently, we installed a new district sign on Grand Avenue, just outside of the high school. Installation should be complete by June 26th. This has been almost 5 years in the making!

We have certainly had highs and lows this school year. You should all be incredibly proud of all that has been accomplished. I've attached a partial list of our district's achievements.

Please find time to relax over the summer. Enjoy your friends and family. I've learned to take nothing for granted. Thank you again for an exceptional year. I look forward to welcoming our children back to school in September!

Please stay in touch and check your email regularly.

Happy Father's Day to all the dads in our Baldwin family and community!

Warmest wishes for a healthy and happy summer!

Sincerely,

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

Shari L. Camhi, Ed.D.

(scroll down to see a partial list of accomplishments from this year)

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Accomplishments
2019-2020

- For the first time, Baldwin High School has been recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of the “Best High Schools for 2020,” ranking #383 out of 2,053 across New York State based on the state assessment performances and college readiness
- New York State Education Department named Baldwin High School a “Recognition School” for the second year in a row
- Long Island Business Teacher's Association recognized Michele Leonardo, Baldwin High School business teacher, as "Outstanding New Teacher of the Year"
- Lenox teacher, Renee MacDermott, was selected for the elite New York State Master Teacher Program
- *Newsday* named Darius Burton of Baldwin High School Nassau Coach of the Year
- Tom Catapano was among *Newsday's* Top High School Coaches of the 2010s
- The NAMM Foundation named Baldwin as a “Best Community for Music Education” for the 4th Consecutive Year
- Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Shari Camhi, was recognized as one of twelve of *Education Week's* “Leader to Learn From,” selected out of hundreds of educators from across the nation
- Mary Jo O'Hagan, vice president of the Board of Education, won the New York State School Boards Association's highest honor—the 2019 Everett R. Dyer Award for Distinguished School Board Service
- Girls' Basketball was named Nassau County Champions for 6 consecutive years (9 of the last 10 years)
- Boys' Basketball was named Nassau County Champions
- Boys' Bowling, as well as the Badminton team, were both named Conference Champions
- Baldwin High School athletes, Elena Randolph, Kaleena Guadalupe, and Alyssa Hillian, were among *Newsday's* 100 Top Soccer Players on Long Island
- Elena Randolph was also named a New 12 Long Island Scholar Athlete, where she was awarded a \$1000 scholarship from Bethpage Federal Credit Union
- Baldwin High School's Virtual Enterprise, SuppLI, was named one of the winning teams in the Virtual Enterprise International #YBSReimagined Social Media Competition
- Baldwin High School's Virtual Enterprise earned five gold plaques at the Long Island Trade Show and Competition in the categories of Sales Material, Newsletter, Booth Design, Radio Commercial, and Company Branding, and also made it into the top 10% nationally in the Virtual Enterprise International (VEI) National Newsletter Competition
- Baldwin High School team placed third and won the \$1500 prize in the Northwell Health Spark! Challenge
- Baldwin High School's Future Business Leaders of America club won 1st prize in the annual Nassau County Comptroller Competition
- Baldwin High School seniors, Ava Bandel, Peyton K. Mahler, and Patrick Mulvey, were named *Commended Students* in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program
- Baldwin High School students, Zulnie Floreska and Marcia Trice-Noel, were named NYSSMA All-State Performers
- Scott Prager, Baldwin High School senior, was named National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) Scholar by the College Board
- Baldwin High School student, Dylan Pigott, was recently named one of the winners in the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association (WWBA) 34th Annual Student Poetry Contest

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- Baldwin High School seniors, Trevor Watts and Alexa Stegmuller, were named 2019-2020 Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Nassau Zone Outstanding Physical Education Students of the Year
- Baldwin High School senior, Nicolette Carrion, was elected to serve on the New York State Governor's Youth Council, representing Nassau County, and was also featured on PBS' National Storytelling Project
- PBS selected Baldwin High School to feature on a future "Metrofocus" episode
- The Baldwin Middle School LEGO robotics teams both finished in the top 10 at the Long Island First LEGO League Robotics Competition. Team Chuck Norris' Fist also won 1st place for "Research Project" and 1st place in the "Alliance" round. Their coach, Thomas Girolamo, was nominated for Coach of the Year.
- Plaza was designated a 2019-2021 PTA School of Excellence
- Plaza Elementary School's Edu Jitsu program was recently recognized as a 2020 Promising Practice Application by Character.org
- MENTOR New York chose Plaza's Mentoring Program to feature during annual benefit
- Lenox Elementary School has been named a 2020 Emerging State School of Character by Character.org
- Meadow was named winner of the Nassau County Pick-a-Reading-Partner (PARP) Award
- The Meadow Community Problem Solvers placed 2nd internationally in the Junior Division of Community Problem Solving of the International Future Problem Solver Competition
- Two Baldwin families (one from Steele, other from Lenox) were featured on PBS/WNET's Parenting Minutes
- Baldwin UFSD has received national media attention from *Newsweek*, *Associated Press*, *ABC News*, *Politico* and has been regularly featured in education trade publications, such as *Education Dive*

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