



Baldwin Beat

The Official Newsletter for the Baldwin Union Free School District

www.baldwinschools.org

Points of Pride 2024

Congratulations Baldwin High School CLASS OF 2024!

Inside This Issue

BALDWIN UFSD'S POINTS OF PRIDE

- District Highlights
- Coming Up
- Communication Reminders

Another Outstanding Year!

99%
Graduation Rate!

See more accolades
inside this issue!

Register Today!

BALDWIN UFSD'S CONTINUING EDUCATION Program

REGISTER BY **SEPTEMBER 4**

Starting this year, the Continuing Education brochure will be available **online only**.

Access the brochure, which includes the course offerings, at:

baldwinschools.org/continuinged

- or -

scan the QR code:



Class of 2024 at a Glance

116th Commencement

Valedictorian: Dave Achonu

Salutatorian: Brendan Kaminski

Class President: Maekyla Massey

We Are Innovative!

We Are Inclusive!

We Are Involved!

We Are Baldwin!

Points of PRIDE

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

99% Graduation Rate
as of June 2024

- ★ **204** AP Scholars
- ★ **22** AP Capstone Diploma recipients
- ★ **995** AP Exams taken in 2024
- ★ **47%** of Baldwin High School students enrolled in award-winning Academic Academies Program
- ★ Nearly **50%** of Baldwin High School students take dual enrollment (college-credit) courses
- ★ Baldwin High School among **U.S. News & World Report's "Best High Schools"**
- ★ The **New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA)** recognized Baldwin UFSD with *another two* **"Champion of Change" Awards**
- ★ **Bond of \$134.8 million passed** through community-wide referendum

This **2023-2024 Points of Pride** issue highlights another exceptional year for Baldwin Union Free School District. Our commitment to preparing students for the future is evident in our "Baldwin 2035" initiative, positioning us among the most *innovative, inclusive* and *involved* K-12 school districts in the nation.



ARTS

- Baldwin High School Chamber Orchestra and Concert Choir earned "Gold NYSSMA Rating"
- Two Baldwin High School musicians selected for the Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall
- Forty-Two Nassau Music Educators Association's All-County musicians
- Six selected for the Long Island String Festival Association (LISFA)
- Two New York State Band Directors Association (NYSBDA) Honor Band musicians
- Baldwin High School student named NYSSMA All-State Musician
- Baldwin High School Concert Choir opened for Foreigner at Jones Beach Theater and also performed at USB Arena
- Baldwin High School student accepted into the selective NYU Tisch Future Music Moguls program
- Two nominees for The Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance
- Thirty-nine Art Supervisors Association (ASA)'s All-County Art Exhibition artists
- Six Baldwin High School students featured in the NYSATA (New York State Art Teachers Association) 34th Annual Legislative Student Art Exhibit –Virtual Edition
- Baldwin High School senior accepted into the Art Guild's Nassau County High School Student Juried Competition & Exhibition
- Baldwin High School student's artwork chosen for the Cornell Cooperative Extension's 2024 gardening calendar
- Artwork of secondary students featured at African American Museum of Nassau County's Black History Month exhibit through exclusive partnership between Baldwin UFSD and the museum
- Baldwin Middle School Dance Expression Pre-Academy placed first in annual StepUp2Dance competition
- Baldwin Middle School student among winners in the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA) Invasive Species Prevention Poster Contest

2023-24 Innovative Highlights

- Baldwin UFSD launched the **Baldwin Schools Wellness Center** in partnership with PM Pediatric Care at Baldwin Middle School.
- Baldwin High School launched the new course, **"Senior Experience,"** combining internships and real-world experiences with academics.
- The **Nassau County Community College Partnership** allows students to earn up to **36 credits before graduating high school.**
- District organized an exclusive **S.T.E.A.M. Night** at the Cradle of Aviation with more than 900 registered.
- Students, K-12, had the unique opportunity to hear from **NASA astronaut/Baldwin alum, Lt. Col. Jasmin Moghbeli,** live from the International Space Station.

- Hundreds attended the inaugural **Baldwin Street Games,** a free outdoor, weekend event hosted at each elementary school and organized by the district and PTAs to encourage device-free play and family time.
- Baldwin High School celebrated 24 Years of the Mentoring Program and will launch **peer-to-peer mentoring program** for fall of 2024.
- Baldwin High School students participated in a plethora of professional **"Shadow Days"** and **"Leaving2Learn" excursions,** including with the NYU Tandon Futures Lab, Stetson Cyber Security, Nassau County District Court, and National Grid.
- The district transformed the historic **2024 solar eclipse** into a rich and rewarding educational experience for families.



ATHLETICS

- Baldwin UFSD's athletics program ranked #6 in "Top 10 Nassau School Districts for Athletics" by Niche
- Boys Varsity Basketball team named Nassau County Champions for fourth consecutive year
- Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams bestowed James Green Sportsmanship Award
- Girls 4x200 Track team won New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHAA) State Championships title second year in a row, breaking state record
- Baldwin High School junior won the girls 55-meter dash in the NYSPHAA State Championships
- Boys Varsity Track and Field team won the Nassau Class AAA Championship
- Baldwin High School senior won Track and Field State Championship and Sprinter of the Year
- Marksmanship team named Nassau County Team Sportsmanship recipient
- Baldwin athletes among 2024 *Newsday's* "All-Long Island Boys Track and Field Team" and "Top 100 Players" for the following sports: Boys Basketball, Boys Lacrosse, Boys Soccer, Girls Basketball, and Softball
- Nassau Zone of New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance recognized two Baldwin High School students with "Outstanding Physical Education Students of the Year" award
- Coaches Michael Palumbo, Mike Higgins, and Rebecca LaFlare each named "Coach of the Year" in their respective sports
- Boys Varsity Basketball coach, Darius Burton, honored for 400th win
- Baldwin High School alumni, Robert Bliss Alabaster and Kevin Shippas, inducted into Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame
- Baldwin Bruins Sports Podcast celebrated 100th episode
- The high school's new Athletic Complex is complete, with a ribbon-cutting set to take place on Homecoming!

ACADEMICS

- Ninety-one President's Award Winners
- Eighteen Baldwin High School seniors graduated with transferrable credits from Nassau Community College and will begin as sophomores their first year of college
- Baldwin High School designated 2023 AP School Honor Roll recipient—"Silver with Access"
- Baldwin High School earned the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award
- The College Board National Recognition Program recognized 17 Baldwin High School students
- Baldwin High School senior one of only 357 students worldwide to receive a "perfect" score on Advanced Placement (AP) Research Exam
- Three Baldwin High School seniors designated "Commended Students" in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program
- Princeton University awarded Baldwin High School junior with "Certificate of Accomplishment"
- Baldwin High School students earned the New York State Senate Youth Leadership Recognition Award
- Baldwin High School's Youth Change Leader Collaborative (YCLC) awarded honorable mention in national Invent2Prevent competition
- YCLC also placed third in the American Bankers Association Foundation's "Lights, Camera, Save!" Video Contest
- YCLC among winners in fifth annual "I Am Em-Powered" Energy Conservation Video Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest, hosted by PSEG Long Island
- Anti-Defamation League's No Place for Hate® movement highlighted the work of Baldwin High School's YCLC Agents of Social Change initiative in monthly newsletter
- Baldwin High School student selected for Bank of America's exclusive Student Leaders program
- The American Chemical Society recognized Baldwin High School senior for "Outstanding Scholastic Achievement in High School Chemistry"
- Baldwin High School senior was named a winner of the Estée and Joseph Lauder Scholarship
- Baldwin High School senior won scholarship from National Association of Water Companies (NAWC) and Liberty's competition
- Baldwin High School junior named one of five winners in the 2024 Nassau County High School Essay Contest
- Baldwin High School senior named one of four winners in the 2024 "Raise Your Voice" student essay contest
- Baldwin High School senior invited to speak at New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) Convention
- Baldwin High School placed second in the inaugural Mentoring Excellence Award competition
- Woodworking students at Baldwin High School constructed storage boxes for Jones Beach lifeguards
- Baldwin High School Academy students invited to Hofstra University School of Nursing's exclusive summer program: Succuss Journey
- Simon Youth Foundation awarded competitive scholarships to two graduating students from Baldwin High School@Shubert
- Baldwin High School@Shubert student received the New York State Comptroller Award
- Baldwin Middle School and Meadow placed 1st in New York State Future Problem Solvers bowl
- Lenox and Meadow elementary schools participated in the district's "Hello Neighbor" project
- In addition to four Nassau Region PTA finalists, six students, K-12, received an "Award of Merit" at the state-level in the annual New York State PTA Reflections competition
- Steele 4th and 5th graders participated in the Nassau County Elementary School Mock Trial Program, sponsored by the School Engagement Subcommittee of the Nassau County Bar Association's Community Relations Education Committee and the Nassau County Supreme Court
- Five Steele Elementary School students among winners in the Long Island Speech-Language Hearing Association (LISHA)'s Melissa J. Roeder's Poster Contest
- Plaza Elementary School 4th grader placed second in inaugural nation-wide contest, "America's Field Trip"

BALDWIN FAMILY

- Junior Achievement of New York recognized Baldwin High School with "Gold" partnership status—the highest level to be obtained
- Lenox and Plaza Elementary Schools recognized as National PTA Schools of Excellence
- Steele Elementary School one of two schools nationwide to be chosen to host Google and National PTA's Internet Safety Workshop
- Baldwin High School assistant principal, **Dr. Ricky Papandrea**, elected to the New York State Association for College Admission Counseling (NYSACAC) board
- School counselor, **Ms. Erin Beirne**, awarded the Nassau Counselor Association School Counselor of the Year award
- Baldwin Middle School teacher, **Ms. Sharon Norelius**, one of fifteen teachers awarded the Long Island Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Educational Leadership Association (LISTEMELA) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Star award
- Baldwin Middle School teachers, **Mr. Francesco Iannucci** and **Mr. Walter Baldi**, recognized in Applebee's "Above and Beyond" Teacher Competition
- Baldwin High School teacher, **Mr. Dan Baxt**, and school counselor, **Ms. Meghan Kargman**, among "Best of Long Island" 2024 winners
- Baldwin High School teacher, **Ms. Michelle Gambino**, featured in *Newsday's* "Educator Spotlight" for student engagement and instructional practices
- Superintendent **Dr. Shari L. Camhi** appointed to the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) and also named "2023 Power Players in Education"



BALDWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board of Education

Mary Jo O'Hagan, President
Pamela Green, Vice President
Susan Cools, Trustee
Annie Doresca, Trustee
Thomas Smyth, Trustee

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Shari L. Camhi

Public Information Officer

Mary Furcht

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Baldwin, NY 11510
Permit No. 109

Current Resident

**REMINDER – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024**

Visit www.baldwinschools.org for the latest updates and 2024-2025 calendar.

BALDWIN 2035 HAPPENING ACROSS THE DISTRICT



School2Career Showcase

Attended by families and administrators, the School2Career Showcase served as the culminating event for the Senior Experience course, where students presented their capstone project, demonstrating how their internship experience connects to their social studies and English Language Arts (ELA) curricula.



Mindfulness Through Art

A group of gifted art students donated their paintings and photographs to Nassau and Suffolk County Family Courts to bring hope and mindfulness to others. More than 20 representatives from both court systems, including judges, attended the official unveiling ceremony, not only impressed by the quality of the artwork but touched by the heartwarming program.



Civic-Minded Middle School Students

The middle school's Student Interest Organization took the initiative to arrange a fundraiser for the Kajiado Children's Home and School in Kenya, Africa. They had been in communication with the school to gain cultural insights and understand their daily routine. After successfully collecting over \$1200 in donations, they surprised the students in Kenya with this heartfelt gift during one of their planned virtual meetings.



S.T.E.A.M. Night at the Cradle of Aviation

Hundreds attended and loved the district's S.T.E.A.M. event at the Cradle of Aviation Museum, open exclusively to Baldwin families. Students alongside family members participated in a museum-wide scavenger hunt, experiments, an IMAX show, and more! Each activity was tailored to stimulate curiosity for a much richer learning experience across the areas of science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

Important Communication Reminders

Update Contact Information

Ensure your most up-to-date contact information is provided to the main office of your child's school, including a cell phone number and email address, to receive emails, phone calls, and text messages from the district. **Baldwin High School students should make sure their cell phone number is also on file in case of an emergency.**

Available Resources and New Website – Coming Soon

For our latest communication channels and resources, visit baldwinschools.org/communications

Attention Community Members: Stay Informed

For Baldwin residents with no children in the schools but would like to receive updates from the district about school news and building closures, visit: baldwinschools.org/notificationsignup

WHAT'S NEXT? 2024-2025 School Year

Working with the **Natural Diamond Council** and the **Black in Jewelry Coalition**, Baldwin Union Free School District will launch the **Future Jewelers Academy** at **Baldwin High School@Shubert** this fall. The program will enable students to delve into every aspect of the jewelry industry, covering benchwork, design, and retail, educating them on the wide range of job opportunities within the industry.

More than 30 dual enrollment (college-level) courses and **29 Advanced Placement (AP) courses** are now available to Baldwin High School students. Baldwin High School will add **AP African American Studies**, **AP Precalculus** and **Geometric Principles** to this school year's course catalog.

Baldwin High School's Wellness Center is set to launch this year.