

Baldwin Beat

The Official Newsletter for the Baldwin Union Free School District

www.baldwinschools.org

Winter 2025



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The Baldwin Union Free School District has successfully created learning opportunities that incorporate industry demanded skills, often referred to as the "Six C's of Education": 1) creativity, 2) critical-thinking, 3) communication, 4) collaboration, 5) character, 6) civics

There are specific skills that employers seek. Our goal is to enhance our efforts and focus on those skills, which are identified as the six C's," explained Dr. Shari Camhi, superintendent of schools for Baldwin UFSD. "This initiative is embedded in the cornerstones and at the core of Baldwin 2035 and encompasses the entire K-12 curriculum."

A Future-Focused Curriculum Based on the Six C's

One way the district is embedding the six C's is through the School2Career initiatives taking place across the elementary, middle and high schools. For example, "Senior Experience" is a year-long course that provides Baldwin High School seniors with real-world professional hands-on experiences. Senior Experience falls under School2Career. High school seniors are actively involved in internships and educational excursions in their field of interest, allowing for a deeper exploration of their potential career while enhancing their six C's.

What sets this program apart from traditional internship programs is its integration with the social studies, English, and business curricula. The curriculum is in line with the district's focus on developing future-oriented programs, while empowering students to take charge of their education and coursework as "producers."

Implementing more hands-on opportunities into the curriculum and transforming the traditional internship program into an interdisciplinary course allows students to gain deeper experiences and



(...Continued from front cover)

further their learning. By interacting with professionals from various fields, students acquire a wider understanding of career possibilities and form networks that can support them in their future pursuits.

In the Senior Experience course, students alternate between in-person classes and internships during the school day. The seniors are expected to select internships that offer comprehensive insights into a particular career, encompassing relevant skills and job requirements. They are also tasked with documenting their experiences. This year, students' focus range from nursing to fashion design. Internships include NYU Langone Hospital, Babbar Law Firm and Debra Design Group.

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Additionally, these seniors partake in what the district refers to as Learning Through Interest (LTI) exhibitions. They must also complete a capstone project—a multifaceted interdisciplinary academic project that requires students to apply the knowledge and skills acquired throughout their academic careers to solve real-world problems or issues, such as a nursing shortage. The capstone project demonstrates

how the internship experience connects to their curricula. Students present their projects to their

families, administrators and professionals from their respective fields at their end-of-the-year "School2Career Showcase."

Expanding and Exploring Innovative Opportunities

The district is constantly seeking to grow these opportunities, while developing new programs that focus on the six C's. Whether it's the award-winning "Shark Tank" at Brookside to the newly initiated financial literacy program at Steele, administrators and educators within Baldwin schools are dedicated to designing and implementing relevant learning experiences. These initiatives will ultimately provide Baldwin students with essential lifelong skills, enabling Baldwin educators and the community to achieve the five cornerstones of Baldwin 2035.

FUTURE-DRIVEN EFFORTS RECEIVE RECOGNITION

BALDWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT EARNS GREATSCHOOLS 2024 COLLEGE SUCCESS AWARD

Baldwin High School is among the 284 schools statewide and 1,436 schools across the country to receive this year's College Success Award. This is the first year for New York high schools to be recognized by GreatSchools, a leading nonprofit focused on providing information to support parents seeking quality education.

CHAMPION OF CHANGE

The New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) recognized Baldwin UFSD with another two "Champion of Change" Awards. The recognition occurred at the November Board Meeting.

BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL AP HONOR ROLL

For the second consecutive year, College Board announced that Baldwin High School has been named to the Advanced Placement® (AP®) Program School Honor Roll. Schools earn this designation annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing opportunities for students to earn college credit and maximizing college readiness.



Baldwin UFSD Launches Future Jewelers Academy

Through the partnership with the Black in Jewelry Coalition and the Natural Diamond Council, Baldwin UFSD officially launched the Future Jewelers Academy at Baldwin High School@Shubert. The innovative program aims to inspire and prepare students for careers in the jewelry industry. An official ribbon-cutting ceremony

took place in January to celebrate the significance of the program.

Students, Scarlett Kefer-Jaramillo and Layla Massenburg, shared their experiences and aspirations with more than 30 attendees, which included Assemblywoman Judy Griffin, Councilwoman Debra Mulè, and industry veteran, president and owner of Fortunoff Fine Jewelry, Esther Fortunoff-Greene.

Following the speeches and unveiling of the neon sign featuring the academy emblem, professionals ranging from jewelry makers to sales representatives to industry recruiters toured the learning space. The industry-inspired classroom features jeweler's workbenches, tools and various materials. Student-produced jewelry pieces were also showcased so attendees could see firsthand the skill-levels and creativity of the Baldwin students, who have already c

the Baldwin students, who have already crafted chains and brooches using various metalworking techniques based on their own design concepts and sketches.





Baldwin Street Games Encourages Technology Free Learning and Fun

n a world dominated by screens and digital distractions, Baldwin UFSD is taking a refreshing approach to education and recreation through its

initiative, Baldwin Street Games. This program encourages children to engage in outdoor play, fostering creativity and connections away from electronic devices. Activities like hopscotch and "Red Light, Green Light," promote physical health and social interaction, with easyto-follow rules, allowing for a stress-free and



enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

The idea behind Baldwin Street Games has evolved beyond just an initiative for students and families; it has also expanded to include staff development and team building. Most recently, the concept has been integrated into the physical education classes at the elementary schools.

During the indoor months, students have been actively participating in such games as Double Dutch. The PE curriculum will expand on such activities in the spring as the weather gets warmer, taking full advantage of the outdoor space.

Superintendent Dr. Shari Camhi emphasizes the importance of disconnecting from the digital world. "In this fast-paced digital age, it's essential to carve out moments for genuine connection and creativity away from screens," she stated.

Dr. Camhi sees Baldwin Street Games as a means to unite families and promote device-free play, reinforcing the district's commitment to focusing on the "whole child."

SCHOOL2CAREER Recent Highlights

Students from Baldwin High School's Global Business & Entrepreneurship Academy recently showcased their talents at the Adelphi University's 2024 Apprentice Challenge.

Baldwin High School's Medical & Health Sciences Academy and Baldwin Middle School's Medical Detectives Pre-Academy embarked on a hands-on learning experience at the DNA Learning Center located in Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

Students in the Baldwin High School's Global Business & Entrepreneurship Academy and Baldwin Middle School's "Show Me the Money" and Junior Virtual Enterprise Pre-Academies participated in a Leaving2Learn at the Federal Reserve Bank of NY.

Students enrolled in **Senior Experience and Senior Internship** visited the **White House Experience and Museum of Democracy** at Long Island University (LIU)'s Roosevelt School.

Baldwin High School's **Youth Change Leader Collaborative (YCLC)** competed in the **American Bankers Association (ABA) Foundation's "Lights, Camera, Save!" video contest,** where student, **Diego Garcia**, won 3rd place.

Baldwin High School Education Academy and Middle School Future Teachers of America Pre-Academy students taught a full day of lessons on financial literacy at Plaza Elementary School as part of the Junior Achievement's "High School Heroes" program, marking this the first time every grade participated.

Baldwin High School students' artwork was selected for a special showcase at the **Nassau County Courts Art Exhibit** for National Hispanic Heritage Month.

DECA, formerly Distributive Education Clubs of America, was introduced at **Baldwin High School** this year, where four students advanced to the state competition after their exceptional performances at their first regional event.

For the first time, the **Baldwin Middle School Spoken Word Pre-Academy** students showcased their talents at Writopia's Open Mic Performances.

The Baldwin High School YCLC and Medical Academy formed the "Stop the Bleed" program, gaining crucial emergency response skills and earning certificates of training.

The district's **Mentoring Program** launched a **"Pins of Positivity"** initiative, creating personalized pins for patients at **Northwell LIJ Valley Stream** to spread kindness in the community.





BALDWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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REMINDER: UPK LOTTERY OPENS MARCH 17

Deadline to submit the pre-registration form and enter Universal Pre-K lottery is April 4, 12 pm. Learn more at **www.baldwinschools.org/prek** or scan the QR code with your cell phone camera.

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Highlights in ARTS AND ATHLETICS

Athletics have been off to a great half of the school year. This fall, Cross Country was very competitive and was led by senior Paul Fleck, who was All-County and holds the Baldwin High School record for the 5K race. Baldwin High School seniors, Erin Timmes and Justin Funkenberg, were bestowed the "Outstanding Physical Education Students of the Year" by the Nassau Zone



of the New York State AHPERD Award for 2024-2025.

It should come as no surprise that the district's Fine & Performing Arts Department has been having an exceptional year. Baldwin High School was the only New York school to win the prestigious **Unsinkable Molly Brown Grant**. Following an



extensive and competitive application process, 16 schools from across the nation were named recipients of the \$10,000 award to produce Dick Scanlan's revival of the Meredith

Willson musical "The Unsinkable Molly Brown." The K-5 winter presentations and secondary-level concerts in December received great acclaim. Additionally, the Baldwin Middle School Bruin Singers were invited to spread holiday cheer at Atlantic Nursery and the Jones Beach Light Show. Moreover, students and teachers will have the opportunity to participate in master classes conducted by various renowned musicians and conductors in the weeks to come.

A total of 51 students were selected for the Nassau Music Educators Association (NMEA) All-County Music Festival,

while 39 students will have their artwork showcased in the ASA Art Exhibition. Notably, students Christina Tephly and Sophia Tephly have been nominated for the esteemed Roger Rees Award. Brandon Firth and Rohan Khan were recognized by New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) as All-State Musicians. Additionally, the artwork of high school students, Rose Altschuler, Lukas Duet, and Isabella Aparicio Romero, was selected for inclusion in the 2025 calendar produced by Cornell Cooperative Extension as part of the organization's annual Nassau County K-12 Student Art Competition.

Calling All Community Members and Business Owners

BECOME A PARTNER IN OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Baldwin UFSD's School2Career programs give Baldwin students access to internships, Shadow Days, and paid work, which help develop transferable skills for college and career. Businesses partner with the district to make these hands-on learning, outside-the-classroom experiences possible. If interested in becoming a partner, email Dr. Gabriella Franza at: franzag@baldwinschools.org

Important Communication Reminders

New Website

Baldwin UFSD's newly enhanced digital experience is not only visually appealing but offers improved usability and mobile functionality. The new design has been based on extensive research and feedback from all stakeholders, particularly Baldwin families. Be sure to check it out: www.baldwinschools.org

Connect with Us on LinkedIn

For the latest job opportunities, alumni news, and more, connect with Baldwin UFSD and alumni at:

www.linkedin.com/school/baldwinschools

Communication Resources

To access all of the district communication channels and resources, including newsletters and important announcements, visit:

www.baldwinschools.org/communications