



# Baldwin Union Free School District

960 Hastings Street ♦ Baldwin, NY 11510-4798

[www.baldwinschools.org](http://www.baldwinschools.org)



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March 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we continue to focus on providing a safe and productive learning environment for our students, we would like to remind you of the district's policy regarding cell phones/smart watches in school.

Elementary school is a critical time for students to develop social, academic, and personal skills without unnecessary distractions. To support this goal, the Baldwin School District does not permit students to use or carry cell phones or communicate on smart watches during school hours. While we understand that these devices are an important tool for communication and safety outside of school, they can also become a significant distraction during the school day.

To ensure a focused and engaging learning environment, we ask that:

- **Students do not bring cell phones to school.** If a phone is necessary for after-school communication, it must remain off and stored in the student's backpack throughout the school day.
- **If a student is found using a cell phone during school hours**, the device will be held in the office and returned to the student at the end of the day. If this occurs more than once, then parents/guardians will be asked to pick it up from the office at the end of the day.
- **Smartwatches** have the same features as cell phones and therefore fall under the district's cell phone policy. If a student is found using a smartwatch during school hours, the device will be held in the office and returned to the student at the end of the day. If this occurs more than once, then parents/guardians will be asked to pick it up from the office at the end of the day.
- **For urgent communication**, parents can always reach their child by calling the school office.

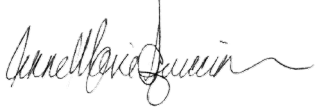
In addition, there has been an increase in students using their devices at inappropriate times to search sites that are not age-appropriate, and to view mature YouTube videos. We encourage you to check your child's search history and monitor when they are on their device at home. As a precautionary measure, it is suggested that students charge their device in a room other than their bedroom. (Much of the searches and views have been taking place after 9:00 pm).

To support your efforts, the district highly recommends the [Qustodio parent app](#) which gives parents and guardians increased visibility into their child's Chromebook activity and controls for out-of-school usage. This is free to all parents in the Baldwin School District. With Qustodio, you can utilize [web filtering to block website categories and specific sites](#). You can also set [daily time limits for Chromebook use](#), after which the device will be blocked. The [routines feature allows you to schedule screen-free time](#) by blocking specific websites or all internet access. We encourage you to explore these new tools to support your child's digital wellbeing.

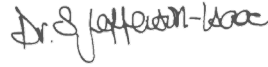
***We are Innovative...We are Inclusive...We are Involved...We are Baldwin!***

We appreciate your support in reinforcing this policy and encouraging your child to stay engaged in their learning and social interactions throughout the day. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your building principal.

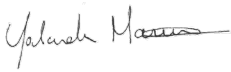
Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a positive and distraction-free learning environment.



Anne Marie Squicciarini  
Principal, Brookside Elementary School



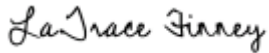
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