



Welcome Back, POB Families – Important Updates for 2025–26

Friday, Aug 15 at 11:48 AM

August 15, 2025

Dear POB Families,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer filled with time to relax and recharge. While back-to-school advertisements are everywhere, we still have time to enjoy summer before we welcome students back on **Tuesday, September 2nd** for the start of the 2025–26 school year.

Celebrating Student Achievement

We are proud to share that our students continue to excel. The Class of 2025 achieved a 99% graduation rate, preliminary NYS Grades 3–8 results show marked improvement, and Regents and AP exams reflect outstanding academic performance. Full details will be shared with the Board of Education this fall, highlighting the dedication of our students, the expertise of our teachers, and the support of our families.

Summer Capital Projects

This summer, each school building received significant upgrades, including energy performance improvements, renovated restrooms, and ceiling replacements. High school students will return to an air-conditioned gymnasium, and the new parking lot at Stratford Road will benefit both staff and families.

Bell-to-Bell Cellphone Ban

Governor Hochul's school cell phone ban, aimed at creating distraction-free learning environments, takes effect on the first day of school. The POB Board of Education's Internet-Connected Device policy, adopted on July 2nd, was developed with input from parents, teachers, administrators, and students. Principals will share details about where students can make calls home, how infractions will be addressed, where confiscated devices will be stored, and retrieval procedures. Middle and high school students will attend assemblies to review expectations and consequences.

Storage requirements for internet-enabled devices:

- **Elementary School (K–4):** Leave devices at home.
- **Middle School (Grades 5–8):** Phones off and stored in lockers.
- **High School (Grades 9–12):** Phones off and kept in backpacks.

We ask for your partnership in discussing this legislation and policy with your child and to support our teachers and administrators as they carry out their responsibility to enforce it.

Shared Learning

This year, we are building a shared learning community focused on three key areas: AI integration in education, executive functioning skills, and positive behavior supports. In partnership with the POB PTA, families are invited to join us for three evening events:

- **September 17th, 7 PM:** AI and Its Impact on Education and Employment
- **October 16th, 7 PM:** Parent University – The Impact of Social Media on Mental Health
- **December 4th, 7 PM:** Creating Welcoming and Culturally Responsive Environments

Important Dates

- **Monday, August 18th:** Transportation portal opens for families.
- **Wednesday, August 20th:** Parent Portal opens for class schedules and Kindergarten Tea
- **Tuesday, September 2nd:** First day of school, K-12

Please refer to the [District calendar](#) for more details about events. We look forward to a rewarding year of learning and growing, together. Enjoy the final weeks of summer.

Warmly,
Dr. Mary O’Meara
Superintendent of Schools