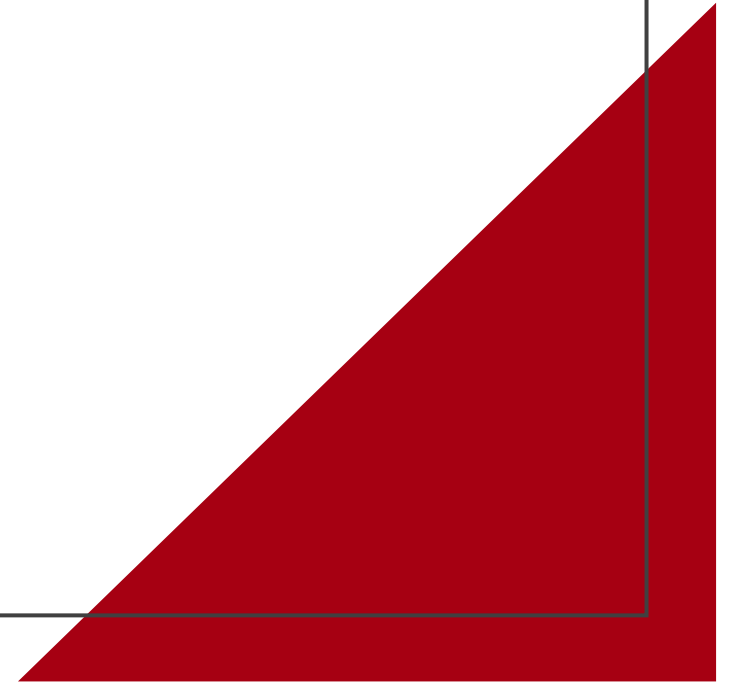


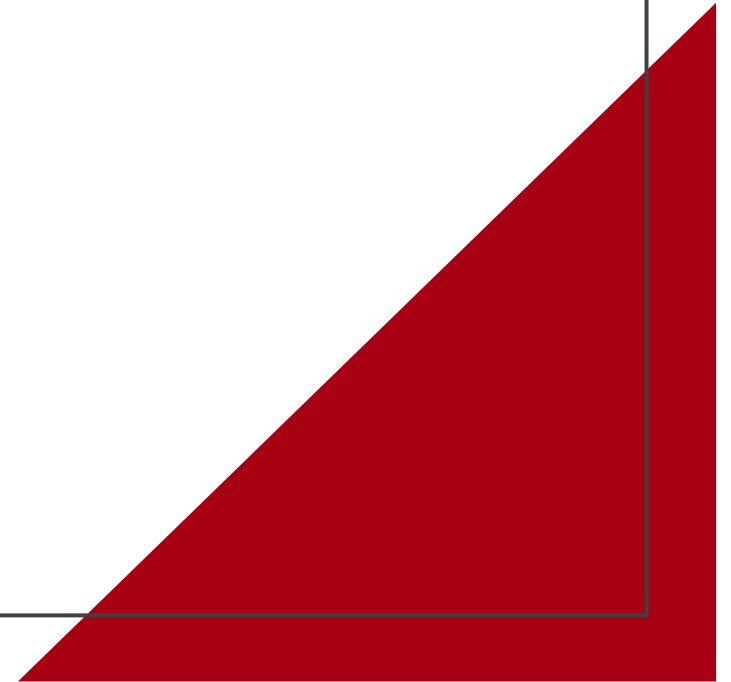
# Superintendent's Report

August 2025



# **Bell to Bell Ban** ***Status Update***

August 2025



# Introduction

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- Districts are required to comply with the [Distraction-Free Schools Law](#). (Commonly known as the “bell-to-bell ban”)
  - Students may not use “**internet-enabled devices**” during the school day.
- **Definitions**
  - ‘School day’ defined as all instructional and non-instructional time.
    - Includes homeroom, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.
    - No exceptions for personal device use during the school day.
  - “Internet-enabled devices” include smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, personal laptops, and any other device capable of connecting to the internet or accessing social media.
  - School district issued Chromebooks or computers are exempt.

# Student Device Storage Requirements

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## Elementary Schools

- Students are discouraged from bringing internet-enabled devices to school. Any internet-enabled device that is brought to school must be silenced and kept in the classroom in the location designated by the teacher.

## Middle Schools

- Students are discouraged from bringing internet-enabled devices to school. Any internet-enabled device that is brought to school must be silenced and stored in the student's locker until student dismissal at the conclusion of the school day. Students may not access these devices during passing time or lunch.

## High School

- Internet-enabled devices must be silenced and stored in student lockers from arrival until student dismissal. Students may not access these devices during passing time or lunch.

# Contacting Students

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## Telephone:

Parents/guardians who need to reach their child during the school day may do so by calling the school's main office.



## Email:

- Grades 8–12: Can receive external emails
- Grades 6–7: Internal email only
- Elementary: No email access



ParentSquare

## ParentSquare/ StudentSquare:

- Replaces Remind app
- Teachers can message their class/club via group chats and direct messaging to both students and parents
- FERPA compliant
- Encrypted for security

# Exemptions

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- For Managing **Healthcare** needs (*ex. blood sugar monitoring*)
  - Families were proactively notified by the District
- For uses specifically written on the IEP for students with **disabilities**
- 504 Exemption Process
  - Accommodations when a “student’s **impairment** substantially limits a major life activity”
  - Accommodation depends on the actual degree of impairment
  - May include executive function management needs
- For **translation** needs
- Health Plans/IEPs/504s are confidential
  - Managing different levels of permissions confidentially will be challenging
- Exemption only applies to the activity in the plan
  - Does not permit scrolling/texting/gaming, etc.

# Penalties

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- Progressive discipline (illustrative examples – will vary by level)
  - Email to parent (1<sup>st</sup> instance)
  - Phone call to parents (2<sup>nd</sup> instance)
  - Parents must retrieve device (3<sup>rd</sup> instance)
- **No suspension solely for cell phone use**
  - However, insubordination is still covered by the Code of Conduct

# Bring Your Own Device (*BYOD*)

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- **Syosset Board Goal:**
  - “Utilize and foster a mastery of evolving technologies...”
- Syosset has always stood for maximizing student educational opportunities
- **BYOD Plan**
  - Dedicated student guest network
  - Blocked messaging, VPNs, and social apps
  - Students authenticate to individual device – traffic is monitored
  - Permits personal laptops or tablets while minimizing distractions
- **Goal:** Allow educational use while limiting distractions
- Usage monitored via authentication
  - Misuse would result in loss of privileges

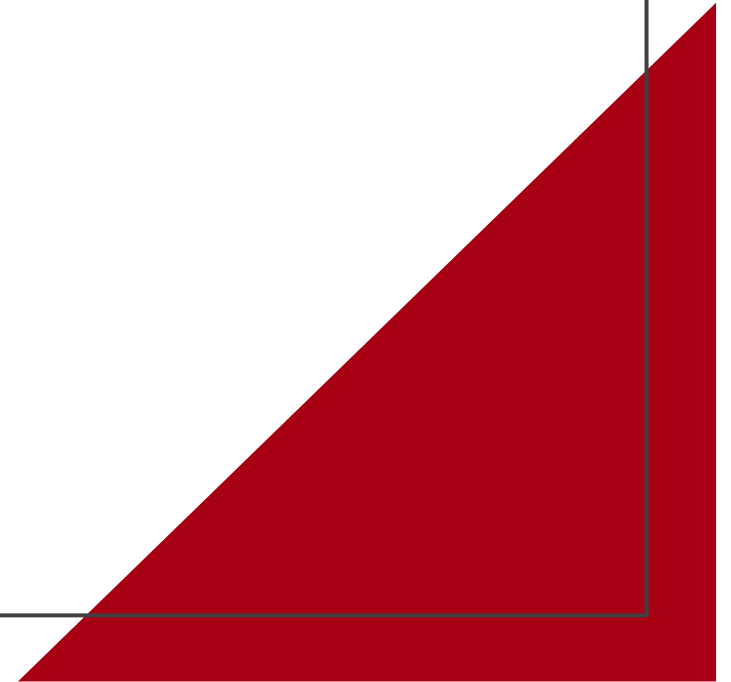
# Resources

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- [Distraction-Free Schools Law](#)
- [NYS FAQ](#)
- [Syosset Policy](#)
- Syosset FAQ
- [Syosset Website](#)

# **Capital Projects** ***Status Update***

August 2025



# Summer Capital Projects

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- Whitman Electrical Upgrade (Emergency)
- High School Partial Roof and Masonry
- South Woods Middle School Partial Roof and Masonry
- South Woods Middle School Site/Paving
- South Grove Bus Loop
- TV/Media Classroom renovation
- High School Testing Center (foundation only)

# Facilities Improvement Bond – Summer 2026

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- The following projects have recently been submitted to the Office of Facilities Planning :
  - Existing gym HVAC at Village and AP Willits
  - Existing gym HVAC at South Woods & HBT
  - Walt Whitman classroom addition
  - HBT Vestibule, Track and Turf field
  - High School Pool ventilation and improvements
  
- H2M is near completion of design for the following projects:
  - Village Classroom addition
  - Berry Hill Classroom addition
  - High School Guidance Center Reconfiguration
  - High School New Gym, Rear bus loop & turf fields

