

The Mock Trial Experience at Baldwin Schools

Board of Education Meeting

January 14, 2026

Overview

Elementary: NCBA Future Advocate Program

Middle School: Future Lawyers Pre-Academy

High School: NCBA/NYS High School Mock Trial Program



Future Advocates Elementary Program

Collaborative Instruction

Led by an attorney in partnership with an educator for students in Grades 4–8

Foundations of the Legal System

Students learn core legal concepts, roles, and courtroom procedures

Authentic Legal Experience

Program culminates in a Mock Trial at Nassau County Supreme Court

Experiential Learning Opportunities

Includes courthouse field trips, observation of a high school mock trial, and competition against other elementary schools in the community

Student Impact

Empowers students to communicate clearly, act with integrity, and engage thoughtfully with their communities. For the 2024–25 survey, 86% of participating students reported increased confidence in their abilities



Future Lawyers Pre-Academy

Open to 8th Graders through a year-long program that meets on B-days during period 9

Foundations of Law

Introduction to legal principles, terminology, and courtroom procedures

Skill Development

Emphasis on public speaking, argumentation, and critical thinking

Experiential Learning

Students participate in mock trials and debates to practice legal strategies

Program Extension

Includes participation in the Middle School Future Advocates Program



NCBA/NYS High School Mock Trial Program

Academy club open to Grades 9–12

Student-Run Organization with Two Teacher Advisors

Students audition for roles, conduct legal research, and prepare trial strategy

Competitive Program

Participates in a series of interscholastic mock trial competitions

Legal Professional Support

Coached by a volunteer legal professional

County & Statewide Competition

Competitions held at the courthouse against schools across Nassau County, as part of the New York State High School Mock Trial Tournament.

Academic & Skill Development

Provides hands-on experience with the legal system while strengthening speaking, listening, reading, and critical reasoning skills

Student Curriculum Writers and Media Team

- Following feedback provided at the conclusion of last year's program, the Association invited our students to serve as curriculum collaborators for countywide implementation, alongside with the Nassau County Bar Association School Engagement Committee.
- HS students completed an internship during the summer to help create a comprehensive curriculum for the year, which included hands on activities, a companion guide, and lesson plans.
- Students also participated in a media production team, creating instructional case videos used by participating schools across Nassau County.

Award Recipients

Student Curriculum Writers	Student Media Team
Sanaya Halyard Brianna Horneck Gildon Max Dorimain Amirah Doresca Shelly Rivera Alexandra Francois Amandine Pierre	Samiah Banjo Taylor Boyce Samantha Desantos Ariana Foster-Guy Jonnae Greene Fahiem Jenkins Tyler Johnson Damian Maharaj Aaron Martin III Munachiso Okorie Kennedy Thompson Soren York Layla Gentles Tyler Herrera