



Baldwin Beat

The Official Newsletter for the Baldwin Union Free School District

www.baldwinschools.org

Points of Pride 2025

Inside This Issue

BALDWIN UFSD'S
POINTS OF PRIDE!

PLUS!

- Meet the New Superintendent
- Communication Reminders
- Coming Up

Another
Year of Excellence!

98%

Graduation Rate!

See more accolades
inside this issue!



WATCH VIDEO:
2024-2025
HIGHLIGHTS

Scan QR code with your
cell phone camera

Register Today!

BALDWIN UFSD'S

CONTINUING
EDUCATION
Program

REGISTER BY **SEPTEMBER 3**



For course offerings, scan QR
code or visit:
[www.baldwinschools.org/
continuinged](http://www.baldwinschools.org/continuinged)



Congratulations Baldwin High School
CLASS OF 2025!



Class of 2025 at a Glance

117th Commencement
Valedictorian: Ian Chan
Salutatorian: Rihanna Hodge
Class President: Solomon Ruff

We Are Innovative!

We Are Inclusive!

We Are Involved!

We Are Baldwin!

Points of ★ PRIDE

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

98% *Graduation Rate*
as of June 2025

- ★ **258** AP Scholars
- ★ **39** AP Capstone Diploma recipients
- ★ **1221** AP Exams taken in 2025
- ★ Nearly **50%** of Baldwin High School students enrolled in Academic Academies program
- ★ Nearly **40%** of Baldwin High School students take dual enrollment (college-credit) courses
- ★ Baldwin High School among 1,436 high schools nationwide to earn **Great Schools College Success Award**
- ★ Baldwin High School among **U.S. News & World Report's "Best High Schools"**
- ★ The **New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA)** recognized Baldwin UFSD with *another two* **"Champion of Change" Awards**, bringing total to **FIVE**

ARTS

- Baldwin High School named one of 16 schools nationwide to receive \$10,000 grant for fall musical production
- Fifty-one Nassau Music Educators Association (NMEA)'s All-County musicians
- Two Baldwin High School students named NYSSMA All-State Musicians
- Six Baldwin UFSD orchestra students selected for highly competitive Long Island String Festival Association (LIFSA)'s annual festival
- Two nominees for The Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance
- Thirty-nine Art Supervisors Association (ASA)'s All-County Art Exhibition artists
- Baldwin High School student accepted into Long Island's Best Young Artists Exhibit at The Heckscher Museum
- Three Baldwin students' artwork chosen for the Cornell Cooperative Extension's 2025 Long Island Gardening Guide & Calendar
- Nearly 130 art pieces created by secondary and elementary students featured at African American Museum of Nassau County's Black History Month exhibit through exclusive partnership between Baldwin UFSD and the museum
- Baldwin Middle School Dance Expression Pre-Academy earns Elite Top First, 1st Top Primary and Large Primary Judges Choice at KAR Dance Competition
- Baldwin students donate their artwork to the Nassau County and Suffolk County Family Courts



2024-25 Innovative Programs & Experiences

- Baldwin UFSD launched **Future Jewelers Academy** at **Baldwin High School@Shubert** in partnership with the Black in Jewelry Coalition and Natural Diamond Council.
- **Recording studio** officially launched, with new curriculum through partnership with **MusicBreeds**.
- Baldwin UFSD opened second **Baldwin Schools Wellness Center** in partnership with Harmony Health at Baldwin High School.
- The **Nassau County Community College Partnership** allows students to earn up to **36 credits before graduating high school**.
- **AP World History: Modern students** participated in a Human Rights Violation Project, attending a learning session with Holocaust survivors to enhance their understanding of historical and contemporary injustices.
- Baldwin UFSD organized an exclusive **S.T.E.A.M. Night** at the Long Island Children's Museum, with more than 900 Baldwin residents in attendance.
- Students, K-12, had the unique opportunity to hear from **NASA astronaut/Baldwin alum, Lt. Col. Jasmin Moghbeli**, after her return to earth.
- Baldwin High School celebrated 25 Years of the Mentoring Program and launched the **Peer-2-Peer mentoring program**.
- Baldwin High School students participated in a plethora of professional **"Shadow Days"** and **"Leaving2Learn" excursions**, including Stetson Cyber Security, Nassau County District Court, and National Grid.

ATHLETICS

- Girls Varsity Basketball Team won New York State “AAA” Championships
- Boys Varsity Basketball Team named Long Island Champions
- Girls Indoor Track & Field team won multiple indoor track and field state titles, including 4x100 relay
- Boys outdoor track and field team won 4x100 relay at Nassau Class “AAA” Track & Field championship
- Thirteen Baldwin High School wrestlers reached All-County status
- Baldwin High School junior awarded National Collegiate Acrobatics & Tumbling Association (NCTCA)’s “Most Outstanding Sprinter of the Year”
- Several Baldwin High School student athletes committed to playing college-level sports with full scholarships
- Marksmanship team honored with Team Sportsmanship Award for 4th consecutive year
- Baldwin High School marksmanship team junior recognized as All Conference and high school senior recognized with All-County
- Baldwin athletes among 2025 *Newsday*’s “Top Players” for the following sports: Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Girls Track & Field, Softball, Wrestling
- Baldwin athletes, alumni and coaches among *Newsday*’s “Long Island All-Decade Players: The 2010s”
- Several “Player of the Year” recipients from both *Newsday* and New York State Sportswriters Association
- Multiple student athlete track stars recognized by NY.Milesplit.com
- Nassau Zone of New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance recognized two Baldwin High School students with “Outstanding Physical Education Students of the Year” Award
- Baldwin High School’s Boys Track & Field coach, Michael Higgins, recognized by USA Track & Field (USATF) – Long Island
- Coaches Tom Catapano, Michael Higgins, and Sandra Cole each named “Coach of the Year” in their respective sports
- Coach Tom Catapano inducted into Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame

ACADEMICS

- Fifty-six President’s Award Winners
- Twenty-five Baldwin High School seniors graduated with transferrable credits from Nassau Community College and will begin as sophomores their first year of college
- Following their “On-Site Admission Day,” 68 seniors received immediate acceptance and offers of academic scholarships, totaling nearly \$1.3 million
- Baldwin High School designated 2024 AP School Honor Roll recipient—“Silver with Access”
- The College Board National Recognition Program recognized 31 Baldwin High School students
- Two Baldwin High School seniors designated “Commended Students” in the National Merit Scholarship Program
- Baldwin High School French students won prizes in American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) Poetry Recitation Contest
- Baldwin High School students placed in “Top 10” in the New York DECA’s 66th annual State Career Conference
- Woodworking students at Baldwin High School constructed storage boxes for Jones Beach lifeguards
- Simon Youth Foundation awarded competitive scholarships to two graduating students from Baldwin High School@Shubert
- Baldwin High School senior won 2024 Congressional App Challenge
- Baldwin High School junior recognized with 2025 Students Building Bridges award by the Jewish Community Relations Council – Long Island (JCRC-LI), in partnership with Nassau County’s State Senate Delegation
- Baldwin High School student awarded certificate of Recognition in Math, Accounting and Finance by Nassau County Comptroller
- Baldwin High School student placed 3rd place in America Bankers Association Foundation’s “Lights, Camera, Save!” video contest
- Baldwin High School students received four medals at Nassau County Science Olympiad West Regional tournament
- Baldwin High School’s Virtual Enterprise named top 44th finalist out of 4600 students nationally and internationally
- Baldwin High School student won Liberty’s Media Contest
- Baldwin Middle School and Meadow placed 1st in New York State Future Problem Solvers bowl
- Meadow placed 3rd in International Future Problem Solvers competition
- In addition to several Nassau Region PTA finalists, two Brookside Elementary School students received an “Award of Merit” at the state-level in the annual New York State PTA Reflections competition
- Baldwin elementary schools participated in the Nassau County Elementary School Mock Trial Program, sponsored by the School Engagement Subcommittee of the Nassau County Bar Association’s Community Relations Education Committee and the Nassau County Supreme Court
- Brookside Elementary School participated in the district’s “Hello Neighbor” project
- Three Steele Elementary School students won the Liberty Water’s “Be Water Wise” Competition
- Steele Elementary School third grader won “Be Kind to Animals” essay contest
- Lenox Elementary School third grade student named national winner in Scholastic’s Dragon Masters Contest

BALDWIN FAMILY

- **Plaza Elementary School, Baldwin Middle School and Baldwin High School** each recognized as a No Place for Hate School, the latter two also receiving *Gold Status* from the Anti-Defamation League
- **Brookside, Meadow and Steele** PTAs awarded \$1500 grant to Host “Ready, Tech, Go!” Workshop by the National PTA and AT&T
- Baldwin High School teacher, **Ms. Michelle Gambino**, one of fifteen teachers awarded the Long Island Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Educational Leadership Association (LISTEMELA) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Star award
- Baldwin Middle School principal, **Dr. Erica Taylor**, and school counselor, **Ms. Meghan Kargman**, among “Best of Long Island” 2025 winners
- Baldwin High School principal, **Dr. Neil Testa**, honored as a 2025 Center for Integrated Training and Education Alumni of Distinction
- Baldwin UFSD one of 16 school districts nationwide to be selected for an AASA (The School Superintendents Association) “Helping Kids Mini Grant”
- **Lenox Elementary School** featured in *ASCD Education Leadership* magazine
- **Steele Elementary School** placed 1st in American Legion Post 246’s Memorial Day Float Competition
- **Plaza Elementary School** teachers, **Nicole Shagi** and **Jacqueline Sarfati McCauley**, awarded Jovia grant
- Baldwin UFSD named “Student Analytics Lab Solution Spotlight” winner by Frontline Education
- District’s new website received the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) 2025 “Award of Merit-Website”
- Baldwin UFSD featured in various media, from national placements like Bloomberg Television to local press, like *Newsday*

Solving

Students learn how to think, not what to think, and gain lifelong skills



BALDWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

960 Hastings Street
Baldwin, NY 11510-4758
www.baldwinschools.org
516.434.6000

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**REMINDER – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**

Visit www.baldwinschools.org for the latest updates and the 2025-2026 calendar.

BALDWIN UFSD WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Anthony Mignella serves as the new Superintendent of Schools for the Baldwin Union Free School District, bringing a wealth of experience and dedication to his role. With an extensive background in educational leadership, Mr. Mignella's journey in education began over 25 years ago and has encompassed a variety of transformative roles. Prior to his current position, he was the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction for Baldwin UFSD for nine years, where he played a pivotal role in shaping the district's future-driven curriculum and enhancing student achievement. He looks forward to building meaningful connections, supporting the shared goals for Baldwin UFSD and vision of Baldwin 2035, engaging with families and reinforcing the strong partnership between Baldwin schools and community.



Please Read!

Important Communication Reminders

Update Contact Information

Ensure your most up-to-date contact information is provided to the Main Office of your child's school, including a cell phone number and email address, to receive emails, phone calls, and text messages from the district.

Attention Community Members – Stay Informed

For Baldwin residents with no children in the schools but would like to receive updates from the district about school news and building closures, visit: baldwinschools.org/notificationsignup

FREE Tools/Apps Offered by Baldwin UFSD

New Two-Way Communication Tool: Class Dojo District
Available for Families with Students, Grades K-8

Baldwin UFSD is excited to announce the adoption of **ClassDojo District** as the new teacher-to-parent communication tool for the upcoming school year. This platform will streamline communication, making it easier for families and teachers to connect and share important updates, student progress, and classroom moments. The upgraded app will be available this fall for families with children in grades K-8. Stay tuned for more information! Families with students in grades 9-12 should continue to use Canvas for communication with faculty.

FREE App to Help Monitor Child's Online Activity
Sign Up for Qustodio Today!

The Qustodio app allows parents and guardians to see their child's online activity and pause the Internet on their school Chromebook and up to one personal device. Learn more and sign up at:

www.baldwinschools.org/qustodio

Access all of Baldwin UFSD's communication channels and resources at: baldwinschools.org/communications

WHAT'S NEXT? 2025-2026 School Year

Focusing on FUTURE READY COMPETENCIES

Aligned with the district's "Baldwin 2035" vision, the **Future Ready Competencies** provide opportunities for students to engage in developing the skills and dispositions necessary to thrive in a complex, interconnected world, fostering deep learning while preparing them for their future. The district will continue to create innovative learning experiences focused on the following essential skills: **Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Character and Citizenship. Stay tuned!**