BALDWIN-WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Baldwin High School

Office of the Principal

4653 Clairton Boulevard - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - 15236-2150

Phone: 412.885.7500 - Fax: 412.885.6652 - www.bwschools.net

August 7, 2026

Dear Baldwin High School Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! A new school year brings endless possibilities, and we are excited to welcome both our returning students and those joining the Highlander family for the first time. There is a special sense of pride and tradition that comes with being a Highlander, and together we look forward to a year filled with engaging learning experiences, exciting opportunities in academics, athletics, the arts, and student activities, and countless moments that will inspire growth, achievement, and lasting memories.

Throughout the year, we will continue to guide students on the **Journey of a Highlander** by creating meaningful experiences that prepare them for success both in and beyond the classroom. Together, we will cultivate the qualities that define a Highlander—**Responsible Collaborators, Adaptive Learners, Creative and Critical Thinkers, Empathetic Individuals,** and **Effective Communicators.** These characteristics are woven into our classrooms, our school culture, and every opportunity we provide, empowering our students to lead with confidence, curiosity, compassion, and purpose.

As partners in education, we thank you for your continued support and trust. Together, we will celebrate our traditions, embrace new opportunities, and encourage every student to challenge themselves, get involved, and make a positive impact on our school community.

Important Information:

- **Block Schedule:** The school will continue using the newly implemented A/B block schedule. Blocked courses meet every other day. Juniors and seniors who have a scheduled study hall during the first or last block of the day may be eligible for late arrival or early dismissal with the appropriate permission. Students interested in this option should see their school counselor to obtain the required form.
- **Highlander Time**: All students will have an opportunity to engage in activities in the middle of each school day. Students will be able to choose from a variety of activities created by our staff to engage our students in learning activities from many different areas.
- **Semesterized Courses:** Year-long courses are broken into semesters. For example, a student might have World History 2nd block during the fall semester and 3rd block during the spring semester.
- **Freshman Orientation:** August 24, 2026. Please continue to check for updates.
- **Family Engagement Event:** September 19, 2026 for grades 9-12. Please continue to check for updates.
- **BHS Administration Caseloads:**
    - Mr. John M. Saras: Grades 9 through 12 | Mr. Brandon Whitfield: Grades 9 through 12
    - Ms. Denise Wells: Grades 9 and 10 | Ms. Stephanie Bonaroti: Grades 11 and 12
- **School Counselor Caseloads:**
  Julie Sumper: Freshmen | Sara Fiorill: Grades 10-12 (A-G) | Kaitlyn Figurelli: Grades 10-12 (H-N) |
  Noel Santini (Department Chair): Grades 10-12 (O-Z)
- **Transportation:** Student drop-off is in the BHS Central Lot from **6:45A - 7:10A**. Buses drop off/pick up at the BHS South (Pool) Entrance. The BHS South Lot is closed to personal vehicles during these times. Learning begins at **7:15A**, and every minute counts. We ask that students arrive with enough time to be in

their classrooms, prepared to learn, by **7:15A**. Students who are not in class when instruction begins will be marked tardy.

- **Absences/Tardies:** Excuses must follow District policies and can be emailed to Ms. Beth Depetro at bhsattendance@bwschools.net. Excuses are due within three school days of returning to school.

For more information, visit our website, follow us on Instagram @bhsactivities, and check Skyward and Canvas regularly. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

We are excited for all that lies ahead and look forward to making the 2026–2027 school year one of growth, success, and Highlander pride. Go Highlanders!

Sincerely,

Mr. John M. Saras, Co-Principal

Mr. Brandon Whitfield, Co-Principal

Ms. Denise Wells, Assistant Principal

Ms Stephanie Bonaroti, Assistant Principal