



Superintendent's Welcome Back to the 2026-27 School Year

Friday, Aug 28 at 4:30 PM

Dear POB Families,

Welcome to the 2026–27 school year! I know a back-to-school letter in late August can be an unwelcome reminder that summer is ending. I also suspect there are some families who are R-E-A-D-Y for school to begin. When my own children were school-aged, they had one rule for me in August. I was not allowed to walk around the house singing, *"It's the most wonderful time of the year."* They did not share my enthusiasm for the start of school.

Whether you are holding on to the last days of summer or have the backpacks waiting by the door, we are ready to welcome our students back. **School opens for all students on Wednesday, September 2nd. Our first week runs Wednesday through Friday. Schools will be closed on Monday, September 7th, for Labor Day.**

We begin with much to celebrate from the 2025–26 school year. The Class of 2026 achieved a 99.53% graduation rate, earning \$17 million in scholarships, and more than \$94,000 in community awards. Our spring NWEA results also affirmed the strength of our academic programs and the talents of our teachers. Fourth grade reached 95% proficiency in math, while seventh grade reached 88% proficiency in reading.

Please be assured that we are not resting on last year's results. This summer, we hired 40 new teachers and substitutes, along with new administrators. Curricula was revised and written, and our facilities department continued improvements across the District. At POB John F. Kennedy High School, students will return to a new field and track---just in time for Homecoming Weekend.

Our enrollment continues to grow. Since July 1st, more than 90 new students in grades 1–12 have enrolled, and we will welcome more than 325 kindergarteners. With that growth comes a responsibility to plan for the future. John F. Kennedy High School will open with more than 1,740 students. We will return to the discussion of instructional space at the September 8th Board of Education meeting. I encourage families to follow this conversation, along with our planning for facility needs across the District.

This year also brings a new state requirement related to water safety. We have added a water safety resource to the POB Schools website to make this information easy for families to access. [Click here](#) for more information.

As we begin the year, each student is starting a new chapter. Our responsibility remains the same: students should learn, be challenged, supported, and know they belong. This commitment to belonging is central to our District mission. That sense of belonging extends to our families. I encourage you to join your school's PTA and/or SEPTA. Both provide meaningful ways to become involved and stay connected to your child's school.

On behalf of the Board of Education and POB Schools, welcome back. To those joining our community for the first time, welcome to POB. We look forward to seeing our students on Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Mary O'Meara, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District