

Babylon Union Free School District

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Welcome Back!

August 2017

Dear Babylon Families,

On behalf of the Babylon Board of Education and the entire Babylon educational community, I welcome you back to the 2017/2018 school year! Although the start of a new school year is just around the corner, each summer represents a reflective time to think of our past, evaluate our present and look forward to our future. We are very enthusiastic as to what opportunities the new school year will offer!

Throughout this summer we have been deeply involved in preparing our schools for your child's smooth entrance come September. Please take the time to note some very important information in this welcome letter pertaining to the opening of our schools this fall.

The first day of school for all students will be Thursday, September 7, 2017. Please be advised of our existing school hours and information specific to each school, noted below. **I further encourage you to attend our various "Meet the Teacher" nights** to help you become acquainted with your child's teachers and instructional routines. The dates and times for our "Meet the Teacher" nights are below, which can also be found in the school district calendar mailed to all residents as well as on the District website.

Babylon Elementary School, Grades K-2

Principal: Mr. Travis Davey

School Hours for Students: 8:25 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

"Meet the Teacher" Night: September 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Babylon Memorial Grade School: Grades 3-6

Principal: Mr. Steven Goldberg

School Hours for Students: 8:20 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

"Meet the Teacher" Night: September 13, 2017

(Grades 3 & 4 at 6:30 p.m./Grades 5 & 6 at 7:30 p.m.)

Babylon Junior/Senior High School: Grades 7-12

Principal: Mr. Al Cirone

School Hours for Students: 7:34 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

"Meet the Teacher" Night: September 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

JSHS Parent/Teacher Conferences: Monday November 6, 2017

(day & evening appointments will be available; more information to follow)

Together we begin the 2017/2018 school year with a continued opportunity to create another wonderful chapter in the history of Babylon Schools! While we have seen cherished educators retire last June, we have spent the necessary time this summer hiring terrific educators who have joined our leadership and instructional family.

Please give a warm welcome to the following newcomers to our Babylon instructional staff:

District-Wide Personnel:

Mr. Charles Dwyer, Network Systems Engineer
Mr. Herb Hodge, Interim Plant Facilities Director

Babylon Junior-Senior High School:

Mr. Kyle Cropsey, ENL Teacher
Ms. Ashley DeLuca, School Psychologist
Ms. Natalie Sabia, Science Teacher

Babylon Grade School:

Ms. Brittany Mueller, Grade 3 Leave Replacement Teacher
Ms. Emilee Rahner, Grade 6 Leave Replacement Teacher
Mr. Jonathan Kowalchuk, Special Education Leave Replacement Teacher

Babylon Elementary School:

Ms. Shelbi Feldman, Grade 2
Ms. Elizabeth Losito, Art Teacher
Ms. Victoria Burns, Grade 1 Leave Replacement Teacher

With the hiring of key personnel, we also continue to prepare our campuses and classrooms for your child's happy arrival on opening day. Specifically, the 2017/2018 school year will continue to champion impressive additions to our facilities and enhancements to our strong instructional, artistic and athletic programs. Here are some updates:

✓ District-Wide Technology & Safety

- A newly-implemented wireless system has been installed. It features access points within each classroom and specific areas within each building that provide full Wi-Fi coverage.
- A Microsoft Surface Pro 4 device will be used by every educator in the 2017/2018 school year. These devices will allow teachers to digitally collaborate with one another on curriculum planning & instruction as they prepare for a 1:1 roll-out for students in 2018/2019.
- A migration of email/cloud storage from Google to Office 365 for all students, teachers and school leadership occurred this past summer as well. This migration will be complete before September.
- Wiring for a comprehensive, district-wide new security system is in the process of being completed by late fall. Once this is complete, the district will be able to install new cameras as well as access readers for all three educational campuses.

- Our food service has developed a wonderful updated menu of allergy-safe party options for purchase when planning food-based class parties. We strongly encourage all parents use this option when planning for food-based celebrations, as more and more youngsters are diagnosed with allergic conditions. It's easy to order, takes the stress of shopping off your hands, and it's convenient! Our part-time Director of Food Services, Ms. Nancy Padrone, will be sending out a welcome letter to all families shortly under separate cover to encourage this feature as well as informing you of other news from her department for the upcoming year. Additionally, we will be holding an allergy awareness workshop for all designated K-6 classroom parents early this fall with more information to follow.
- ✓ Bond Renovations
 - Beautiful renovations to our High School include renovated music suites, the kitchen serving lines, locker rooms and gymnasiums.
 - Needed renovations also took place at the Grade School and Elementary School where you will see some new bathrooms, new kitchen serving lines as well as exterior/structural site work at buildings, including parking lot renovations, new windows and new tennis courts!
- ✓ Curriculum & Instruction
 - The District is introducing *Second Step*, a new Social Emotional Learning Curriculum in Grades K-6, for implementation beginning this fall.
 - The new year will also see the full-year implementation of the eSchool online Grade Book, with 24/7 access granted to students and their parents who can now view real-time grades earned as they are posted by grades 7-12 teachers.
 - The return of Junior-Senior High School Parent/Teacher conferences happens this November 2017!
 - This September will mark the 2nd year of "*Project Lead the Way*" - the nation's leading STEM curriculum in Engineering for grades 9-12: a 3rd college-credit bearing course comes on board in September titled *PLTW Computer Integrated Manufacturing*, certified by the Rochester Institute of Technology;
 - Enhanced Guidance & Career Counseling services will continue as we prepare students and their families for the life beyond Babylon; and of course...
 - We have the addition of multiple K-12 clubs, as well as maintain our firm commitment to the Arts & Interscholastic Athletics.

The District's Strategic Plan, titled "The Way Forward", is now in its 3rd year of implementation. This document, by design, has the overarching goal of creating a set of long-range educational goals for our students, all designed to educate the "whole child" while embracing academic rigor, educational opportunities and enriched experiences for all children. The plan's priorities will continue to drive all we do and all conversations we have. I look forward to sharing our past successes, the year's vision and long-term vision later in the fall.

Please also join me during the four scheduled "Coffee with the Superintendent" day and evening sessions noted in the district calendar throughout the year. Additionally, I am organizing the first "Community Book Club with the Superintendent" set to begin later this fall. We will be reading the New York Times bestseller titled *How to Raise an Adult*, by author Julie Lythcott-Haims. A book club with parents/community is always enjoyable and this year's selection will be a terrific way for us to connect with our community members on a topic related to student learning, child development and the book's consistent theme centered on emotional and social well-being. Information will be released sometime in September as to our meeting dates and times. If interested, please get yourself a copy and get ready for some great conversation!

Finally, with the start of a new academic year comes the time when we annually remember and commemorate **National Patriot Day designated as Monday, September 11th**. It will be a day throughout the district in which we celebrate the brave men and women who continue to serve as heroes in our communities today.

Please take the time to visit the District and individual school websites in order to stay connected! The District website can be accessed by going to www.babylonschools.org. We are constantly working to make it even more interactive and informative. Additionally, we will update you often through our newsletters, social media, out-dials and text messages.

I further invite you to attend many of the student performances, District-sponsored and athletic events held throughout the year. Most importantly, please be involved! I welcome your thoughts and suggestions as to how the District can better serve your needs, and I encourage you to contact me through email at lrozzi@babylonufsd.com or by phone at 631-893-7925.

Join me as we celebrate another school year together. I look forward to partnering with you as we continue to offer our students a terrific school experience grounded in strong academics, positive advocacy and meaningful collaboration. I extend only my best wishes for a spectacular 2017/2018 school year!

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Linda J. Rozzi

Superintendent of Schools