

Babylon Union Free School District

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September Updates Around the District

September 8, 2016

Dear Babylon Families:

Yesterday was a wonderful start to the new school year as our students came back enthused, refreshed and excited to learn. My team and I spent much of the day visiting our schools, welcoming the students back and seeing the excitement in their faces. There is much positivity to celebrate in Babylon! It's important that the students get to know us and see us visible in their classrooms; it is also the best part of our day when we spend it with them!

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of our schools and programs. Particularly, your unwavering support and patience of our K-6 bussing in the first two days has been very much appreciated. So far it has been very successful, aside from a few minor adjustments that we are making and will be tracking to ensure smooth ridership in the days ahead. We appreciate your understanding and assistance during the first week of school and value your input and feedback (always!). Once we get through the first couple of weeks, the adjustments and systems will fall into place and routines will become settled.

Like every year, we embrace innovations and programs that are new to Babylon classrooms which you hear us brag about online and in our newsletters. However, we know that it is the strong partnership with our parents that constitutes the success of a child. Academically, the journey we will take this year will help us continue moving forward as we nurture and celebrate a culture of excellence for all stakeholders. Let us continue on this journey to success together.

With that, this past summer the Board of Education, along with our leadership team, assessed the status of our goals as well as defined action steps that will continue moving us forward as a district. During the month of September we will continue working with representatives from stakeholder groups as SMART goals for the year become solidified. You will hear more about these upon adoption in October. We must continue to concentrate on the processes that spur continuing advancement: evaluating what we have, determining what we can do to improve, and identifying what we need to make those improvements. We must also find the time to recognize and celebrate our students and one another.

From a facilities standpoint, this past summer we voluntarily tested all water sources for water quality without waiting for the State mandating us to do so. It was our intention to get in front of the task and be proactive rather than reactive as the safety of our students and staff is always our highest priority. We are one of only a few districts on Long Island that decided to do so, and I am pleased we did. We are pleased to report that water quality results are in compliance with EPA recommendations. Attached I have a separate letter defining what occurred this summer in a more detailed fashion and the outcomes. Please refer to the attachment.

Additionally, we completed Phase 3 of the voter-approved bond and renovated classroom spaces at Babylon Junior-Senior High School look amazing! Rowe Hall is still underway and will be ready sometime in the fall. All instructional spaces at the Junior-Senior High School were ready for the first day of school, which was our priority. We also have installed hydration stations throughout our schools which have been so well-received by the students! We will be adding more of these throughout the district in time. Please thank our custodial and grounds crews when you see them. They worked very hard throughout the summer months to prepare the educational spaces.

Lastly, the district will be recognizing National Patriot Day tomorrow, September 9th, since the National Day of Remembrance falls on a weekend this year. We are encouraging all students and staff to wear Red, White, and Blue tomorrow as we honor the day and recognize our local and national heroes, patriots and civic organizations.

I wish you all a terrific year! Thank you for your ongoing support of public education. Welcome back!

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Linda J. Rozzi
Superintendent of Schools