



Babylon Union Free School District

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August 2016

Dear Babylon Families,

On behalf of the Babylon Board of Education and the entire Babylon educational community, I welcome you back to the 2016/2017 school year! The new academic year brings enthusiasm throughout the District as we commit ourselves to providing the very best educational experiences possible for our students!

The Babylon Union Free School District is known for its commitment to "*Educational Excellence*" as well as the student outcomes that make Babylon Schools a highly desirable school system for our residents to live. To families new to our school community, we encourage your contributions and look forward to your involvement in our schools and participation in our many building and District-sponsored events.

Throughout the summer months many people have been on-hand inside the District planning for a smooth September opening for your child. Please take the time to note some very important information in this welcome letter pertaining to the opening of our schools in September.

The first day of school for all students will be Wednesday, September 7, 2016. Please take note of the **new school hours** specific to Babylon Elementary School and Babylon Memorial Grade School, as noted. 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 noted 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
New Hours for Students: 8:25 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.
"Meet the Teacher" Night: September 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Babylon Memorial Grade School: Grades 3-6

Principal: Mr. Steven Goldberg
New Hours for Students: 8:20 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.
"Meet the Teacher" Night: September 14, 2016
(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
Hours for Students: 7:34 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
"Meet the Teacher" Night: September 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Together, we begin the 2016/2017 school year with a continued opportunity to create another wonderful chapter in the history of Babylon Schools! Aside from hiring top-notch educators who joined our leadership and instructional teams this past summer, we continue to prepare our campuses and classrooms for your child's happy arrival on opening day. Specifically, the 2016/2017 school year will highlight impressive additions to our facilities and enhancements to our strong instructional, artistic and athletic programs, such as:

- ✓ A District-wide summer wiring project that ensures wireless access and capacity throughout all campuses meets the instructional needs of the 21st century learner;
- ✓ The beautiful renovations of Rowe Hall, the Little Theatre, as well as Art, Science, Early Childhood and Family & Consumer Science instructional spaces at Babylon Junior-Senior High School;
- ✓ The addition of "*Project Lead the Way*" - the nation's leading STEM curriculum in Engineering for grades 9-12: new courses will be *PLTW Design & Drawing for Production & PLTW Principles of Engineering*, both certified by the Rochester Institute of Technology;
- ✓ The creation of a new engineering technology lab equipped with VEX kits and the commitment to implement VEX Robotics in Grades 7 and 8;
- ✓ The continuation of our STEAM program, now looping up into Grade 10;
- ✓ The addition of two new Advanced Placement courses (AP Psychology and AP Physics I), both certified by the College Board;
- ✓ The enthusiastic expansion of our High School Theatre Arts program;
- ✓ The addition of Foreign Language Education and Health Education in Grade 6, and
- ✓ A wide array of extracurricular activities, Junior High, Junior Varsity and Varsity athletic teams.

The District's Strategic Plan, titled "The Way Forward", is now in its 2nd year of implementation. This document, by design, is helping to make Babylon Schools one of the most prestigious school districts on Long Island. The plan's priorities will continue to drive all we do and all conversations we have as specific building and department specific S.M.A.R.T. goals are created and achieved that align with our strategic plan. You will hear more about the past year's accomplishments and our vision for the upcoming year later in the fall.

Finally, with the start of a new academic year comes the time when we annually remember and commemorate **National Patriot Day designated as September 11th**. Since the national day of remembrance falls on a Sunday this year, all of our schools will be honoring the day on Friday, September 9, 2016. 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, get 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.org 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 school year in 2016/2017!

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Linda J. Rozzi

Superintendent of Schools