



Baldwin High School

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Neil J. Testa, Ed.D
Principal

May 8, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Class of 2025, to invite you to attend Baldwin High School's 117th Commencement on Friday, June 27, 2025, at 5:00p.m. on the football field. Commencement, a dignified and memorable event, not only marks the end of high school, but it also acknowledges your child's achievements. To ensure Commencement is successful and our students behave in a manner commensurate with the occasion, we ask your cooperation in supporting and adhering to the following guidelines, which are in line with current regulations.

YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTION

Monday, June 9th, 2025

Yearbook distribution will take place on Monday, June 9th at 3:00 pm in the front gym.

COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL

Monday, June 16th, 2025

Commencement Rehearsal is mandatory and will take place on **Monday, June 16th at 12 noon** in the High School Auditorium and on the football field, **RAIN OR SHINE. THIS WILL BE THE ONLY REHEARSAL.**

- **TRANSPORTATION** – Arrangements have been made to provide transportation to those seniors with a bus pass. Seniors should be at their regular bus stop no later than **11:25 AM. ALL ROUTES WILL BE COVERED.**
- **IDENTIFICATION** - All seniors will be required to show their school ID and enter the building through the auditorium entrance on the west side of the circle. No senior will be permitted to enter the building prior to their rehearsal time.
- **SEATING** - Seniors will sit in alphabetical order as designated on the seats, unless otherwise indicated.
- **REHEARSAL** - All students are required to sit in alphabetical order as designated on the seats, unless otherwise indicated. Rehearsal will be approximately one hour.
- **LUNCHEON** - The Baldwin High School PTSA has graciously offered to sponsor a luncheon on Monday, June 16th, immediately following rehearsal. The luncheon and countdown a will take place on the football field, weather permitting.

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CAPS & GOWNS, HONOR CORDS, TICKETS - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025 – MANDATORY

- **TIME AND LOCATION** - Cap and gowns, honor cords and tickets will be distributed **only to seniors that have met all graduation requirements** and returned all school equipment, Chromebooks, and books in the Auditorium on Wednesday, June 25th as follows:

9:00 - 9:45a.m. Students with last names beginning with **A through E**
9:45 - 10:30a.m. Students with last names beginning with **F through M**
10:30 - 11:15a.m. Students with last names beginning with **N through Z**

PLEASE NOTE: SENIORS WHO FAIL TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL. STUDENTS THAT DO NOT MEET GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT.

If your child has not purchased their cap and gown, they may do so on June 25th **during the aforementioned time.** Please have your child see their senior class advisors. The cost will be **\$50 - CASH ONLY!**

In the event of an emergency and your child is unable to pick up their cap and gown, honor cords and tickets on June 25th, you must immediately contact the Guidance Office.

- **DEBTS** - **All debts must be settled before caps, gowns, honor cords and tickets are distributed. Please make sure your child settles all outstanding debts no later than June 25th.** Debts include such things as Chromebooks, calculators, books, uniforms, etc. If debts are not cleared, your child will have to wait until **Monday morning, June 30th**, to pay the fine or debt and to pick up their diploma. **NO DEBTS OR FINES WILL BE COLLECTED BEFORE OR AFTER GRADUATION ON FRIDAY.**

Please remember that students will be required to show their school ID and will not be permitted in the auditorium prior to their assigned time. Students will hand in their school ID upon check-in.

COMMENCEMENT - FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025, 5:00 PM

Commencement will take place on Friday, June 27, 2025, on the High School Football Field at 5:00p.m.

Graduates should assemble in their assigned location at **4:00p.m. SHARP!** Each graduate will check in and receive a yellow Allen Photography card. Graduates will be required to sit in **alphabetical order** as designated during the Commencement Rehearsal. Any student reporting to the platform out of alphabetical order will not be permitted to cross the platform and **will not receive his/her diploma until after a parent-student conference is held with me on June 30.**

Weather permitting, Commencement will take place on the football field. Bleachers will fill quickly so you may wish to bring folding chairs. There is no accommodation for shade. In the event weather conditions become hazardous during the outdoor ceremony, Commencement will conclude immediately.

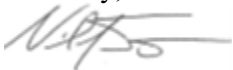
- **INCLEMENT WEATHER** – In the event of inclement weather, a decision will be made to hold Commencement in the gymnasium. A notice will be posted on the district website (www.baldwinschools.org), on the *Class of 2025 page*, and through a Parent Link message. **Once a decision has been made to hold the ceremony indoors, it will not be rescinded.** An indoor ceremony will only allow two tickets per graduate. The ceremony will be livestreamed online. We strongly recommend that you decide **prior** to graduation which guests will utilize the indoor tickets. **VIP tickets are not valid for indoor ceremony.** Strollers will not be permitted in the gymnasium.
- **ATTIRE** – Students should dress appropriately for this dignified ceremony. No sneakers, flip flops, jeans, shorts, tank tops, and/or beach attire will be allowed. Shoes are required. Students are not to adjust their cap or gown or wear items that are not issued by the school. **Due to the turf field, shoes with a skinny heel are not permitted for safety reasons. NO ALTERATIONS TO CAPS & GOWNS ARE PERMITTED, INCLUDING CORDS, SASHES, AND STOLES THAT WERE NOT DISTRIBUTED BY SCHOOL.**

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- **PERSONAL PROPERTY** – All personal items, including electronic devices, should be left at home. No personal property may be left in the building during the graduation ceremony as we cannot be responsible for these items.
- **DIPLOMAS** – Graduates will receive their diploma and honors/awards during the ceremony.
- **REPORT CARDS** - All senior report cards will be published to the Parent Portal.
- **TRANSCRIPTS AND FINAL GRADES** - Seniors who wish to have their final records sent to a college/university or another post-secondary institution must inform their guidance counselors where they will be attending college. Additionally, students should indicate the college in their Naviance accounts.
- **FLOWERS** - No flowers are to be worn during the procession. **NO FLOWER DELIVERIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- **PHOTOGRAPHY** - Two professional photographers will be taking your picture as you receive your diploma. Proofs will be mailed to you that you may choose to purchase.
- **FIRST AID** - A school nurse will be on duty in the 600-building office on the first floor. In addition, the Baldwin Fire Department will provide us with first aid van and trained personnel during Commencement.
- **LAVATORY FACILITIES** - Lavatory facilities on the field will be available before, during, and after Commencement.
- **SPECIAL PARKING** - There are a limited number of parking spaces available for vehicles with a displayed, official handicapped parking permit or license plate.
- **SPECIAL SERVICES** - If you need any special services such as a sign language interpreter, please call the Guidance Office no later than **Friday, June 6.**
- **SPECTATOR GUIDELINES** - Spectator outbursts, bugles, air horns, land or air vehicles displaying signs and any other inappropriate behavior that detracts from the dignified nature of Commencement will not be tolerated. These kinds of inappropriate behaviors will result in immediate removal from the ceremony. We ask for your support and cooperation to ensure that Commencement is a dignified and memorable occasion.

Graduates are expected to demonstrate proper decorum. They are expected to behave appropriately throughout the entire ceremony. Inappropriate behavior will result in your child being directed to leave the field during the Commencement exercises and not receive his/her diploma until after a parent-student conference is held with me on Monday, June 30th. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Main Office at Baldwin High School. I look forward to seeing you at Commencement!

Sincerely,



Dr. Neil Testa
Principal

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