

Welcome back and Happy New year!

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the halfway point of the school year.

Mid-year testing:

January 2022 Regents Examination Period

- On December 21st, the Board of Regents and New York State Education Department (NYSED) announced the cancellation of all Regents examinations that had been scheduled for the January 2022 Regents administration period, in response to the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic.
- No decisions have been made regarding the June and August 2022 administrations of Regents Examinations or any other State assessment programs.

No Midterm Week:

- This year due to the potential for student quarantines and the cancellation of The New York State January Regents, BHS will not hold a midterm week this year.
- As a result, the entire month of January will follow our normal bell schedule and there will be no special days for testing.
- Core subject areas will administer quarterly assessments, offered during regularly scheduled classes.
- Our focus will remain on instruction and authentic (formative) assessment of student learning.
- All students will be required to complete a cumulative final exam or NYS Regents Exam for all their core courses in June.

As we return from break, I ask you all to continue to be mindful of monitoring your children for COVID-19 symptoms daily. On December 29th – Superintendent Rozzi sent out a district-wide letter on return to school and Covid testing options. Additional correspondence and clarifying guidance will be out this week.

Distribution of Tests for Students UPON School Re-entry: The purpose of testing is to monitor and minimize transmission of COVID -19 in our schools and community. Testing is not mandatory, and these kits are for use at home. We are only offering kits to assist families that would like to take advantage of the opportunity to test their child at home

“Test to Stay” (TTS): “Test to Stay” (TTS) is an initiative being adopted shortly by the Suffolk County Department of Health. This initiative allows those students and staff members who are contact traced based on an “in school” exposure to COVID-19 to test and retest in school over a series of days, permitting one to remain in school if each test results in a negative outcome. This applies to only school-based exposures to COVID-19 (which have been minimal due to our universal masking and sound spacing requirements).

Annual Early Dismissal Drill: In compliance with New York State safety regulations, Babylon Schools has scheduled our annual “Early Dismissal Drill” for Thursday, January 13, 2022. All students in Grades PK through 12 will be released from school 15 minutes earlier than their normally scheduled dismissal time. **BHS will dismiss @ 2:15PM.**

SCHOOLS CLOSED

- **Upcoming Superintendent’s Conference Day/ No School for Students:** Please note that all three schools within the Babylon School District will be closed for students on **Friday, January 14, 2022**, for the purpose of a district-wide conference day for all faculty and staff presented by The Crime Victims’ Center. The day’s topics will cover additional Sexual Harassment Training, reporting procedures, reporting requirements, etc.
- **Monday, January 17 - DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

I wish you a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming our students and staff on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Sincerely,

Al Cirone, Principal BHS