



**Plainview-Old Bethpage**  
**John F. Kennedy High School**

50 Kennedy Drive, Plainview, NY 11803  
Office: 516-434-3125 Fax: 516-937-6433

**James Murray**   **Michael Cestaro**   **Philip Farrelly**   **Thomas Schwartz**   **Matina Stergiopoulos**  
Principal   Assistant Principal   Assistant Principal   Assistant Principal   Assistant Principal

Dear POBJFK High School Students, Parents and Guardians,

August 2022

I hope this letter finds you doing well and enjoying the last few days of summer vacation. As hard as it may be to imagine, it's time to get ready for the return to another school year. We are excited to welcome and meet the newest members of our student body; the 415 or so students who make up our Class of 2026, as well as nearly 1,200 returning students and new entrants. This summer will soon become a fond memory to reflect upon as we face the pleasures and challenges that come with being a high school student, or parent/guardian of one.

During July and August, we prepared our school building for a return to a traditional school year. Our staffing needs are about satisfied, thanks to our department supervisors, dedicated faculty, staff, and parents/guardians, who participated in our many interview committees, as well as our Office of Human Resources. They all worked diligently and collaboratively to ensure we would be ready for September 2, 2022. In addition to welcoming the newest members of our faculty and staff, we welcome Mr. Thomas Schwartz, joining us from Mattlin Middle School, as our newest assistant principal, as well as the principal of our Twilight Program. We are fortunate to have a leader with his knowledge of our district and vast experience working with our students joining our team. Mr. Schwartz is excited about his new role and is looking forward to working with our students and staff at the high school level. I will gladly share with you all the rest of the summer happenings at our high school when we return.

For your knowledge, listed below are the high school's assistant principals and the grade level they each will oversee during the 2022/2023 school year:

- Mr. Schwartz – Grade 9 / red ID lanyards
- Mr. Farrelly – Grade 10 / yellow ID lanyards
- Dr. Stergiopoulos – Grade 11 / orange ID lanyards
- Mr. Cestaro – Grade 12 / green ID lanyards

In line with Board of Education policy, all students and staff are required to always wear their Student Identification Badges. New identification badges and lanyards for the 2022-2023 school year will be distributed to all students during the first full week of school. Students in grade 9 will receive them at their Freshmen Orientation on Friday, August 26. For the safety of all, the ID badge requirement has been implemented and it does include

consequences for those who violate it. I ask for your support in reinforcing all our safety measures through your family discussions.

The safety and security of all POBJFK High School students and staff remains our priority. If you have a need to come to the school, please contact the Main Office and provide justification for your visit before arriving.

It is important that our high school be contacted when a student is going to be absent. Please call the First Alert Number, 434-3147, between 4:00 PM and 7:00 AM and provide the student's name, reason for absence, and date of absence when you leave your message. At other times, you may call the Main Office phone number at 434-3125 with this information. Please note the number for First Alert (434-3147) should only be used to report absences or late arrivals. All other calls should be directed to the school's primary telephone number (434-3125).

Bus information is available through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Change of buses (only for emergencies) must be authorized by the Transportation Department. Please note that, according to school district policy, students are NOT permitted to go on any bus other than their assigned bus, nor get off their bus at any stop other than their own.

You will notice, upon review of your child's program, we have also included locker information. We encourage students to pack their backpacks or school bags lightly, bringing only the essentials. Teachers will be reminded not to expect their students to carry more than their Chromebook and a notebook, and that the notebook can be shared by other classes.

We have prepared all the forms and flyers students and parents need to have, prior to September 2, our first official day back to school. Included is a listing of all items that are now available on our high school's website, for you to review at your leisure. Several forms will require you to print them out and fill them in with information we must keep on file. Kindly, mail them to our Main Office or email them back to my interim clerical assistant, Ms. Lisa Rosen (lrosen@pobschools.org), where we will gladly accept them. They can always be dropped off in the Main Office as well, whichever is easier for you.

Be sure to visit our [website](#) often throughout the school year, as we strive to keep you fully informed of all our happenings. Back to School mailings are listed under Important Links. On occasion, we will send e-blast messages for our most important or timely announcements.

Please support our [PTA](#), [SEPTA](#) and [Athletic Booster Club](#). Through each one of these parent organizations, you will learn valuable information which could affect your child or their area of interest.

### Summer Mailing, 2022:

1. Principal Murray's Welcome Back letter

2. Opening of School Information
3. Board of Education Policy 7125: Student Identification (ID) Badge
4. Locker Locations
5. Bell Schedule
6. School Calendar
7. Open Campus Guidelines and Media Declination Information
8. Dress Code Letter and Policy
9. Request to eat lunch in-class form
10. Military Recruiter / Institution of Higher Learning: Release of Information Form
11. 12<sup>th</sup> Graders – Community Service Requirement
12. Zero Tolerance Statement
13. Safe Teen Driving Night information
14. Student Parking and Registration information
15. Medical Information (4 pages)
16. Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) information
17. Athletic Booster Club information
18. SEPTA membership flyer
19. PTA membership flyer

**As a reminder, the first day back to school will be Friday, September 2, Day 1 in the 6-Day-Cycle, and it will be a full day of instruction.** I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to a wonderful school year, working collaboratively with you and your family!

Yours truly,  
*James Murray*  
James Murray, Principal