

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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December 4, 2020

Happy Friday Baldwin families!

I hope you have a restful, safe, and relaxing weekend planned ahead! Before the weekend begins, I wanted to share some important information with all of you.

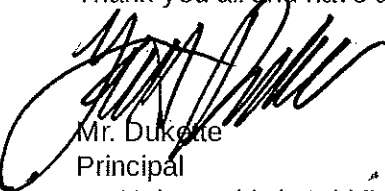
Picture retakes will be held next Thursday, December 10, from 8:30 to 11 am. This opportunity is also open to remote students. If you are a remote family, please come to the school and call the main office. They will notify a staff member who will meet you at the exterior gym door to escort your student safely into the building to have their picture taken. Please call the school on Monday if you have any questions.

Next, a reminder to all families of our school's cellphone policy. Our expectation is that, while students are in school, they are not on their cell phones. Lots of research, including this article (<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/cellphones-classrooms-contribute-failing-grades-study/story?id=56837614>) have shown the detrimental effects of cellphones on student brains. Our focus as a school is on social skills and academic learning that will be crucial to the success of our students as they move forward. Cellphones are a distraction from these focuses and therefore have no place in the classroom. In cases where students have phones with them, which included smartwatches, the expectation is that they are placed in the cellphone holders located in each classroom. The purpose of this is to reduce the use of them in inappropriate ways, such as students bringing them into the bathroom to record Tik Toks. If parents or students do not feel comfortable with this option, then cellphones need to be left at home. With one-to-one Chromebooks, there is no need for students to have their phones in the school building. If parents need to speak with their students, they are always welcome to call the main office to leave a message and we will ensure that students receive the information.

Finally, with the new Chromebooks, I want to reiterate to families the same expectations that we have shared with students. During lunch and recess, students will not be allowed to use their Chromebooks. As with cellphones, our expectation is that students are on their Chromebooks for learning purposes. Recess and lunch are times for socialization, fresh air, and activity.

As always, if any families have questions or are in need of support, please reach out to me.

Thank you all and have a great weekend!



Mr. Dukote
Principal
Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School