

# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

## GETTING INVOLVED AT BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL



Admissions officers look first at test scores, the rigor of the courses you take, and your grades in those courses. After that, they are interested in a student's extracurricular activities -- in other words, how you spend your time outside of classes. Colleges care about the character of people they admit; therefore, what you do after school, during weekends and over summers tells them a lot about the kind of person you are. When you think about it, you *are* what you do every day, every month, every year.

Quality of activities is more important than quantity and no matter the activity, colleges look for quality of involvement rather than quantity of activities. In other words, it is better to be consistently involved in one, two, or three activities and/or sports over a number of years, than superficially involved in eight, 10 or 12 for shorter periods of time. Simply said, activity laundry lists do not impress. Maximize the time you spend in extracurricular activities by trying things that interest you and then choosing special ones you want to focus on. Plan around how your activities, academic interests, talents and skills come together and make sense in terms of who you are.

Extracurricular activities are the major way students can demonstrate how unique they are, possibly more interesting, even "better" than other student applicants, and showcase what they love to do.

### COLLEGE ADMISSIONS READ THROUGH APPLICATIONS & ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Whether time spent on an involvement has been growth-producing, productive or meaningful?
- How leadership or initiative has been demonstrated?
- What kind of outside recognition has been received?
- Showcases competence, effectiveness, high energy level, adventurous nature, responsibility, curiosity, perseverance, cooperation, sustained commitment, maturity, character, passion, and focus.



## HERE'S AN IDEA ABOUT A PROGRESSION OF ACTIVITIES THAT YOU MAY FOLLOW IN HIGH SCHOOL:

- **Freshman Year:** Freshman year is the perfect time to taste and explore.
- **Sophomore Year:** Sophomore year is the time to pare down and focus your activities to three or four projects or areas of interest based on what you really enjoy.
- **Junior Year:** By the time you hit your junior year, you should be well settled in favorite activities. If, however, you haven't done that, it is never too late to get involved. Look for ways to make a difference -- become an officer or leader, and especially go beyond just being a member of a club or activity.
- **Senior Year:** Since going through the college application process will take up a lot of free time, be sure that your extracurricular involvements are those that you really enjoy and are meaningful to you.

If you open yourselves up to new opportunities, school life can be both exciting and challenging. Joining a club or participating in an activity will have a meaningful impact on your high school career. You will meet people, become involved, and make contributions. Our school offers clubs and activities for all interests and talents. If you have not yet found your niche, many opportunities are open for you to explore.

# BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

*Christopher Reilsono, Activities Director ([creilsono@bwschools.net](mailto:creilsono@bwschools.net))*

Art Honor Society.....	<i>Cheryl Foote</i>
Athletics.....	<i>Vince Sortino</i>
Yearbook Club.....	<i>James Wodarek</i>
Concert Band.....	<i>Greg Steele</i>
da Vincian Society, The.....	<i>Lisa Klein &amp; James Wodarek</i>
Drama Club.....	<i>Michelle Jenkins</i>
Fishing Club.....	<i>Mike Kaleta</i>
French Club.....	<i>Katie Jarocki</i>
Freshman Class.....	<i>Rachael Murrman</i>
German Club.....	<i>Scott Hindman</i>
Highlander Choir.....	<i>Kris Tranter</i>
Junior Class.....	<i>Kate Deemer &amp; Stephanie Neil</i>
Junior Classical League.....	<i>Elizabeth Allemang</i>
Key Club.....	<i>Caroline Babik</i>
Literary Guild.....	<i>Keith Harrison</i>
Math League.....	<i>Dale Kreuer</i>
National Honor Society.....	<i>Katie Temme</i>
Orchestra.....	<i>Greg Steele</i>
Purbalite, The.....	<i>Keith Harrison</i>
Science Club.....	<i>Rachel Neil</i>
Senior Class.....	<i>Dan Harrold, Cassie Bartus &amp; Leah Younkins</i>
Sophomore Class.....	<i>Ginny Pfatteicher</i>
Spanish Club.....	<i>Rebecca Michalski</i>
Special Olympics.....	<i>Eric Jankoski &amp; Tim Laughlin</i>
Stage Band.....	<i>Greg Steele</i>
Stage Crew.....	<i>Bob Smith</i>
Student Council.....	<i>Karl Geisler</i>
Symphonic/Marching Band.....	<i>Greg Steele</i>
Video Productions.....	<i>Brad Schulte</i>