

Matthew Robinson, High School Principal

Al Mattice, Assistant Principal  
Kathryn McTiernan, Assistant Principal  
Lisa Perrone, Assistant Principal  
Scott Seligman, Assistant Principal

Dear Students, Parents, and Caregivers,

I hope you and your families had a relaxing and fun summer. As summer comes to an end, it is time to begin preparing for the 2023-2024 school year. We are excited to have the students back in the building and our staff is eager to see them on September 7th. During my first month in the position I have been met with warmth and positive energy by the Ballston Spa community and I hope to continue that momentum into the academic year. One thing I have learned quickly is that there are a lot of opportunities for students here. We have 15 AP courses, 41 clubs, and 44 courses that can end in college credit. Take advantage of all the opportunities we have to offer. We are all committed here to help every student grow and become the best version of themselves they can be.

In preparation for the year we have had several discussions about the strengths of the high school. Ballston Spa is definitely on the right path, and our trajectory is positive. While I recognize this I believe we should always be looking for areas of growth. So, after meeting with stakeholders, we have come up with a couple of areas of focus. The first is attendance. Studies show a direct connection between attendance and academic achievement. So, it is crucial that students attend on time every day they are physically able. The motto you will be hearing this year is, "every day counts."

We also want every student to focus during instructional time so they can learn. Having said that, we recognize that cell phones are the biggest distractions in school buildings. Due to this we will be implementing a building cell phone rule. The rule is simple: cell phones must be "silent and away" during instructional time. Meaning, the phone must be in a bag, locker, pocket, or classroom cell phone holder for the duration of a lesson. Students will be allowed to use the phone during study halls, in hallways, and during lunch. I believe this is a great opportunity to discuss and think about appropriate cell phone use.

Finally here are some important upcoming fall dates:

September 6th	Freshman/New Student/Parent Orientation	8:00-11:00 am
September 7th	First Day of Classes	
September 22nd	Staff Conference ½ Day	Students dismissed 10:40am
September 28th	Meet the Teacher Night	7:00pm
October 16th	Homecoming Week	

We are looking forward to seeing everybody this school year. Go Scotties!

Sincerely,  
**Matthew Robinson**  
*High School Principal*