



# utreach

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INNOVATIVE IMPLEMENTATION AWARD

Mineola Union Free School District has been selected as a winning honoree in the Digital Content and Curriculum Achievement Awards for 2016. The Center for Digital Education recognized several K-12 school districts across the United States for their successful use of digital content and curriculum to improve instruction and student engagement. Mineola was chosen as the K-12 Small School District Honoree for Flipping the Elementary Math Classroom.

The program was chosen for its support of Mineola's goal of providing individualized instruction for all students. By Flipping the Elementary Math Classroom, the district digitized math lessons and hosted videos where teachers "teach" various

lessons. A dashboard then organizes data so that the teacher can identify three subgroups within the class and is able to differentiate instruction by targeting the needs of the subgroups in order to reach the common lesson objective.

The Digital Content and Curriculum Achievement Awards program was established by CDE to recognize schools for their innovation and diligence in digital content and curriculum program implementation. The CDE is a national research and advisory institute specializing in K-12 and higher education technology trends, policy and funding. The district was honored with the award at the International Society for Technology in Education annual conference and awards ceremony in Denver on June 29.

## GET FAMILIARIZED WITH: **The Fab Lab**

The fabrication lab, or fab lab, at Mineola High School boasts to be the first of its kind on Long Island. Through a Digital Promise partnership connection, Superintendent Dr. Michael Nagler toured a similar lab at a school in Pittsburgh and knew Mineola students could benefit enormously from having one available to them.

The room features an interior "clean space" with MacBooks and PCs that are equipped with computer-assisted 3-D drafting programs and areas for students to brainstorm and construct their projects. The programs enable them to test the efficacy of what they have built and determine in the design stage whether or not any adjustments need to be made. Once perfected, the student loads his or her design to a flash drive, which feeds the plans to various machinery in the lab.

The equipment is big and complicated-looking, but students don't have to do too much more than load the wood or metal, along with a USB with the computer coding for their design, and push a button. Machinery includes a CNC router (wood cutter), a plasma cutter (metal cutter), a laser cutter and a printer that will print on virtually any material required to complete the project (i.e., magnets, decals, etc). The machines read the code and make all the cuts necessary for a student to assemble his or her project. Paul Sommer, technology teacher at MHS, trained at Massachusetts Institute of Technology to learn the intricacies of the equipment.

The room also features a second-story storage space (along with a lift to access the storage areas) so that projects and supplies are never in the way of the students' work areas.

"It's called rapid prototyping and it provides an experience unlike any



*The grade 8 technology curriculum was redesigned this year to incorporate the principles of design thinking called LAUNCH (Look, listen and learn; Ask lots of questions; Understand the process or problem; Navigate ideas; Create!; and Highlight what is working or failing. Here, a class is pictured in the clean space.*

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**Mineola Union Free School District**  
121 Jackson Avenue  
Mineola, New York 11501

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More than 40 current and former Mineola High School students have been recognized by the College Board as AP Scholars due to their outstanding success on Advanced Placement exams. Students took AP exams in May 2016 after completing challenging college-level courses in the district in a variety of subjects.

**National AP Scholar**

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Katie Y. Shi

**AP Scholar with Distinction**

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Nathan L. Blaine  
 Kayleigh Bugalla  
 Kyle Kern  
 Catherine Leong  
 Matthew Milwood  
 Eric B. Pereira

Sandra L. Pinto  
 Dan G. Rhim  
 John G. Rhim  
 Claudia M. Serna  
 Katie Y. Shi  
 Brian Tavares

**AP Scholar with Honor**

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Serena J. Berger  
 Christina A. Cardinal  
 Kayleigh V. Dipietrantonio  
 Lauren Jenkins  
 Linda Jin  
 Gabriella C. Martinez  
 Hugo Renzzo Olcese

Elizabeth C. Ryan  
 Erin M. Servinskis  
 Zachary M. Sloan  
 Erica M. Sze-Tu  
 Zachary N. Tarab  
 Michelle M. Vande Stouwe

**AP Scholar**

Granted to students who receive a score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

Awdifa Z. Abdin  
 Pratibha Anand  
 Sanskriti Bimal  
 Daniela Borges  
 Michael Bowen  
 Madison Brady  
 Christin Candela  
 Maria J. Cerqueira  
 Brendan Cunningham  
 Andrew V. Desiderio  
 Bryan C. Franz  
 Gina Koros  
 Meghan C. Lafaye

David Lee  
 Elliot Lee  
 Brianna L. Lopes  
 Julianne M. Ortiz  
 Reesa Rene  
 Marcella I. Rodriguez  
 Kacie A. Rumm  
 Alexandria M. Scala  
 Mackenzie Schnaufer  
 Emily J. Skupp  
 Erin T. Talty  
 Joseph J. Tarantola

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# GET FAMILIARIZED WITH: The Fab Lab



*Pictured here, the CNC router makes cutting wood to precise measurements easier and safer for student use. It also allows for more elaborate works to be created.*

other,” said Principal Dr. Whitney Smith. “It gives students more of a sense of ownership of their work, as they are responsible for identifying problems, creating solutions and then actually building it. It’s very different from the traditional ‘we’re going to build a birdhouse, here’s how.’”

Every eighth-grader will utilize the lab as part of their technology curriculum. In addition, other design-related courses will utilize the space for production portions of their syllabi.

The fab lab boasts interdisciplinary and community outreach possibilities, as well as fosters the four C’s of collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication.

## COLLEGE CREDITS *for* Computer Science Program

The district has partnered with Queensborough Community College to offer students a unique opportunity to earn 32 college credits and a certificate in internet and information technology while still in high school. Mineola High School is the first to offer this program, which will afford students who complete it the chance to earn both a high school diploma and a certificate (and college credits) from Queensborough. The credits are transferable to applicable two- and four-year colleges, or will help students enter the workforce with an edge using the skills they attain in the program.

The pilot cohort for the program are 16 juniors who took the robotics course in 10th grade and have shown an interest in computer science. They will be required to take courses at the high school, on the Queensborough campus and

during a summer session to complete the certificate requirements.

The program can lead to career choices in the vast and ever-growing field of computer science and computer engineering. According to USA Today College, by 2022, job growth will increase up to 25 percent, with hundreds of thousands of new jobs becoming available.

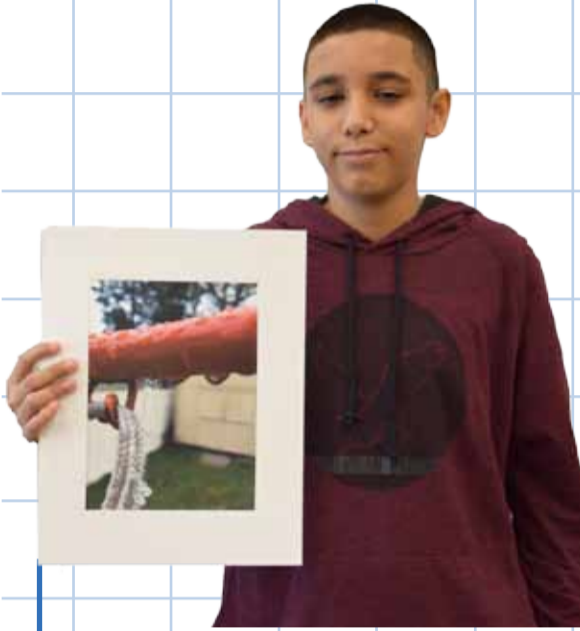
“This program is directly related to computer science careers, for which high school students don’t typically get the full spectrum of skills needed to excel in them,” said Principal Dr. Whitney Smith. “Never before has a complete program been offered where students were able to earn a college certificate, 32 college credits and a high school diploma. It’s really extraordinary, and we have 16 students this year who are planning to take advantage of the opportunity.”





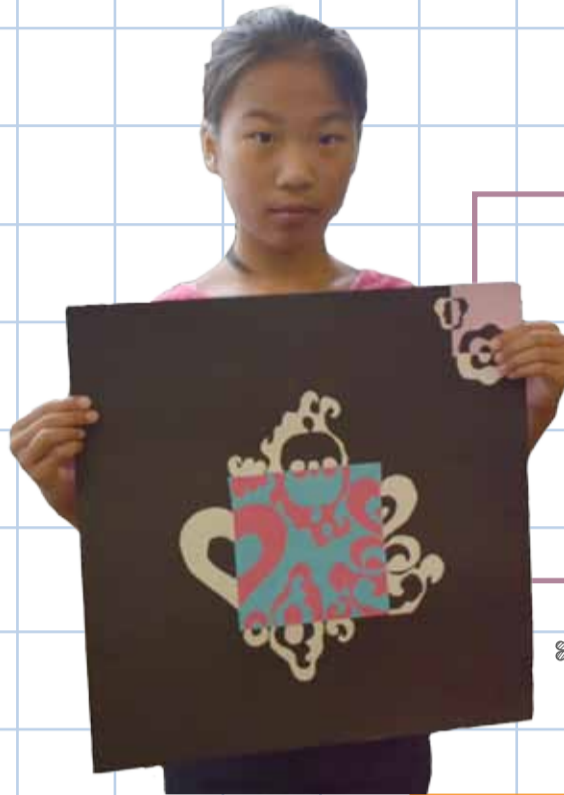
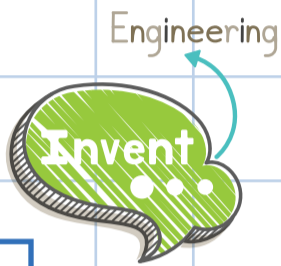
# Artistic EMPHASIS

Learning



**Gurjot Waraich, Grade 10**

**PROJECT:** Texture from a unique point of view  
**Medium:** Photography  
*"I like basketball and I thought the rim would look really cool after it rained so I climbed up really high to take this shot. I took photography because I like drawing and I really like the teacher."*

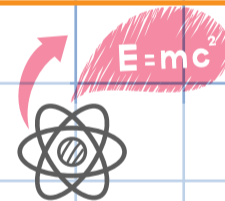


**Nikki Dong, Grade 6**  
**PROJECT:** Notan Inspired Art – A principle of design that deals with light and dark space and positive and negative space  
*"I used the Internet to search for ideas and based upon what I found, I came up with this idea because I wanted it to look fancy."*



**Christopher Garcia, Grade 2 (Hampton)**

**PROJECT:** Self-Portrait  
*"I love to draw and paint. In my self-portrait I am a superhero."*



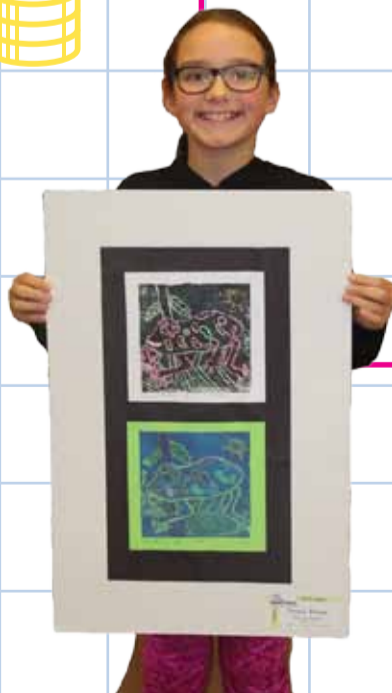
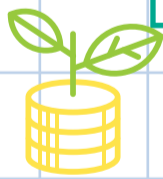
**Maimuna Islam, Grade 12**  
**PROJECT:** Hands holding something  
**Medium:** Pastel and Chalk  
*"Art allows me to make something simple into something creative. I think art is very relaxing."*

**Tiara Roland, Grade 7**  
**PROJECT:** Expressive selfie – Work in progress  
**Medium:** Watercolor as a base for colored pencil  
*"I learned a new way to color with techniques of blending and shading with the colored pencil to give a more realistic look to my background."*



**Andrew Bertrand, Grade 1 (Meadow)**

**PROJECT:** Tree  
*"I like art because we get to color and paint. I like painting. I paint at home with my brother, too."*



**Emma Powers**  
Jackson Avenue  
**PROJECT:** Printmaking with colored pencil  
*"I like to draw and do stuff that's on my mind, and I don't need to do it exactly the way everybody else is making something; I get to have a choice."*





# Mission:

The mission of the Mineola Union Free School District is to inspire each student to be a life-long learner, **pursue excellence**, exhibit strength of character and contribute positively to a global society.



## Psychologist Honored

Dr. Sonia Azevedo, school psychologist at Mineola Middle School, has been selected to receive the School Practitioner of the Year Award from the Nassau County Chapter of the New York Association of School Psychologists. Dr. Azevedo was nominated by several administrators who wrote extensively about her commitment to the well-being of all students.

Dr. Azevedo has been with the district for eighteen years and has been at Mineola Middle School for the last 10 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and a master's degree in psychology, as well as a Ph.D. in school and clinical psychology, all from Hofstra University.

Finish

Start

## Commended Student

Mineola High School senior Elizabeth Ryan has been named a Commended Student in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. Although she will not continue in the 2017 competition, as a Commended Student, Elizabeth ranked among the top five percent of the more than 1.6 million students who entered the competition by taking the 2015 PSAT/NMSQT. For her scholastic talent, Elizabeth received a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



## All-State Musician

Congratulations to senior Zachary Sloan who has been selected to perform in the All-State Music Festival of the 2016 NYSSMA Winter Conference. He was chosen for this honor based on the proficiency he demonstrated at NYSSMA auditions last May. Zachary, who was named to All-County each year since fifth grade, will be performing as a bass I in the festival's mixed choir.



## Girls Who Code

Junior Daniela Monroy participated in the Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program at InterActiveCorp's headquarters in Chelsea. Daniela was one of only 20 students out of 20,000 applicants who were selected to take part in the unique opportunity.

The seven-week program is designed to engage young women in computer science in an interactive and collaborative way. Each day included lessons and then time to work individually or in groups to complete a

project before the end of the day. Projects included creating websites, coding games and robotics-style tasks.

"It was great," Daniela said of the experience. "It was fun to meet other girls who were into the same things as me."

As a result of her participation in the program, Daniela has received emails about exclusive internships in the field, and the experience may lead to other professional opportunities prior to college.



## Continued Excellence: Keep an eye out this winter for...

- The next edition of Outreach, where we will highlight our valedictorian, salutatorian and top 25 students in the Class of 2017.
- The launch of a new webpage which will showcase the work of our talented students. This page will feature student-created videos, as well as artwork.

## QR Code

The district is now featuring videos on its website that highlight students fulfilling our mission. Scan here to see how some of our schools are contributing to our community.





# Capital Improvements **COMPLETED**

Along with contractors, the district's maintenance and custodial staff have been hard at work the last few months renovating and upgrading facilities. The Board of Education is proud to be able to complete these renovations for the benefit of our students, staff and community, all without the need to bond any money. See the video featuring all capital improvements on our website: [www.mineola.k12.ny.us](http://www.mineola.k12.ny.us)

## HIGH SCHOOL:

### Music Wing

The music wing now includes larger spaces for band, vocal and orchestra performing groups.

## HIGH SCHOOL:

### Senior Lounge

A new senior lounge has been created where the book room used to exist, providing a special place in the building for our 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students.

## MEADOW DRIVE AND HAMPTON STREET SCHOOLS:

### New Windows

The final phase was completed over the summer.



## New Positions *New Teachers*

With a dedicated staff, Mineola is thrilled to welcome the following seasoned staff members in new roles this year:

Matthew Gaven – Director of Technology

Nicole Moriarty, Ed.D. - Director of ENL

Laurie Melesh - CSE/CPSE Chairperson/Summer School

Margarita Maravel – Principal of Hampton Street School

Andrew Casale – Principal of Mineola Middle School

Heather Dvorak – Asst. Principal at Mineola High School

Amy Trojanowski – Asst. Principal at Mineola Middle School

Dominick Tolipano – Asst. Principal at Jackson Avenue

Dan Reardon – Dean of Discipline at Mineola Middle School

Carmen Vazquez – Instructional Leader

In addition, the district has welcomed nearly twenty new staff members districtwide. This is due to an increased need in specific areas, as well as replacement of retired staff and for those who have moved up in the district. These individuals new to the district include:

Sara Ortiz – Instructional Leader

Leigh Shaw – Instructional Leader

Catherine Shanahan – Instructional Leader

Nicole Culella – Instructional Leader

### HAMPTON STREET SCHOOL

Daniela Cavalieri – Speech

Lucy Guzman – Elementary Dual Language

Lisa Krawciw – Teacher

Nick Tonini – Physical Education

Jillian Vento – Special Education

Carina Waldman – Bilingual Psychologist

### JACKSON AVENUE SCHOOL

Damaris Ramirez – Elementary Spanish

### MEADOW DRIVE SCHOOL

Katelyn Schmidt – Elementary Science

Natalia Vattuone – Dual Language

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

James Durso – Physical Education (w/Meadow Drive)

Michelle Martins – Speech Teacher

### HIGH SCHOOL

Jeffrey Appelbaum – Librarian

Joseph Denniger – Bio/Chem/Special Education

Kuri DiFede – Computer Science

Elizabeth Gerner – Math/Special Education

Jamie McAndrew – Social Studies/Special Education

Michael Oliveri – ELA/Special Education

Irina Renner – ELA/Special Education/ENL

Chris Toomey – Music Band Teacher

Kimberly Vrabel – Earth Science/Special Education

Andrew Woolsey – Technology

Karen Gutierrez - .6 Math/ENL

Aislinn Oliveri - .6 Theater/Dance Teacher

## MIDDLE SCHOOL:

### Fab Lab

This facility contains two 3D printers; open, collaborative “clean” workspaces; computers; a more technical “dirty” workspace for projects; and a machinery/wood storage area for teacher-only use. In a recent project, students designed bricks in the lab for use around the school's greenhouse. The Academically Gifted Program also utilized the space to construct wind turbines for an upcoming competition.



## HIGH SCHOOL:

### Continued 21st Century Classroom Updates



## HIGH SCHOOL:

New, larger, and more vibrant lockers

## MIDDLE SCHOOL:

### Bus Loop



## HIGH SCHOOL:

**iHub**  
Provides a flexible learning space for both professional development and student/teacher collaboration.



# Alumni Spotlight

## DANILO BARZA, CLASS OF 2006

Formerly known as Oswaldo Danilo Hernandez by his peers, Danilo came to the U.S. from El Salvador in 2002 to live with his uncle and his family in Mineola and receive an education in America.

At Mineola High School, Danilo made a name for himself on the boys soccer team, being named All-Conference in 2004, receiving an honorable mention at the 2005 Reggie Carter Memorial Basketball Night and earning many scholarships because of his soccer prowess.

“Soccer has given me so much,” Danilo said. “Because I came to the United States from another country at the age of 14, adapting to the new culture and language was not easy. However, soccer helped make the transition smoother. I made friends, stayed busy and learned to speak English to help with my shyness.”

Danilo fondly recalls varsity soccer coach Paul Pereira, who was “like a father” to him. “Mr. Pereira was always there when I needed

him,” Danilo said. “He helped me get jobs and scholarships, always gave me advice and would often ask my teachers how I was doing in their classes. He generally looked out for me.”

Danilo also attributes much of his success to ESL teachers Kieran Molloy and Jennifer Capella. “I learned so much from them, and they made me look forward to going to school each day,” he recalled. The habits he learned from MHS — “studying in the morning, practicing in the afternoon and doing homework at night” — helped keep Danilo focused throughout his schooling.

Danilo graduated from Mineola in 2006 and went on to study at Nassau Community College, where he perfected his English and soccer skills and earned his associate degree. He also received a full

scholarship to New York Institute of Technology. While there, he played soccer for another two years, winning the East Coast Conference in his senior year. After completing a five-year architecture program to earn his advanced professional degree, Danilo graduated from NYIT in 2015 with a bachelor’s degree in architecture.

“I had always been fascinated with the idea of creating something from nothing,” he said of his decision to ultimately major in architecture. “I think the process of designing a beautiful building where before there stood nothing is analogous to how my own life has evolved – I started from nothing, and somewhat by design, I’m on track to building an incredible life for myself and my family.”

Danilo began working as a drafter/designer at Keiser Associates

Inc., an architectural firm in New York City. He and his wife Kylie, introduced through a friend who knew her from a travel soccer league, live in New York City’s East Village. Together, they play on a coed soccer league. After their marriage, Danilo legally changed his name, combining his and Kylie’s last names to form Barza.

For the future, Danilo plans to become a registered architect by passing all of the required state exams. “I also want to help the next generation become professionals and realize their full potential, just like the staff at Mineola High School did for me,” he said. “Mineola High School helped me achieve what I have now. I was extremely lucky to find teachers that believed in me and pushed me to become a better person; that is inspiring.”

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# Inaugural Game ON TURF FIELD

Prior to the start of the inaugural game on the new turf field on Sept. 16, Mineola High School's athletic department held a special ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the big day. The girls varsity soccer team was the first to play on the new field, which is designed to also accommodate boys soccer, girls and boys lacrosse, and football. Past and present Board of Education members and high school and central office administrators took part in the festivities, and Athletic Director Ralph Amitrano addressed the attendees before the ribbon was cut.



# A Salute to Mustang Pride

Mineola High School held its 35<sup>th</sup> annual homecoming celebration on Sept. 24. The festivities included the annual parade with the homecoming court, as well as the varsity football game against Friends Academy. Mustang Pride was especially high as the team won the game with a score of 34-6. Members of the homecoming court included: king Jack Gorman, queen Erin Talty, junior princess Michela Franz, sophomore princess Sydnie Jean-Noel and freshman princess Kaitlin Nikolic.



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion, Ph.D., *Vice President*  
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Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*