Dear Families:



As we head into April, it is great to reflect on the past month and all of the amazing things happening in the high school. From our specialty concerts, volunteer opportunities, challenger basketball, multicultural night, carnival night, science competitions, Pi Day, the start of spring sports, and finally our career day for juniors... we are living the district mission every day!

We also had an evening presentation by the Nassau County District Attorney's Office entitled, "Choices and Consequences" This sobering talk is a reminder of the challenges that our students face and the choices that can impact their lives, both positively and negatively. We are lucky here that Mineola High School is a small community where we all know each other. We also have terrific students, parents, faculty, and staff who support each other. These factors enable us to do our work effectively and identify problems early and get those who need help, assistance when they need it. In the coming month, we have additional assemblies planned in the area of mental health awareness.

As you can see by the length of this newsletter, there is a lot to celebrate / talk about! Remember that in addition to this monthly newsletter, our website (www.mineola.k12.ny.us) and Twitter account (amineolahs) continue to keep you up to date with the latest news and "happenings" in and around the high school; including many of the exciting and new lessons, projects, and activities that your children are engaging in. We encourage you to follow us if you don't already!

I would also like to thank all of the families that were able to make it to parent-teacher conferences. We hope that you enjoyed meeting with your child's teachers as well as the convenience of either doing so in the comfort of your own home or in person. We value the home-school relationship and want to remind you that if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teachers or school counselor.

Congratulations to our Student Organization Board and Class Officers for the 2021-2022 School Year

SO President - Cathreen Paul Vice President - MaryEllen Steiner Secretary - Keira McCaffrey Treasurer - Liam Moore

BOE Representatives - Sarah Ahmed, Donjeta Becerra, & Lucya Zhang

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
President - Grace ladevaio	President - Kelsey Morrison	President - Emma Powers	President - Maria Lopez
VP - Bailey Jex	VP - Iannis Molos	VP - Eva Polanco	VP - Deirdre Steiner
Secretary -Desiree Grimaldi	Secretary - Joseph Parrino	Secretary - Jordan Chaver	Secretary - Sophia Gaglione
Treasurer - Karleigh Davis	Treasurer - Kirpa Kaur	Treasurer -William Massaro	Treasurer - Leah Anzalone

NYS Assessments:

- ELA 8 Assessment April 4 & 5
- Science 8 Performance Test May 24 (Pereira/Wllkens); May 25 (Mildon / Gielarowski)
- Science 8 Assessment June 6

If you do not want your child to take one or both of these assessments, please complete the form linked below by Friday, March 18, so that we can prepare. https://forms.gle/bm7RNDX8u9o7B5m36

Regents Exams: Regents review begins April 4th. June 2022 Regents Examination Schedule

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many of the exciting and new lessons, projects, and activities that your children are engaging in. We encourage you to follow us if you don't already!

<u>Are you missing?</u> any clothing, backpacks, sneakers, water bottles, hats, gloves, sweatshirts, etc.? We have lots of attire that is LOST and can't wait to be FOUND. The Lost & Found items are located in the *Attendance Office*. Stop in at arrival/dismissal or anytime after school to look for any missing items. Items not claimed by Wednesday, April 13th will be donated.



Newsworthy:

- The Student Service Center (SSC): Homework Helpers have been providing guidance and mentorship at the middle school afterschool on Mondays and Wednesdays. We are so glad to hear the positive feedback about this initiative and look forward to a continued partnership. Computeers has come to the end for the school year, and local senior citizens are grateful for all the assistance our volunteers provided them. Nursing Home Visitors and Community Interact created decorations for the Sunharbor Nursing Home and they were received with much gratitude. The end of March has been dedicated to supporting the refugees of the crisis in Ukraine. Students collected supplies as part of Nassau County Legislators' initiative and sold bracelets to raise funds for UNICEF. While partnering with Student Organization in this effort, the Mineola High School community was able to send over 50 boxes of goods to Ukraine and raise just shy of \$3,000. In addition, we have been collecting baby products for the Mary Brennan INN. Mrs. Rudnet's AP Language and Composition classes and Mrs. O'Donnell's 8th grade Social Studies classes have initiated a Food Drive to benefit the Frank Reilly Food Pantry. This is the culminating activity of a Service Learning Project on Food Insecurity which included a symposium in the high school library where Mrs. O'Donnell's 8th Graders viewed Mrs. Rudnet's students' presentations on various issues involving the local hunger crisis. The drive continues through April 8th. Peer Tutors continue to assist students academically throughout the school day and after school.
- Congratulationsto Bridget Cunningham who earned the NYSPTA Award of Merit for her Photograph titled "The
 Medicine of Music." This entry was among 481 of the very best statewide to reach the NYS PTA level of Reflections
 judging. We are #MineolaProud of you.
- Student Organization (SO) is happy to announce that we have started to plan Battle of the Classes! Our theme this
 year is Places Around the World. The event will take place on the field behind the school on May 20th. The week of
 May 16th will be Spirit Week.

BOTC Spirit Week

Monday 5/16- Twin Day

Tuesday 5/17- Dress Like a Celebrity

Wednesday 5/18- Anything But a Backpack Day

Thursday 5/19- Dress like Your Theme Day and Hall Decorations

Class of 22- USA

Class of 23- France

Class of 24- Italy

Class of 25- Brazil

Class of 26- Greece

Friday 5/20- Class Colors and BOTC

Class of 22- Black

Class of 23- White

Class of 24- Red

Class of 25- Purple

Class of 26- Green

- **Key Club:** During February and March, Key Club members collected used eyeglasses and donated them to the Lions Club where they will be recycled and given to people in need. Students also volunteered with Kiwanis members during their food drive outside of North Shore Farms.
- National Honor Society The National Honor Society members created and organized a mentoring program with this
 year's new candidates. The senior members are meeting with the newly invited Spring candidates to assist them in
 completing the NHS application. Members are encouraged to continue participating in the SSC events in order to
 maintain their service hours.
- Mineola High School celebrated National Foreign Language Week this year
 with multicultural music playing in the hallways during passing periods
 throughout the week. We also had the opportunity to bring back our
 performances and had 11 amazing acts from representative cultures from
 around the globe.
- Machiettio and Grotheer helped lead Nassau to a 5th place finish. The Boys Mustangs Bowling program ended the season off with two of our team members being on the Section 8 All-Star team. Senior Phil Macchiettio and Junior William Grotheer. The All-Star team competes against the other sections in NY state, this tournament was held in Syracuse. The format is a 6 game competition trying to knock downs as many pins as possible per game. Phil in his final tournament of his 6-year career finished with the 5th best game (278) and overall finished in 15th place averaging a 213 on the day. William in his first tournament rolled a high game of 232 and finished in 27th place on the day as he averaged a 204 for the tournament. We want to congratulate both boys on a great season and wish Phil continued success as he will be graduating in June.
- Juniors, Markella Kiriakes and Cathreen Paul and Sophomores Maki Gerasimos and Nathan Padinha represented Mineola High School and The Dignity Club at The Nassau County Youth Wellness Summit this month. Together, students and educators from 25 Long Island Districts gathered at the Brookside School Building to partake in the event sponsored by the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide. Participants were given insight and resources on wellness techniques and mental health in a series of workshops and activities. Our students had a great time and have already asked to return next year!





- Congratulations to **Maggie McMahon and Tommy Renner** for being selected in the Newsday High School Sports Top 100. We are #MineolaProud of both of you and are looking forward to a great season.
- Congratulations to **Alison Sandoval** who will be continuing her academic and athletic career at Pace University next year where she will be playing soccer! We are #MineolaProud of you.
- Senior **Elizabeth Ricardo** is a violinist in our school orchestra and string ensemble, but her talents do not stop there! She has been painting murals in our music hallways as part of a Tri M project since her sophomore year. Four beautiful paintings later, we have a colorful keyboard, landscape guitar, jazz band, and a silhouette of saxophone musicians. Elizabeth has made her mark here at Mineola High School in so many ways.







• The **Environmental Club** participated in The Town of North Hempstead's Earth Day activity called "We Speak for Trees". 75 ornaments were decorated. They will be picked up by The Department of Community Services and will be displayed around the town. Thank you for your participation!





Our HS community cleanup is scheduled for May 19th after school. Free t-shirts and cleanup materials will be provided to volunteers by The Town of North Hempstead. 🌻 🛟

 The FRC robotics team competed on the international Stage in Albany and at Hofstra University. The team was an alliance captain for the playoff matches, and was recognized for their outreach and community service with the judges award.

This year we had **7 First Tech Challenge teams**, 4 of which competed. The teams were finalists for multiple awards and team #10169 won the design award at the Long Island Qualifier.



In the Classroom:

• In Science Research:

Introduction to Research students are working on their small organism based research projects preparing for the Symposium in May. The classes are divided up into three groups, each group working on a different organism; fruit flies, California blackworms and bacteria.

Please join us in congratulating nine Introduction to Research students who earned Honorable Mention awards in the 2022 Exploravision Competition!



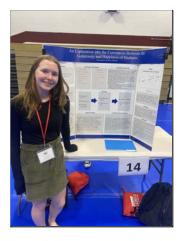
Project Title	Student Researchers	
Beetle Bones	Andres Garcia & Matthew Valente	
I.N.I.T.I.A.T.E.	Makayla Apter-Quinn, Aaron Cerbelli, Dylan Hsiu & Ayana Parekh	
Panic Attack Watch Device	Delilah Barbour, Liliana DeJesus & Sanaa Taylor	





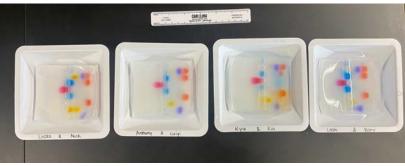


• This month seven **Advanced Research 1** students competed at the Molloy College Kathy Belton Science Competition. A special congratulations to Rory Meehan who earned second place in the Behavioral Science category in the fair with her project titled "An Exploration into the Correlation Between the Generosity and Happiness of Students."



• This month students are working on their molecular biology skills in the lab.



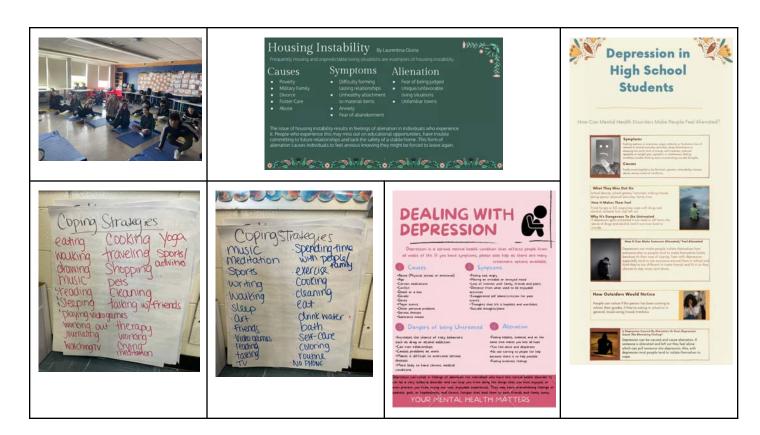


- AP Research students are putting the finishing touches on their final AP Papers and Presentation in preparation for their Oral Defense and Paper submission in early May
- Senior Research Students are working on their legacy projects. These projects are a culmination of all these students' hard work throughout their high school science research careers. Their legacy projects allow them to share the knowledge they acquired throughout the program in any chosen format to pass along to younger students who will be coming up through the program following them. Some students are working on making a "independent research tool kit" while others are working on redesigning the science research classroom!

 Exciting things happening in science research this month!
- The RISE program had an exciting month celebrating St. Patrick's Day and Spring. Our Unique curriculum has focused on studying weather and how energy from the sun affects all aspects of our lives. Our AAC users are working hard on making sure their messages are heard and understood by their communication partners. Many of the RISE students participated in the Challenger Basketball League. Their dedication had them practicing as well as participating in interscholastic and intramural basketball games. Every game played was in front of a packed house of family and friends supporting all their hard work. A huge shout to all the people that helped make this a memorable season for these student athletes. Every day we celebrate the progress each student makes it doesn't matter how small it may seem to others, but to us it is always a reason to celebrate!



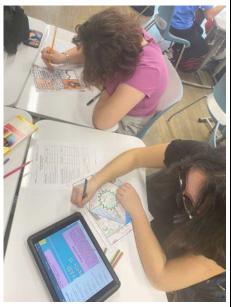
• In Mrs. Levine and Ms. Gross's 11th grade English classes, learners have just finished a unit of study on Alienation. Throughout the unit, they built a deeper understanding of the impacts of alienation on individuals. Through music, they were able to identify different ways people can be or feel alienated. Learners were given the choice to research how mental health impacts alienation and the feelings associated with it, and were challenged to create one pagers to display their information. After gaining a deeper understanding and exploring how alienation appears in their book club books, learners discussed and experienced different coping strategies such as meditation and yoga.



• "Creativity is now as important in education as literacy" -Sir Ken Robinson

8th Grade English learners are working on One Pagers to showcase their creativity while analyzing themes in Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird. We studied themes such as prejudice, racism, childhood, friendship, growing up, poverty, empathy, and courage. Learners showcased the importance of a chosen theme in the novel and in the world today. Our learners are embracing choice while making their projects completely unique to incorporate the elements of the novel they understand the best.







- Congratulations to **Ria Thomas**, who was selected as a 2022 Long Island Youth Summit Finalist! Ria's AP Seminar research focuses on the impact of hyper-fragmentation on the diversity of real estate markets and school districts.
- AP Seminar students prepare for their Performance Task 2 presentations which will kick off prior to Spring Break. Topics are thematically linked to this year's stimulus material which focuses on ritualistic synchrony within various cultures. Organizations that promote or engage in ritualistic synchrony regularly tend to form strong bonds between members but at the expense of independent thought and creative thinking.

• The Entrepreneurship class has engaged in a guest speaker series in class where they interact with career professionals in business. This year to date, they've had visits from Paige Dunn (Trade Marketing Manager/The Wonderful Company), Lenny Buccholtz (Mentor/SCORE), Mahmud Wazihullah (Business Professor/Mercy College, Louis Panacciulli (Music Director – Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra and Mineola Chamber of Commerce President), Joel Harris (Joel Harris Photography and Mineola Chamber of Commerce Past President). Upcoming guest speakers scheduled include Nicole Crish (Merchandise Buyer/Saks off 5th Ave) and Rakesh Gupta (Business Professor/Adelphi University. Our future entrepreneurs enjoy interacting, asking questions and practicing important networking skills.

Department Highlights:

• Guidance - The Guidance Department was excited to hold our annual Career Roundtable event for the Juniors. On Friday April 1st a variety of professionals volunteered their time to meet with students that have expressed an interest in their field. Students had the opportunity to meet with about 6 different professionals to learn more about their educational path, day to day operations and what to expect from the career. Thank you to the Career Day committee and all of our presenters! We are also working on the schedules for our students' 2022-2023 school year. Evening guidance will be offered on April 5th. If you have questions about your child's schedule for next year, or another concern, please contact your child's counselor (516-237-2650). The Nassau Counselors' Association Spring College Expo is April 28th from 5:30-8:30 at the Pratt Recreation center on the campus of LIU Post . You can see more information here: https://www.nassaucounselors.org/cal_events/spring-college-expo-2022/





Alumni Career Day Presenters

Full group Career Day Presenters

- Synergy It's Regents prep season in Synergy! We are offering Regents prep support after school for English, Science, and Social Studies and encourage all students taking the Regents to take advantage of the opportunity. We'd like to congratulate Andrew Valle Aguilar on presenting his Senior Project this month! He gave an exciting and informative presentation on HVAC. We look forward to watching him grow in his future. We have several other upcoming Senior Projects to get excited about! Synergy is participating in a fundraising effort with Mineola High School to benefit Ukraine. We are donating money to support the financial difficulties being faced in the country. Finally, we are looking to hold a Culture Day in Synergy, where each learner is encouraged to bring in a food item that represents their culture. They will share information about their cultural backgrounds with their classmates.
- Nurse Reminder: New York State law requires that all 9TH AND 11TH grade students have a health examination performed by a New York State licensed healthcare provider on file in the Nurse's Office. Please submit your child's physical if you haven't already done so. Looking ahead to 2022-2023: New York State Health laws require all students entering 12th grade in September 2022 to have ONE dose of Meningitis A at 16 years of age or older. A medical notation showing proof of this vaccination needs to be on file in the Nurse's Office at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Athletics - April brings the warmth of spring and after the last week of March, we really need it. As our Challenger Basketball season comes to a close, the spring seasons have gotten underway at the High School and our teams are off to great starts. Boys Lacrosse is off to a 2-1 start and the GIrls team is 1-1 and has the talent to have a great season. The Baseball team started the season with a challenging weather week and managed to get an 11 inning win at Plainedge on Friday April 1st. Girls Softball has played 2 close games so far with East Rockaway and Herricks High School and look forward to a fun and competitive season. Our Track teams look forward to a few big meets this month including the Valley Stream North Invitational and the Don Scott



Invitational at Manhasset. Middle School Athletics started on March 28th. Game schedules will begin after the Spring recess. We congratulate our Winter Athletes for their accomplishments and look forward to an exciting spring season. We also thank our Parent Booster Club for running the Mustang Stakes. This event raised funds to provide equipment, fund scholarships and provide a wonderful camaraderie for our athletic community.

Daily Sports Schedules

- Fine & Performing Arts The department of Fine and performing Arts shared many examples of student work during March which functions as "Music in our Schools Month" and "Youth Art Month." This time last year, we were busy planning and sharing what (thankfully) was our last virtual performances! When we return from our Spring Vacation, we will be sharing the links to the Nassau County All-County Art Exhibition, which will highlight Mineola's finest young artists alongside many other incredible artists throughout the county, and we will be hosting an in-person district art show. Get ready for a busy spring season! When we return from April break we kick off the festivities with our 10-12 Musical "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," our district art shows, and then we go into concert season. With the exception of the 10-12 Musical with is April 29/30, all events are taking place as scheduled on the calendar. Looking ahead to May, we will be hosting NYSSMA Solo Festival, for which our Tri-M students will be busy functioning as ambassadors to the student performers from all over Nassau County.
- **Library Media Center** The library has two new additions to spruce up the options available for students to engage with. We now have an Apple TV which gives us flexibility for presentations, displays, interactive collaborative games & apps and we have a dynamic Cricut machine which can be used to design cards, lettering and even logos for clothing designs to name a few!





April is national poetry month and the library has a few opportunities for students to submit their creative poems for chances to win national local and state contests.

1-Senator Anna Kaplan is sponsoring Earth day 2022. Students can submit their poetry, essay or artwork to show ways we can protect our Earth.

2- The Nassau County Library Association is running the 17th annual "freedom to read" essay and art/poetry contest: Students can submit their response to <u>Getting past COVID- what story, book, or library experience</u> gave you hope?

3-Students have the opportunity to submit their creative entries in the 25th annual National Student Poetry Contest. The poem must be NO MORE THAN 20 LINES on any subject, in any style except concrete (shape poems) or blackout, provided that the content of the poem is not vulgar or offensive, does not employ profanity, and is the original and individual work of the student. Sample topics include: Pride in America, friendship, feelings, nature, dreams, aspirations, or anything that inspires creativity. The America Library of Poetry is offering a \$500 grand prize to students who submit and win with their entry. Participating teachers and schools



also can receive awards for entering. Learn more at www.library of poetry.com

- Math Department: Happy belated Pi Day! This year to celebrate 3/14, students were presented with Choice Activities to explore during our monthly Advisory session. Some 8th graders chose to create an artistic graph using circles, while some 9th graders chose to complete a Pi Day Escape the Room! Some upperclassmen even explored using the digits of Pi to create music! Prizes were awarded to students who completed various challenges! Teachers of all content areas joined in the fun and created their own activities as well.
- **PTSA** Spring is here and we are busy planning the last few months of the school year. We will be holding our annual clothing drive on April 9 th from 8-1. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out and send an email to hsptsavolunteer@gmail.com. Last year, we filled the truck and we hope



Ms. Edwards



to do the same this year. In conjunction with our Clothing Drive, we have teamed up with Faith Mission and created Project Princess. We will be collecting gently used and cleaned dresses/gowns for girls to "shop" for prom.

The Logo Contest is coming to an end. We are looking forward to judging the "merch" logo entries and can't wait to announce which lucky student will have their design on the PTSA "merch"!

The Senior Scholarship Awards Committee is currently reviewing all the applications and will decide on the 10 winners shortly. The scholarship recipients will receive their awards in June at the Senior Awards Breakfast.

The Staff Appreciation Committee is planning the luncheon which will take place on June 1 st. In addition to the luncheon we are planning a week long celebration of our staff along with a student/ teacher scavenger hunt. This will be the first week of May.

The awards committee will also be meeting and discussing which awards the PTSA will give out. They will send out communication to all members seeking nominations for the Jenkins Award/ Lifetime Achievement Award. Our next meeting is Wednesday April 6th and it will be hybrid. We will meet at 7 in the library for those that will be joining in person and on zoom. The link will be sent out via email. The Nominating Committee will announce our slate

for next year's PTSA Board and we will be discussing the upcoming class events.

Our website (www.mineola.k12.ny.us), Twitter (@mineolahs), and Instagram accounts (@mineolahs) continue to keep you up to date with the latest news and "happenings" in and around the high school; including many of the exciting and new lessons, projects, and activities that your children are engaging in.

Upcoming Events:

- April 2 HS Booster Club Mustang Stakes
- April 5 Booster Club Meeting (7:00pm)
- o April 5 NYS ELA 8
- April 6 PTSA Meeting (7:00)
 Music Parents Meeting (7:30pm)
- April 6 10 Winter Guard World
 Championships In Dayton, Ohio
- April 6 PTSA Meeting (7:00pm)
- April 6 End of Q3 Marking Period
- April 7- Board of Education Workshop Meeting (7:00pm @ Willis Avenue)

- o April 9 PTSA Spring Clothing Drive 8:00 am 1:00 pm @ HS
- O April 11 SEPTA Meeting 7:00 pm @ HS
- o April 11 May 20 NYSESLAT Test
- o April 13 Junior Class Fashion Show 7:00 pm
- o April 14 April 22 Spring Break
- April 26 BOE Business Mtg/Boces Budget Vote 7:00 pm @ Willis
- o April 27 Senior to Senior Day 12:00pm 6:00pm
- o April 29 HS Musical "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" 7:30pm
- April 30 HS Musical "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" 2:00 pm &
 7:30 pm

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration I would like to wish you continued success! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the main office at 237-2605.

Picture of the Month:

As we conclude Youth Art Month, enjoy this beautiful sampling of our students' work. Thank you to our Art Educators for their dedication!

Sincerely,

NAIstan ou Creith Ed D | Drine

Whittney Smith, Ed.D. | Principal

