

June 2022



Dear Families:

June is here and we are in the home stretch! Please encourage your children to work hard and finish strong! The last day of classes for our senior class is Friday, June 3 and June 14 for the remainder of the school. Finals and Regents begin the following day, Wednesday, June 15th. The [Regents and Bus Schedules](#) are posted on the high school website. Also, please remember that [Regents Prep classes](#) continue through June 14. For our seniors, graduation information as well as upcoming senior class event information is [here](#) as well as posted on the website.

As prom and graduation season approaches, there are several things of which to be mindful of. First, the Nassau County Police Department has provided families with information on the [social host law](#), intended to keep teens safe from the hazards of underage drinking. Second, **please be aware that senior pranks are strictly prohibited. Any senior prank or activity deemed disruptive to the school day will preclude your child from participation in the boat trip and prom and could jeopardize their participation in the graduation ceremony.**

Finally, be sure to read the informational letter linked above. This has already been sent to you but it includes important end of year procedures including graduation and rehearsal times. Please note, **all students are required to be at the graduation rehearsal if they plan to participate in the graduation ceremony.**

Please enjoy our newsletter and remember that in addition to this monthly newsletter, our **Website** ([www.mineola.k12.ny.us](http://www.mineola.k12.ny.us)), **Twitter** ([@mineolahs](#)) and **Instagram** ([@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. We encourage you to follow us if you don’t already!

## Newsworthy:

- **The Student Service Center (SSC)** recently celebrated our volunteers’ accomplishments at the 38th Annual Recognition Ceremony. We were delighted to welcome both Mark Grashow who founded **Books for Africa** and Cynthia Sucich from the **Mary Brennan INN**. They each spoke about the value of contributing to a global society and encouraged our members to find new ways to volunteer in the coming years. Mr. Drew Smith was our keynote speaker as we commemorated his many contributions to our programs here at Mineola High School. **Future Teachers** have been very busy helping entertain elementary students during parent meetings throughout the district. This month **SPARC** volunteers are looking forward to loading books into a container headed to Sierra Leone. Congratulations to Julia Therassi (Class of 2022) who recently won recognition from the South Asian American Women’s Alliance for her extensive community outreach!
- **Student Organization (SO)** held its 6th annual Battle of the Classes on May 20th. Congratulations to the Class of 2022 for winning this year’s BOTC. Check out the SO Instagram account [@mineolahs\\_SO](#) for photos. SO also will hold its annual **Awards Ceremony on June 2nd period 9**. Members of different extracurricular groups will be presented with certificates of appreciation for their dedication to their club throughout the year. We also will induct SO’s new board members. Students will receive an invitation in homeroom. We are looking forward to the 2022-2023 school year.
- **RISE:** The RISE class celebrated Cinco de Mayo by preparing and cooking their own quesadillas. The menu consisted of chicken, Mexican cheese, black beans, chips and salsa with a backdrop of Mexican music. The students also participated in Spirit Week. They were excited to participate in “Dress Like a Pro” and “Twin Day”.



The week ended with the sixth annual Battle of the Classes. We also celebrated Speech and Language Pathologist Day by creating a thank you poster for our very own Mrs. Peters. On May 24th, the RISE class was recognized at the 38th Annual Falk-Sysak Student Service Center Recognition Assembly for their work with the Community Interact Group. The students are continuing their community-based instruction, or authentic practice outside of the school setting with several trips throughout the community. This month's trips included visits to Willis Ave/Central Administration and to Bowlero bowling alley. As we approach the end of the year the students will be working hard to prepare for the ESY program and the return of the RISE Cafe.

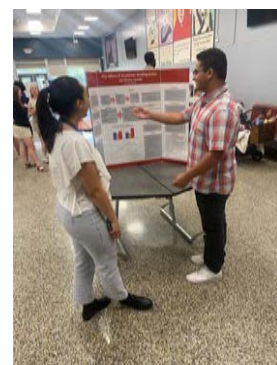
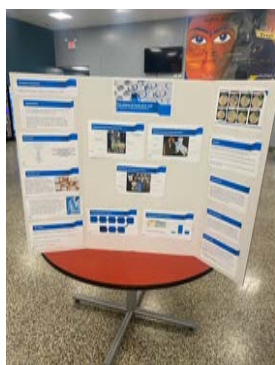
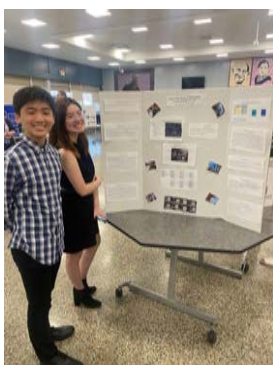
- The **Marching Band** recently entered the 1st Annual LIU Marching Band Competition. It was a virtual competition in which we uploaded a YouTube video of our 2021 NYSFBC Championship performance. The band came in 2nd place and was awarded with a check for \$5,000! Drum Majors James Keesee, Jamie Valentino, and Alexis Panebianco accepted the trophy and check on behalf of the band. Great job Mustangs!
- The **Environmental club** completed the year with two big events. Our community cleanup was on May 24th. About 78 pounds of garbage was collected from our local streets. The Town of North Hempstead provided gloves, bags and free t-shirts to all volunteers from throughout the school. Our conclusion activity involved the entire year. Over 60 plants were given out at the first meeting. At our last meeting, the student with the largest plants and best attendance one prizes. Congratulations to Alice Li, Sydney Wu and Leah Gaines! They won great prizes donated by Mrs. Adams. Thank you Mrs. Adams (Science Department Lab Tech) In addition, we bid farewell to our senior officers and thanked them for all their work this year! Katherine Ahn, Sofia Amador, Stephanie Bell, Alice Li, Urja Patel, Julia Therassi, and Judit Granados. Thank you!



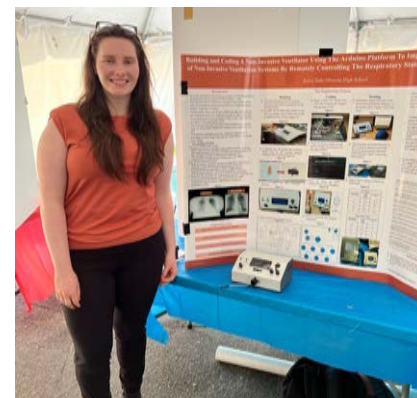
- **MHS - ULIS Exchange 2022-23** - Mineola will host a contingent of students and teachers from United Lisbon International School (ULIS) for a week in the Fall of 2022. Mineola students will visit Lisbon, Portugal in the Spring of 2023. Families interested in hosting and/or participating in this exciting opportunity please contact Mr. Paul Pereira at [ppereira@mineola.k12.ny.us](mailto:ppereira@mineola.k12.ny.us)
- The **Advanced Spanish Literature and AP Spanish** classes attended a production of “La casa de Bernarda Alba” at Repertorio Español in NYC. Students enjoyed the live performance as well as the opportunity for one last field trip together before graduation.
- The **S.A.D.D. club** will be making positive message candy bags for the Class of 2022 to be given out on Prom Night. Members of S.A.D.D. wish the Seniors congratulations and a great prom, but to always remember to make responsible decisions.
- Recently, the hackathon team **Mineola Marvels** competed in the KidOYO Senior Division Hackathon. This team worked hard to create complex programs with skillful artwork. This year's theme was the Peloponnesian War and our team put up a great fight! The Mineola Marvels strategized to defend and attack different challenges by collaborating and building each other up.
- The **Computer Science National Honor Society** held its induction on May 9th. 29 students were inducted into the society. The purpose of the society is to create thriving environments for success in computer science and the school community by encouraging students’ enthusiasm, honoring academic excellence and promoting service.
- **Science Research**



This year's Science Research Symposium was back in person!  
We were so happy that the students were able to present their work to their peers



- Seniors presented their research to Mr. Brozik to fulfill their senior project requirement.
- CONGRATULATIONS to senior **Keira Talty**, on winning third place at the finalist round of the NSPC Health Science Competition on May 18, 2022. She competed in the category of Bioengineering and Computational Biology and received a \$3,000 monetary award. We are Mineola Proud of Keira and all of her success this competition season.
- **Key Club** - In the two weeks leading up to Battle of the Classes, Key Club organized and carried out Penny Wars! A total of \$1,074.57 was raised. After a competitive two weeks, the seniors were victorious and will receive a portion of the money raised. Another portion of the money raised will be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Thank you to everyone who contributed!
- The **National Honor Society** Induction Ceremony took place on Tuesday, May 31st and will be welcoming 76 new members. Congratulations to both our juniors as well as our graduating seniors. Current officers will read personal introductions for each of the new inductees, highlighting the accomplishments and efforts that earned the new inductees membership. [Presentation Link](#)
- The High School's **AP Biology and AP Environmental science classes**, under the direction of Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Leopardi, collaborated for a Solar Oven Cookoff. The learners gathered materials to create their own homemade solar ovens and chose recipes that would be cooked throughout the day. As the day went on, the ovens heated the learners' food; the creative recipes ranging from chicken quesadillas to chocolate chip pancakes. Grades were based on sustainability, food distribution, temperature of oven and final food quality. All participants did a great job! No one ever said that learning can't be fun!





- **MusBuyTangs**, Mineola High School's student-run business is wrapping up its 5th year in business! They've established a recognizable brand in our schools and students continually work on designing and creating unique marketable products. A recent update to the MusBuyTangs lobby showcase is a business-related quote chosen and voted on by its student associates (see pic below). Do you have a product suggestion for them? Suggest it [here](#). Support these student entrepreneurs by following @MusBuyTangs, shopping their online store at [www.musbuytangs.com](http://www.musbuytangs.com), and learning more about the national EdCorps community @RWScholars.



- Mr. Raimondi and Ms. Gross are so proud of the hard work and dedication that the students in the **Class of 2024** exhibited before, during, and after the Battle of the Classes. Throughout the week of BOTC, students collaborated to create a hallway that immersed the judges into Italy. Their dedication helped to create a true representation of what Italy is like. They incorporated a life size gondola, Sophomore Slices, Signor's Espresso, Genova Gelato, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and Rome's Coliseum.



Congratulazioni, Il tuo duro lavoro è stato ripagato!  
 Congratulations, Your hard work has paid off!

- In **Global History**, students continue to prepare for the NYS Global History Regents Examination every day in class. We target small sections of old exams as part of our daily warm-up activity. Our class recently finished up a large unit on WWII embedded with opportunities for student choice. Students were challenged to research 3 topics of personal interest from a list of 148 options. Some of the potential topics ranged from the Dunkirk evacuation, rationing, the underground French Resistance, The Battle of Wake Island, and infantry weapons of WWII. Students explored each area of interest and then presented their findings to a peer in an effort to cover a broader range of topics from the Second World War.
- **Track** - Congratulations to our All-County Spring Track and Field Athletes. **Jordan Gabriel** tied for 2nd in the High Jump and **Robbie Basel** finished 2nd in the 800 meters.
- **PTSA Message** - At the Joint PTA meeting in May, the new HS PTSA slate was approved. Congratulations to the 2022/2023 officers: President – Christa Basel Vice Presidents – Amy Polmar, Cathy Carr, Jennifer Amore-Melendez and Katherine Escorcia Treasurer – Amy Levine Recording Secretary – Priya Shah and Corresponding Secretary – Gabriella Ramos. Teacher Appreciation week was a blast with student/ teacher activities each day and the Goose Chase contest. The top 5 winners won a \$25 visa gift card. The winners were Carolina G. , Priscilla R. , Emma G., Marissa B., and Nick F. The staff luncheon will be on June 1 st and we know it will be delicious.  
 We would also like to Congratulate Ryan O'Connor on winning the logo contest with his cool design. You can order exclusive “merch”with Ryan’s logo at <https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/?fbclid=IwAROUVTmTKniq6U8OgjpUzRFskdB2fPV6TrJlq40Ap02hV-S72-6FrJ4x1wE#/lockers/mineola-mustangs-1>

Please stop by our booth at the Septa Carnival on June 10th and check out our fun games and prizes. We were happy to help out with the lunch for the junior picnic. We will be providing pizza for the volunteers at the 10 th grade car wash on June 11. Be sure to stop by and support the class of 2024. The 9th and 10 th grade will enjoy a refreshing treat of Italian ices during the last week of school. On June 8 th, we will be presenting 10 Mineola Spirit Awards in the amount of \$300 each at the Senior Awards' Breakfast. Please join us for our final meeting of the school year on Wednesday, June 8 th in the library at 7:30 pm. This will be a joint meeting with Septa and they will be voting to approve their slate for the 2022-2023 school year. Good luck to all our students on their finals and regents. We would like to wish Mr. Smith, our teacher rep., much happiness in his retirement. You will be missed tremendously. Congratulations to the Class of 2022 and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

## **Department Highlights:**

**Synergy** - As we enter our final month of the school year, we continue to encourage all Synergy learners to attend Regents Prep regularly. Only a few weeks left! We are excited to celebrate the following seniors as we head towards graduation: Andrew Aguilar-Valle, Tyler Pinkney, Aulona Kabashi, Jordan Jaramillo, and Sandeep Kumar. Graduation will be on Friday, June 3, at 11:15 AM. We look forward to seeing what you accomplish in your next chapter!

We will wrap up the regular school year on June 14. As we look to next year, we are thrilled to transition into our new site and continue the Synergy journey. Orientation for new learners will be on June 21. Wishing everyone a relaxing summer!

**Guidance** - The [Guidance department](#) welcomed the incoming 8th graders earlier this month. Dr. Smith, Dr. Owens, Mrs. Fahey, Mrs. O'Donnell and Mr. Amitrano all spoke to the students about the variety of opportunities and important information about the high school. Our PE Leaders also provided tours of the building (thank you Mrs. Hunter!). The Special Education teachers are planning inclusivity day on June 2nd. We have a variety of activities for students to learn about disabilities and being inclusive. We are preparing for our visit to Manhattan College on June 3rd. The counselors visited the senior English classes to have them complete their exit surveys before they graduate. We discussed how to request transcripts from MHS as well as colleges they've earned credits from, and important information and terms they will need as college freshmen. We are so proud of the Class of 2022 and wish them all the best of luck with their future endeavors! We hope to see them back next year for our annual Alumni Day!

**Physical Education and Athletics** - As the school year comes to an end we remind all students that Physical Education make up classes have been scheduled for any students in need of making up a class. The schedule has been posted in and around the gym. Summer Hours in the fitness center will be posted and our Strength and Conditioning Coach Mr. Schacca is available for any student that would like to have a strength and conditioning assessment done and have a personal plan written for them. We encourage student athletes to take advantage of this! Coach Schacca's hours, along with the summer fitness center hours, will be posted. Whether you are an athlete training for an upcoming season or just want to stay fit and healthy over the summer we encourage all students to attend.

We remind all varsity athletes and parents that the Varsity banquet will be held this year at the Jericho Terrace on Monday June 6th at 6:30. Tickets can be purchased in advance and questions can be addressed by emailing [mdmartin29@yahoo.com](mailto:mdmartin29@yahoo.com). Prior to the Memorial Day weekend the Athletic program celebrated many athletes at the JV Award Assembly, the Tri Athlete Breakfast and the Senior Signing Day. We thank the Booster Club for providing their support as food and refreshments were provided at each event.

**The Department of Fine and Performing Arts** has had a whirlwind month of May! In the midst of concerts from 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade back in full swing, we proudly hosted both a NYSSMA Solo and Majors festivals. We welcomed hundreds of students into our halls and our High School Tri-M Student volunteers provided incredible ambassadorship and help to all those in attendance. They represented themselves and our school very well! This year we sent 180 students to Solo NYSSMA Festival, and we couldn't be more proud of the perseverance and dedication they have shown to their craft. The HS Art show combined with the National Art Honor Society and the National Jr. Art Honor Society inductions take place on June 1. Student work will be on display in the

auxiliary gym, and promises to be absolutely stunning. You will see incredible works with special displays by our seniors and AP students. Additionally works from all students grade 8-12 will be on display. Congratulations to our art faculty, and a special congratulations to Ms. Antonelli and Ms. Lapertosa for their work creating the National Junior Art Society Chapter at both the HS and Middle School. Finally, our last production of the year is the 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade show; "Cursed Cabaret." Building off the success of last year's production, this production is a student generated work. Tickets and information can be found at [www.mineoladrama.com](http://www.mineoladrama.com). Thank you for your support of our activities throughout the 2021-2022 school year!



**Library** - As we wind down the end of the school year we are excited to see our graduates continue to the next phase of their lives and welcome new students into the building in the upcoming year. Over the summer, our library will be undergoing a complete renovation, with new seating areas and flexible workspaces for students to continue to explore new resources, materials, and engage with one another. We are very excited to continue our mission to be the information hub of the school into 2022 and beyond.

The library has worked in coordination with teachers and **Common Sense Media** to fulfill our commitment to be a "Common Sense School". This mission will continue with our students next year. This curriculum focuses on teaching media literacy, privacy, safety, healthy habits, and digital citizenship to students. We were glad to engage with students to help them discuss and reflect on their experiences as digitally literate learners. Common Sense Media has also shared some family tips to continue the conversation with your learners surrounding the topics they encountered. You can access them here!



[Digital Privacy](#)

[Digital Footprint & Identity](#)

[News & Media Literacy](#)

Finally, attached are the links to the 2022 [summer reading program](#) for students provided by New York Public Libraries

<https://www.summerreadingnys.org/>

[Mineola Memorial Library](#)



**Nurse's Office - Current juniors, rising seniors:** All students entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade in September 2022 are required to have ONE dose of **Meningitis ACWY** at 16 years of age or older, regardless of any doses previously received. New York State expects the school to exclude students from attending if proof of vaccination is not received.

**Medications:** Please contact the Nurses' Office to arrange to pick up any medications that have been kept in the Nurses' Office. Medications that are not picked up are required by State law to be discarded on the last day of school, June 25th.

**Looking forward to the 2022-2023 school year: Requirements for Health Examinations:** **9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students** are required to have a physical exam on file within 30 days of the start of school. **Medications:** Both prescription and over the counter medications needed in school or on school sponsored trips, including band camp, require the appropriate written authorizations from the physician and parent. These must be on file in the Nurse's Office. All forms and information pertaining to the Nurse's Office can be found on the Nurse's website.

Summer dates/times for school doctor physicals will be posted on the Nurse's website in late June. Clearances for sports and band camp will be done through [Family ID](#).

\*Students who have been medically excused from Phys Ed classes are required to provide an updated physician's notation. Students may not return to physical activity/ Phys Ed class without a current medical note submitted to the Nurse's Office.

Please keep in mind as the year comes to a close that we all have a common goal, which is for our young people to gain the most that they can from their experiences at Mineola High School and to leave prepared for success outside of high school. I appreciate your support in ensuring that our students make good decisions and end the 2021-2022 school year on a positive note.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration I would like to wish you a wonderful end of the school year and terrific summer vacation! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the main office at 237-2605.

Sincerely,



Whittney Smith, Ed.D. | Principal

**Pictures of the Month:** Battle of the Classes Fun! Congratulations to all of our participants and our 2022 champion senior class!  
#MineolaProud





# BOTC 2022

