



Outreach

WWW.MINEOLA.K12.NY.US



All Five: Apple Distinguished Schools

This fall, all five schools in the district received official notification of earning a designation as an Apple Distinguished School for 2017-18. With this, Mineola becomes the first complete school district in New York State (and possibly the world) to have all of its schools earn the title. They are also the only five Apple Distinguished Schools on Long Island, five of only eight in New York, and five of 400 across 29 countries worldwide who compete for this designation.

Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of leadership and educational excellence that demonstrate Apple's vision for learning with technology and are some of the most innovative schools in the world. To qualify, the schools had to go through a rigorous

application process to prove that they meet Apple's vision of success. This vision includes providing visionary leadership, innovative learning and teaching, ongoing professional development, flexible learning environments and compelling evidence of success.

Mineola's 1:1 iPad initiative began at Jackson Avenue School as a pilot program for fifth-graders in spring 2010. It now encompasses all students, K-12, and has grown into an award-winning program for each of the Mineola schools. Mineola Middle School was the first to earn the designation as an Apple Distinguished School for the 2013-14 school year – it has to requalify for the designation each year.

Two representatives from Apple attended the district's December 14, 2017, Board of

Education meeting and presented each of the schools with their plaques and banners. The representatives noted Mineola's "relentless pursuit of innovation with a student-centered approach."

"It's easy to have an idea; it's not as easy to make it happen. I have to thank my teachers and principals for making this a reality," Superintendent of Schools Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D., said that evening. "It's not just about using a device here; it's about how we use it to change teaching. It's about students showing me what they know and how they know it. It's exciting and really infectious."

Watch a video highlighting this designation for the district at: www.mineola.k12.ny.us.

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

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The **20** Million Word Challenge

In a press conference on Tuesday, Nov. 14, the district announced that it would accept the Read2Succeed Community-Wide Early Literacy Initiative 9 Million Word Challenge. The challenge is open to all students within the Mineola community, including those who are not yet school age, and aims to improve early literacy skills.

Over the winter break, the community exceeded its 9 million words, and a new challenge of 20 million words has been set for the June 1, 2018 deadline.

The challenge is hosted by Footsteps2Brilliance, which is a platform/

app that engages early learners in reading skills with the option of engaging in English or Spanish. The app, which is free to download on the district's website, can be utilized at home and in school by all community children. A word count tracker and further instructions on how to download the free platform is located at the bottom of the district's homepage – www.mineola.k12.ny.us. A video explaining the initiative is also available on the website.

Footsteps2Brilliance was created to eliminate literacy gaps before they begin. Since its inception in 2011, Footsteps2Brilliance has grown from an educational software offering, to a literacy program, to a cause for social justice and

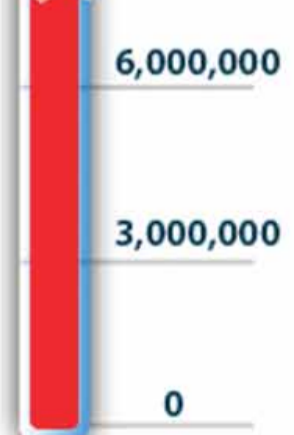
a movement that is positively impacting students, families and communities throughout the United States. Since its start, Footsteps2Brilliance has worked with school districts in nearly every state across the nation. Today, Footsteps2Brilliance is fulfilling a promise to the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanic Students through partnerships with more than 60 innovative school districts to create Model Innovation Cities and Model Innovation Counties. Mineola is joining this movement as the first district in New York to fully launch a Model Innovation City.

Mineola is the only district on Long Island participating in this challenge.

Read2Succeed

Community-Wide Early Literacy Initiative

9 MILLION WORD CHALLENGE



Books Read: 44,967
Word Count: 12,958,800



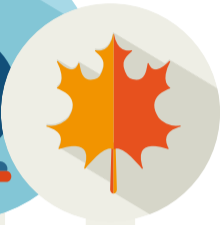
"I like the little projects that we do in social studies – projects make it more interesting."

Elizabeth Fernandez, Grade 7



"Art class because I get to paint."

- Yerik Lim, Grade 1 Hampton



"Learning so that I can get smarter and smarter."

- Charlotte Ruyle, Grade 1 Hampton

"When I get to learn new things. Math is my favorite."

- Kaela Lui, Grade 4



"Having sports after school. It's like having another family; you really build a bond."

Aidan McMahon, Grade 10

What is YOUR favorite part of the school day?

"Debating in social studies, because it's something I'm passionate about."

- Garima Anand, Grade 7



"I really love going to library because sometimes we code. We also get to checkout books."

- Justin Spera, Grade 4

"Writing Workshop because we get to learn how to spell and write."

Katelynn Hung, Grade 1 Meadow



Mission:

The Mission of the

Start

...pursue excellence

Top 25

Mineola High School has announced the valedictorian, salutarian and top 25 academic students for the Class of 2018. These students will lead the entire class of graduates to the stage at the Tilles Center to receive their diplomas in June.

Congratulations to:
(Bottom Row, L-R) Valedictorian Anisha Shah, Salutarian Anmol Patel, Vijay Paliath, Emily McGuire, Jisoo

Kim, Aileen Miller, Preeti Singh, Ryan DeMagistris and Amanda Poppe.
(Middle Row, L-R) Nicole Chiu, Daniel Murray, Nicholas Kern, Nerogica Nimalan, Angelica Morales-Cueva, Molly Donelan, Samantha Valmond, Juliana Lupo, Flabio Anjo and Daniella Rocha.
(Top Row, L-R) Kevin Fraccalvieri, Marc Giordano, Michela Franz, Rhea Rene, Samantha Kessler and Diana Araujo



...to inspire

Young Inventors

Students in Mineola are constantly inspired to use their imaginations and bring their ideas to life, especially ideas that may solve a problem or issue. This has resulted in several students recently utilizing instilled in the classroom to create their own inventions.

Inspired by the Kids Invent Stuff contest that Meadow Drive kindergartner Rhett Pace won in December for his "snowy blaster" Meadow Drive second-grader A Bertrand and his brother, fifth-grader James Bertrand, designed The Illuminator – a light-up jacket that allow you to be seen in the dark.

...exhibit strength of character

Choosing Kindness

In preparation for the Great Kindness Challenge the week of January 22, fourth- and fifth-graders at Jackson Avenue were encouraged to participate in a schoolwide #choosekind campaign. Coordinated by art teacher Jeanine Gallina, a display in the main hallway contained positive messages, informing passersby that "kindness starts with me." To illustrate how kindness is contagious, students had the chance to accept a kindness challenge from a pocket on the display wall, documenting their act of kindness by using Flipgrid on their iPad and posting it with #choosekind.



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The Mineola Union Free School District is...

...and ensure each student to be a life-long learner



"Cars have lights to see them at night, but jackets that people wear don't," said Andrew of the idea. James came up with the name, and together the brothers drew out what their invention would look like. They submitted it to the Kids Invent Stuff contest for "wearable technology" and were selected as one of the winners for January. As a result of their win, the sponsoring company will actually create a prototype of the invention and post it in a video online.

Waterproof Boats

Following a brief story and lesson in their STEAM classes with Lisa Richards, kindergarten students at Hampton Street worked in cooperative groups to create plans that would get a gingerbread cookie across a river (a small pool) without getting wet. Students were given supplies such as straws, clay, masking tape, egg cartons, popsicle sticks and wax paper to bring their drawings to life. Groups were able to test their boat's ability to sink or swim and then adjust their design. At the end of the class, each group tested their final boat by putting the gingerbread cookie inside and setting sail across the river. The goal was for the gingerbread to escape and not get wet, while reinforcing lifelong problem-solving, science and engineering skills.



...and contribute positively to a global society

...and contribute positively to a global society

Students of the district purged thousands of pounds of unused and electronic waste in a recent e-waste drive held at Mineola Middle School. Local company Two Brothers Scrap Metal donated the use of a truck to help dispose of the equipment, which otherwise would have ended up in a local landfill. Residents were urged to properly dispose of items such as computers, televisions, chargers and other electronic items during the event. This is the third year the district has held this important environmental event.



The Tree That Gives Back

Each year at Meadow Drive, a Giving Tree lights up the school lobby. The tree contains paper ornaments labeled with items that local families are in need of this winter and holiday season. Any staff member, parent or school visitor can take an ornament off the tree and purchase the items that are needed. Each year, this tradition makes the season brighter for many local families.



Finish

Three Schools Recognized for DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Jackson Avenue, Hampton Street and Meadow Drive schools have each been recognized as a Common Sense School. They have demonstrated a commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing their students to use the immense power of digital media to explore, create, connect and learn, while limiting the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy and cyberbullying. This recognition acknowledges the schools' commitment to creating a culture of digital learning and citizenship.

According to its website, Common Sense is a national nonprofit

organization dedicated to helping kids and families thrive in a world of digital media and technology. Mineola schools have been using Common Sense Education's innovative and

research-based digital citizenship resources, which were created in collaboration with Dr. Howard Gardner of the GoodPlay Project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The resources teach students, educators and parents tangible skills related to internet safety, protecting online reputations and personal privacy, managing online relationships and respecting creative copyright. The free resources are used in more than 100,000 classrooms nationwide.

Mineola Middle School and High School are in the final stages of applying to become a Common Sense School, as well.



It CAN Wait

Juniors and seniors at Mineola High School learned of the specific dangers of distracted driving during an It Can Wait campaign presented by the Nassau County Police Department, Congresswoman Kathleen Rice and AT&T. A nationwide campaign, it included a presentation from acting Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder, with statistics and information specific to Nassau County. It focused on the visual, cognitive and manual distractions any driver can face and the importance of remaining alert to your own behaviors and that of others.

"There isn't an email, text message, photo or tweet that is more important than your life," Congresswoman Rice said to students. "In five seconds you can travel the length of a football field... When you send that quick text, you are essentially driving the length of a football field blindfolded."

The presentation concluded with a call to action, asking students to sign a pledge promising to not engage in distracted driving, as well as to act as ambassadors in continuing the message.



GIRLS WHO CODE: SPEAKER SERIES

Mineola Middle School recently hosted a series of workshops geared towards motivating female students with an interest in coding. The Girls Who Code Speaker Series, coordinated by Assistant Principal Amy Trojanowski, featured different female speakers in coding/engineering-related fields serving as role models and explaining their careers to a group of fifth-through seventh-grade students.

"It's based on the belief that you cannot be what you cannot see," Ms.

Trojanowski said. "If these impressionable students don't see female coders and female engineers and have interaction with them, then they may not believe they can be one themselves."

In a series held on December 13, two Mineola graduates from 2005 were featured speakers – Michele Guido, a programmer Skyping from Germany, and Jessica Cox (formerly Napolitano), who is a data scientist. Each told of how they

got to their current positions, as well as what their job entails. Students were able to ask them questions and even received guided feedback from the guests on current projects they were completing.



Alumni Spotlight

MICHELE GUIDO, CLASS OF 2005

During her time at Mineola High School, Michele Guido (Class of 2005) played a lot of sports – volleyball, basketball and softball – and believed she wanted to be a volleyball coach.

“Sports were a major source of self-esteem for me,” she said. “Serving as captain my senior year gave me a chance to be a leader, which I loved.”

Combined with her love for reading and writing, Michele decided to pursue a career in teaching after graduation. She did one semester at Nassau Community College and then transferred for the opportunity to play volleyball at SUNY Geneseo.

“I really loved all of my English classes there so much, and I wish I could just sit in on classes and learn for the rest of my life,” Michele shared. “In fact, it was a ninth-grade English teacher who asked us to write four pages a week, no matter what, that got me started keeping a journal, which I do to this day.”

She graduated cum laude from Geneseo in May 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in English and adolescent education, but from there, things didn’t go as planned.

“I always thought I’d go away to school, get my degree, do a few years in a New York City public school and then land a job teaching on Long Island,” Michele said. “But I graduated at a time when teaching jobs were scarce, I was interviewing against those with a lot more experience and New York City public schools had a hiring freeze; it was a really hard time.”

Michele told herself she would do two years of substitute teaching, but that if a permanent position didn’t open up for her in that time, she would need to reconsider her plan. During those two years, she decided to move to New York City with friend and

fellow Mineola graduate Michelle Guelbart. During that time, she began rock climbing and running a volleyball team with her brother’s girlfriend.

“It was the first time I realized that I didn’t need to teach in order to coach volleyball,” Michele said. “Around this time, I heard of friends who were teaching English in other countries and I decided I would get certified to teach English as a second language.”

Michele did one more year of subbing while earning her ESL certification and teaching herself German. She also used that year to begin planning her trip to Germany.

“Someone suggested Germany and I just liked the sound of it,” she said. “Their economy was doing well at the time, they had a growing tech scene and everything was very affordable.”

She bought her ticket in June 2012 and left for Berlin that August with the intention of applying right away to teach English.

“Every single day, I felt like I was in a dream and asked myself what I was doing here,” she recalled. “As I was applying, I realized I wanted to try something other than teaching.”

So, she started applying to random startups and jobs. In the months that followed, she worked as an office manager for a tour operator. During that time, she also decided to take German classes. There, she made friends who urged her to take a programming class. In January 2013, she took her first programming class and was hooked.

“As soon as I did it, I was like, why did I not try programming before?” she said. “I love solving problems and puzzles, and I love being on the computer.”

It was then that she realized she wanted to be a programmer. She continued her schooling through 2013, and in January 2014, only two weeks after beginning her search, she was hired as a junior web developer. She has since changed jobs, now serves as a software engineer and is working on the development of a mobile app.

“When I was in school, we were never exposed to programming or engineering, except for a LOGO program I recall at Meadow Drive where we wrote simple commands to a turtle on screen that would draw lines and make pictures,” she said. “Other than that, we had typing class in high school, which was very useful, but that was it.”

Michele still loves to write and spends most of her free time performing improv and stand-up comedy. She has made many friends in Berlin,



“I really loved all of my English classes there so much, and I wish I could just sit in on classes and learn for the rest of my life.”

and it was fellow Mineola graduate Tim Palma, also living in Berlin, who helped her make the transition.

“I think back to what I thought my life was going to be, and this is never what I imagined,” Michele shared. “But my humanities background actually makes me a better candidate for jobs in this field. I love how it all worked out.”

Michele now owns an apartment in Berlin and enjoys the improv/comedy scene in her area. Although she doesn’t get to play volleyball as much, she likes to rock climb and has completed three of the Berlin half-marathons. Her father is Dan Guido, a physical education teacher at the middle school, and her brother, Dan Guido, graduated from Mineola High School in 2003.





OUTSTANDING PHYS ED STUDENTS

Two Mineola High School students were selected as recipients of the Nassau Zone Outstanding Physical Education Students of the Year Award. Sponsored by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, this award recognizes one male and one female Nassau County high school senior from each school district who exemplify outstanding scholastic ability, physical education performance and leadership qualities. Congratulations to Flabio Anjo and Emily McGuire for receiving the title this year.

“Flabio and Emily represent the most positive aspects of our programs at Mineola and proudly represented their school and community,” said District Director for Physical Education Ralph Amitrano.



ALL-COUNTY ATHLETES

At its Nov. 30 meeting, the Board of Education honored All-County student-athletes from the fall season. Congratulations to (L-R): Flabio Anjo (soccer), Christian Melendez (soccer), Ryan DeMagistris (cross-country) and Gabriel Silva (cross-country). Not pictured is Nicole Genova (soccer) and Samantha Schroeder (volleyball).



WRESTLING SUCCESS

The Mineola wrestling team has had an excellent comeback year this season, with 9 wins and 5 losses so far. The Mustangs also qualified to wrestle in the Nassau County dual meet championship. This tournament is made up of the top 24 teams in Nassau County. Mineola won its first-round match in an upset over Conference 1 team East Meadow High School. In addition to their on-the-mat success, the Mustangs have spread their reach to the younger grades by hosting a “takedown challenge,” in which district youth were able to show their stuff after a varsity match.



Pre-K Registration



Registration for pre-kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year in the Mineola Union Free School District will take place at the Central Registration Office, second floor at 121 Jackson Avenue, through May 4, 2018. All parents of eligible children are encouraged to register their children during this time. Please email the district registrar, Michelle Rescigno, at mrescigno@mineola.k12.ny.us or call her at (516) 237-2031 to schedule an appointment.

For the 2018-2019 school year we are again planning to have a full-day Universal Pre-K Program (UPK)

conducted by Harbor Child Care at 121 Jackson Avenue (formerly Willis Avenue School). If the NYS Education Department uses the same guidelines as it used this past year, the Mineola Pre-K program will remain the same: a full-day UPK program for 54 students conducted by Harbor Child Care (chosen by lottery) and a 2.5-hour, five-day program (morning or afternoon) for all other students at Hampton Street School or Meadow Drive School.

EVERY STUDENT WHOSE REGISTRATION FOR PRE-K IS COMPLETE BY FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018, WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE LOTTERY

ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018.

K-12 registration will continue to take place throughout the year. Please call Michelle Rescigno for information and an appointment.

All children **MUST** be registered by a parent or legal guardian. Pre-kindergarten children must be four years of age and kindergarten children must be five years of age by December 31, 2018.

Please note students currently enrolled in Pre-K through the district do not need to register for kindergarten.



Outreach

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