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REIMAGINING EDUCATION Jackson 21: Structural Renovations

The past year has challenged our educators to truly exhibit their growth mindset and to rethink learning models and instruction deliveries to better support all students. Despite the obstacles we have faced, our district has continued to be innovative and has provided our students with enriching experiences. These values are at the core of the new project we are taking on, known as Jackson 21.

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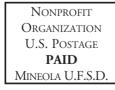
SCHOOLS

Jackson 21 is the name given to the year of renovation and rethinking at Jackson Avenue School. The project's goal is to reinvent how instruction is delivered to enhance our students' educational careers. That begins with enhancing the building itself. Jackson 21 started with a number of structural renovations. The upgrades will ultimately create a better environment for our students, leading to their success and growth.

The following capital work is included in the Jackson 21 project and expected to be complete in its entirety by 2023:

- A new state-of-the-art cafeteria that will seat approximately 132 students. The cafeteria will include restrooms as well as handwashing stations for students, upholding our values of health and safety.
- A new gated parking lot for our

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



staff with additional parking, as well as a turf field to give students the opportunity to spend additional time outdoors during physical education and recess.

- Our old cafeteria will turn into a general-purpose room. This room will act as an auditorium, providing enough space to hold assemblies and events involving large groups without interrupting physical education classes.
- An outdoor classroom will be added as an extension of the new science lab and a new playground will be built just outside of the new

cafeteria.

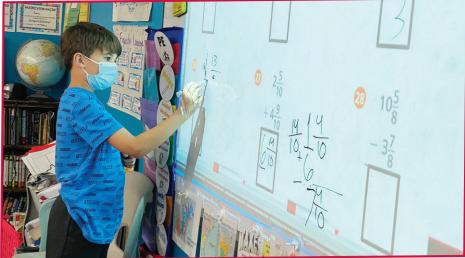
- Interior renovations that include new classroom doors, renovated bathrooms, new classroom ventilation as well as new flooring and ceilings.
- The special area wing will provide children with a new state-ofthe-art science lab, art room and music wing. The music wing will include a room large enough for teachers to hold combined rehearsals.











Jackson 21: Instructional Innovations

The structural renovations included in Jackson 21 were the catalyst for us to begin thinking about how we are going to deliver education at Jackson Avenue School. As we continue to innovate our educational practices and upgrade our buildings, there's a need to reconceptualize the traditional structures that have been in place for years.

Jackson 21 will provide learners with instruction that targets their needs and allows them more choices in their education. It is our goal for students to "own" their learning, and by putting practices in place for our learners to do this, it will help them stay engaged and become lifelong learners. Jackson 21 will add a "Flexible



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Learning Lab" hour each day onto students' schedules to provide more choice learning opportunities.

The Flexible Learning Lab includes both intervention and enrichment, aimed at our students' needs. It also consists of a "Genius Hour," which is an opportunity for students to pursue a passion project under the guidance of their teacher. This is a way to reinforce choice and allow students to be creative while learning topics they are interested in. It will also give teachers the opportunity to provide individualized instruction and support. Genius Hours will alternate with classroom book clubs or guided reading. Dedicated time for students to engage in reading books of their choice will help foster a love for reading for years to come.

A proposed change to the instructional model within Jackson 21 is also to incorporate more team teaching. Currently at Jackson Avenue, our four dual-language classes use team teaching, which has been successful. The expansion of this model would have one teacher teaching the integrated curriculum, including English language arts, social studies and science, while the other teacher primarily focuses on math.

Scheduling blocks will dedicate time to socialemotional learning each day. These blocks will allow staff to meet the social-emotional needs of our children on a regular basis. They will help teach students coping strategies that are especially important in the face of a pandemic, as well as supply students with skills to learn social perspective and awareness. These social-emotional learning blocks will alternate each morning with coding blocks. The coding blocks will give students time to work independently on interdisciplinary coding projects that are facilitated by classroom teachers.

The process of bringing Jackson 21 to life is near completion. We are looking to finalize the details before the end of the school year, and we hope to implement these instructional changes in September.

We hope this project will inspire our students to develop a growth mindset and continue to flourish in the face of future challenges. Ultimately, Jackson 21 will help our students live out the Mineola mission of being lifelong learners, pursuing excellence, exhibiting strength of character and contributing positively to a global society.

-We continue to innovate our
-We continue to innovate our practices and now need to reconceptualize traditional structures such as building schedules.
-Provide learners with instruction that targets their individual needs and connects them to engaging curriculum.
thinking strategies
-Additional dedicated time to foster a love of reading through book clubs
-Allow for more opportunities for student choice.

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