



Outreach

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RANKED **TOP** IN NATION

for Exemplary Use of Technology

The Center for Digital Education and the National School Boards Association placed Mineola among the top 10 in its 2017-18 Digital School Districts Survey. Mineola ranked in the top ten in the nation in the Small Student Population

Category for integrating technology for innovative curriculum and improved student learning.

Now in its 14th year, the Digital School Districts Survey Awards recognize exemplary use of technology by school

boards and districts. It is awarded to districts that most fully implement technology benchmarks in the evolution of digital education, as represented in the survey questions. All U.S. public schools were eligible to participate.

The National School Boards Association is the leading advocate for public education and supports equity and excellence in public education through school board leadership. The Center for Digital Education 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 National School Boards Association's Annual Conference, April 7-9 in San Antonio.



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

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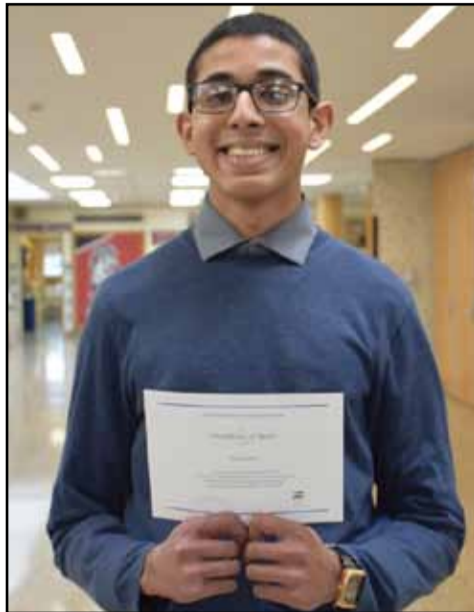


NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

Congratulations to Mineola High School senior Vijay Paliath who has been named a finalist in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Vijay is one of 15,000 students nationwide, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors who qualify in the 63rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered this spring.

“Reaching this step is an outstanding achievement and one that makes the entire Mineola School community proud,” said



Principal Dr. Whitney Smith. “As evidenced by your performance and selection as a finalist, you represent the best of the best.”

Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

LifeChanger Award Nominee at MHS

Mineola High School ENL teacher Karen Gutierrez has been nominated for the 2017-2018 national LifeChanger of the Year award.

Sponsored by the National Life Group Foundation, LifeChanger of the Year recognizes and rewards the very best K-12 educators and school district employees across the United States who are making a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership. Ms. Gutierrez, who has been with the district for two years, was nominated by the district’s Director of ENL Nicole Moriarty. She received her United State’s Citizenship on April 5.

Winners are announced via surprise award ceremonies held at their schools.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

BOARD PRES RECEIVES EDUCATION PARTNER AWARD

Board President Christine Napolitano received the Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award. The program pays tribute to outstanding community and business leaders, civil servants, government officials, nonprofit executives and volunteers, organizations, school administrators and staff, students, teachers and Nassau BOCES employees who have had a profound effect on public education in Nassau County. Ms. Napolitano is one of three Board members being honored with the award.

During her nine years on the Mineola Union Free School District’s Board of Education, Ms. Napolitano was at the forefront of advocating for efficiency and innovation in her district. Christine voted “yes” on the tough decision to reconfigure the district’s schools, which ultimately

led to millions of dollars in savings for community taxpayers and better curriculum alignment for students. During her tenure on the Board, the district has received, and continues to receive, state and national attention for its exceptional program and use of technology, including being named to the prestigious Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools and, most recently, all five schools in the district having earned the Apple Distinguished School designation (only 400 have been recognized in the world).

This year’s honorees received their awards at the 12th Annual Education Partner Awards Gala on Wednesday, April 11.

Congratulations to Ms. Napolitano on being recognized for her dedication to the students of Mineola.



This year I focused on hanging out only with people who are uplifters because they positively influence me, my mood and what I believe I can achieve.”

- Yesim Cinar, Grade 9



By struggling and getting better with Kahn Academy and eventually getting through all of the eighth-grade content, even though I'm only in sixth.”

- James Collura, Grade 6



I used editing with my teacher to get better at my writing. It makes me happy so I write more and more and then I can write it by myself.”

- William Klauck, Grade 1 (Meadow)



Sometimes you can't do something yet. Like I couldn't read sight words before, but now I can.”

- Brianna D'Alleman, Kindergarten (Meadow)



HOW HAVE YOU DEMONSTRATED A

GROWTH MINDSET?

In karate, I was having a hard time and needed to practice. I got better and got my yellow belt.”

- Grace Giordano, Kindergarten (Hampton)



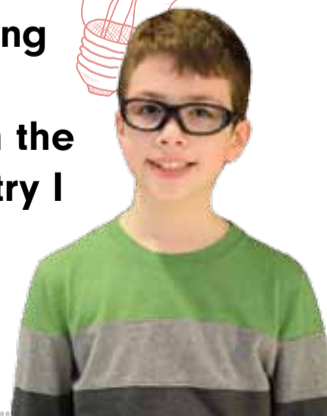
I don't give up, even when something is hard. One example was in traditional literature when we had to do irony.”

- Samuel Gluck, Grade 4



When I fail, it makes me want to try harder and motivates me to work harder. Instead of giving up, I kept trying and eventually got through the seventh-grade geometry I was challenging myself with.”

- Samuel Mora, Grade 6



I felt frustrated by fractions with division. But my teacher showed us different strategies and then I was able to do it.”

- Josephine Bautista, Grade 4



Mission:

The Mission of the Mineola Union Free School District is...

Start

...to pursue excellence

Lessons Through Jr. Lego League

For the past five years, third- and fourth-graders at Jackson Avenue have had the opportunity to participate in the Jr. Lego League Club with adviser Jennifer Dralle-Moreano.



This year, 48 students – four teams of six third-graders and four teams of six fourth-graders – participated in the club. The club meets each week for 14 weeks and then culminates with participation in a Jr. Lego League Expo each year. At meetings, students investigate a problem, research solutions, pick a team name, design a logo and then work together to build a possible solution. This year, the mission was to improve the travel of water.

At the expo, each team is reviewed on its presentation, which includes posterboards, and an explanation of its plan, as well as a Lego-built demonstration showing its solution.

Each team that participates receives an award for the area it most excelled in.

"These students are a great example of how some of our youngest are pursuing excellence through challenging and engaging activities that teach lessons utilized throughout their classes and beyond," Ms. Dralle-Moreano said. "This year, I think we all learned something new about the cycle of water – including me."

This year's teams each received one of the following awards:



Construction Innovation Award, Effort and Learning Award, Explosive Ideas Award, Journey Award and Outstanding Teamwork Award.

But in addition to the experience, students are gaining valuable, lifelong skills, including working as a team, 'gracious professionalism,' coding, problem-solving, researching and exercising their creativity.

...to inspire each student to be a life-long learner

Musical Creates Learning Opportunities

In March, Mineola High School's Drama Department and Thespian Troupe 276 presented its musical production of "The Pajama Game." With more than 350 students participating this year in grades 5-12, the musical offered a unique opportunity for students to be exposed to the many different fields and aspects of a career in musical/theatrical production. Participation also exposed students to many lifelong skills and developmental advantages, including self-expression, self-confidence, practicing communication skills, collaboration, thinking on your feet and problem-solving, as well as with specific skill sets, such as audio production, lighting and set design.

The musical was about conditions at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory, which are anything but peaceful as sparks fly between new superintendent Sid Sorokin, played by Jake Lenze, and leader of the union grievance

committee Babe Williams, played by Sarah Harty. Their stormy relationship comes to a head when the workers strike for a 7 ½-cent pay increase, setting off not only a conflict between management and labor, but a battle of the sexes as well.

"The Pajama Game" was awarded the 1955 Tony Award for Best Musical and over half a century later claimed the award for Best Revival of a Musical. Mineola's students did an outstanding job recreating that magic and gaining an invaluable learning experience.



...to exhibit strength of character

Building Character With Books

Seventh-grade health classes taught by Jerrill Critchley and Greg Mayo at Mineola Middle School focus a great deal on character education and building positive character traits. As a culminating project for students to illustrate what they have learned, while also giving back and helping others, students complete a children's character book project.

Working individually or in small groups, students create a story that teaches a lesson, such as honesty, loyalty, respect for others or positive decision-making. Once the story is in place, students illustrate their work and actually create books. These books are then taken to Jackson Avenue, where select seventh-graders share their original stories and lessons with the third- and fourth-graders.

The project provides a great opportunity for students in the district to connect with one another in a positive way and for the seventh-graders to act as role models for their younger counterparts.



Morgan Jones works on the storyline while partner Ashley Ferreira sketches out the illustrations for their story about a girl who is different from everyone, but makes a friend, and together they resolve bullying conflicts.

...and to contribute positively to a global society

Jumping Breaks Fundraising Records

Each year, kindergarten through second-graders in the district participate in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. The event helps the district's youngest learn the value of community service while becoming empowered to help fellow children who are suffering with heart issues. It also reinforces the importance of heart-healthy habits and maintaining a physically active lifestyle.



This year at Meadow Drive School, the students exceeded their fundraising goal and raised the most money to date - more than \$9,100. The Meadow Drive efforts are coordinated by physical education instructors Christine Gaydon and Jim Durso.

At Hampton Street School, Principal Margarita Maravel and physical education teachers Joseph Cerulli and Nick Tonini honored David Kurko, who raised the most money. The school community collected more than \$8,000 for the cause this year alone.



Finish

A Look at Our PTA

Within our district, there are seven PTA/PTO groups, made up of volunteers, who dedicate an immeasurable amount of time each year to making sure our students have even more enrichment activities than the standard budget will allow. The overall purpose of the PTA is

to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Essentially, they bridge the gap between school and community, and our district would be nothing without a supportive PTA.

Thank you to all who volunteer for our students.

PTA Highlights



The MMS Idol, hosted by the PTA, is an event that allows our students' talents to shine.



The PTAs each play a crucial role in helping coordinate activities and participation in many districtwide events, including Homecoming.



District Council PTA hosts a Cultural Arts Series each year. This is from a show called "Willy Wonka."



Each year, the High School PTSA hosts a Fall Clean-Out, which asks community members to donate clothing and household items they are no longer using.



SEPTA hosts a variety of events throughout the year that every student K-12 looks forward to.



To garner excitement about reading, each of the elementary buildings host PARP events every year. At left, Jackson Avenue's was set to the theme of the Wild West and Meadow Drive's (at right) to the theme of Emojis in the Possibilities.



\$5,000
Approx.

AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP MONIES AWARDED EACH YEAR FROM THE PTA

1951

THE YEAR DISTRICT COUNCIL PTA WAS FORMED



1,846

TOTAL NUMBER OF PTA MEMBERS DISTRICTWIDE

Alumni Spotlight

JOHN VALENTE, CLASS OF 2007

After breaking and setting school records for track, John Valente graduated from Mineola High School in 2007. "I was your average student who did sports and was friendly with everyone," he said. "My most notable memory was with my soccer and track coaches; they treated us like family. They gave us guidance on how you should act and they influenced me to be a better person."

In addition to sports, John spent his time in high school hanging out at Starlight Express

Entertainment, a DJ company that was a short walk from the school. Over time, he started to help out there and became interested in the music aspect of it. After receiving turntables as a gift from his mother, he started practicing from early morning until late at night. It took him two years to gain the skill and confidence, but he eventually started booking parties.

"The more I messed up, the more encouragement it gave me to work harder," John said of his determination. "I really learned



"My most notable memory was with my soccer and track coaches - Mr. Pereira, Mr. Cavalluzzo and Mr. Santamaria; they treated us like family. They gave us guidance on how you should act and they influenced me to be a better person."



from some top guys, and I eventually got better and started producing music."

By 2011, he was DJing with famous disc jockeys from around the world and working in many New York City clubs. To this day, John still produces records and talks to people all over the world.

"Music is my passion and always will be," he said. "It's what I always wanted to do. What keeps me from doing it fulltime is that there are always a lot of industry issues that skew your focus. But it's still my passion and I always want one of my records to get picked up."

After graduating from Mineola, John attended LIU Post and then transferred to Queens College. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in economics in May 2012 and started working as a buyer for Wesco in December 2012, and then at First Data a couple of years

later. Currently, he is a corporate accountant for a real estate investment firm in Manhattan.

"I always wanted to go into the finance world, and I got into accounting by accident," John said. "It just comes like second nature; you show me numbers, and I can analyze it. Numbers are easy for me."

John still lives in Mineola and participates in the alumni soccer game each year. He recently got back into training for the long jump and is hoping to participate in a competition by April/May. In his spare time, he likes to travel. His older brother, Ramon, is a 2004 graduate of Mineola High School.

"The best part about Mineola and the teachers is that they really care about your learning and go out of their way to help you succeed," John reflected. "Everyone is constantly helping to prepare you for your future."



1,000TH POINT

Congratulations to John McMahon. John has been an outstanding athlete at Mineola. As a basketball player he achieved a great milestone, scoring his 1,000th point in his final game of his career as a Mustang. On the lacrosse field John looks forward to an outstanding spring, knowing that he has locked in his future as a member of the Stony Brook University mens lacrosse team.



TOP BOWLER

Eighth-grader Phil Macchietto competed in the annual Nassau County Individual Bowling Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 10 at Garden City Bowl. This tournament is comprised of all the boys who averaged over a 200 for the 2017-18 season. This year, there were 21 bowlers competing to represent Nassau County in the state tournament that was held in Syracuse, New York, on March 10. To be on the Nassau County team you need to finish in the top six. Last year as a seventh-grader Phil was able to accomplish this feat and bowl in the state tournament, which is a six-game tournament format.



Phil Macchietto, who is pictured with coach Helmut Bohringer, is ranked fourth in the state in bowling.

Phil helped lead Nassau County's All-County Bowling Squad to a third-place finish in Syracuse. He had the best game of the tournament with a 266. Phil averaged an overall score of 200, making him the top bowler on the Nassau squad and earning him the rank of fourth in the state.

WINTER SPORT AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the winter season award recipients who were recognized at the spring pep rally in the gym.

Girls' Basketball

Meaghan McCaffrey	All-County
Erin Miller	All-Conference
Abigail Walters	All-County Honorable Mention
Julianne Wotruba	All-Conference

Boys' Basketball

Mustafa Abdelaziz	All-Conference A4
John McMahon	All-County A4

Boys' Bowling

Noah Love	All-Conference
Phil Macchietto	All-County

Boys' Winter Track

Gabe Silva	All-County – 1600m Second Place
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Wrestling

Ezequiel Claros	All-Conference
Jack Duff	All-Conference
Juan Flores	All-Conference
Matheus Silva	All-Conference
Ryan Sullivan	All-Conference
Ericson Velasquez	All-Conference

WINTER SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAMS

Girls Basketball
Girls Bowling
Boys Indoor Track
Girls Indoor Track



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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 Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion, Ph.D., *Vice President*
 Brian Widman, Cheryl Lampasona, Patrick Talty *Trustees*

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