



Outreach

WWW.MINEOLA.K12.NY.US

THE *Mustang* HAS ARRIVED!



In a special ceremony on May 13, Mineola High School officially accepted and acknowledged the donation of a mustang statue for the front of the school. The mustang statue was originally situated at Jericho Turnpike and Mineola Boulevard. The donation, move and beautification of the mustang was made possible by many members of the community, including: Avelino and Tony DeSousa; Justin Burke and Daniel Correia from Winthrop- University Hospital; Lou Caruso of J&L Concrete; Big Apple Building Supply; the Village of Mineola mayor, deputy mayor and trustees; and Winthrop University Hospital. The new mustang stands proudly in front of the school's main flagpole.

Eighth Year as Best Community for Music

For the eighth consecutive year, Mineola has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Mineola is one of 476 districts across the country to receive this prestigious award for 2016.

The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that serve as a model for other districts and demonstrate outstanding achievement in their efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

"Our students are the beneficiaries of a community that supports music and the arts," said district Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts Joseph Owens. "Receiving this award for eight consecutive years is a true testament to our community's belief in a well-rounded education for all students. This recognition is a true credit to all members of the Mineola UFSD community - students, parents, teachers, the administration and the Board of Education."

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Mr. Owens answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. Responses were verified by school officials and reviewed by the Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

"I myself had walked passed this statue many times and have always admired its regal beauty," Board of Education President Christine Napolitano said. "The Board and I are extremely thankful. We know that many wonderful memories will be made and photographed before this statue."



Why THE *Mustang*

The origin of association between Mineola and its now iconic mustang has evolved since as early as 1940. In the 1940s, the teams were known as the maroons, reflective of the school colors. In the 1950s, they became known as the Chiefs, for the Native American origins of our village namesake. At that time, the chief was depicted as riding a mustang.

By 1960, the high school's wrestling team began referring to themselves as "the mustang men," and as the decade progressed, all of the teams began to call themselves the Mustangs.

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

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MINEOLA U.F.S.D.

Superintendent Speaks at TEDx

Dr. Michael P. Nagler, superintendent of schools, was one of 20 speakers at the Digital Promise GVS Summit in April. His speech, "Why Education Should Be More Like Pizza," was featured as a TEDx talk and can be viewed via a link on the district's website, www.mineola.k12.ny.us. Dr. Nagler was the only speaker from New York at the event, and spoke to an audience of approximately 3,000 guests.



Flags for Good Air

In a joint partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, Mineola High School has become the first school in New York State to participate in the School Flags Program. Designed to track air quality index levels, the program asks participating schools to raise a flag each day based upon the area's air quality index. The goal is to protect students' health while

providing a learning opportunity as they track and measure local air quality levels. Mineola's Environmental Club, AP Environmental Science class and life skills classes are all assisting in the venture, which kicked off with a special ceremony on April 21.

"We're very lucky to work with a forward-thinking administration that provides our students with opportunities for learning both inside and outside the classroom," said Principal Dr. Whitney Smith during the ceremony.

Each morning when school was in session, participating classes visited a specific website and analyzed local air quality. The group then raised one of four flags: a green flag indicated good air quality, yellow indicated acceptable air quality with low risk, orange is moderate-risk and indicates a possible air quality issue for sensitive groups such as those with allergies/asthma, and a red flag would indicate unhealthy conditions.

Mineola was chosen to launch the project in New York State due to a connection with a 1997 graduate who is now in charge of special projects at the EPA. It will continue in the fall.



Good Neighbor Grant

Nancy Regan and Eileen Burke of Mineola High School's Falk-Sysak Student Service Center joined Thomas O'Malley, of the Greentree Good Neighbor Fund, at the Greentree Foundation's annual luncheon held on the Whitney estate in Manhasset. The Greentree Good Neighbor Fund was founded in 2003 and has awarded more than \$2 million to organizations serving Town of North Hempstead residents. The Student Service Center

received a \$5,000 grant to continue its outstanding community service initiatives that help the Mineola community. It provides high school students with volunteer opportunities to over 14 different programs.



Pictured (l-r): Nancy Regan, Thomas O'Malley and Eileen Burke.

Leadership Training

Mineola High School students Sarah McCarthy and Christa Post recently had the opportunity to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Conference in Riverhead. This three-day intensive program featured engaging and powerful speakers as well as team building activities such as Twister, balloon games and creating a group commercial, among others.

"RYLA helped me come out of my shell, express who I am and develop leadership skills," Sarah said. Christa loved the overall experience and meeting new people. "The facilitators were amazing; and the other students I met have become lasting friends," she said.





Congratulations *Class of* 2016

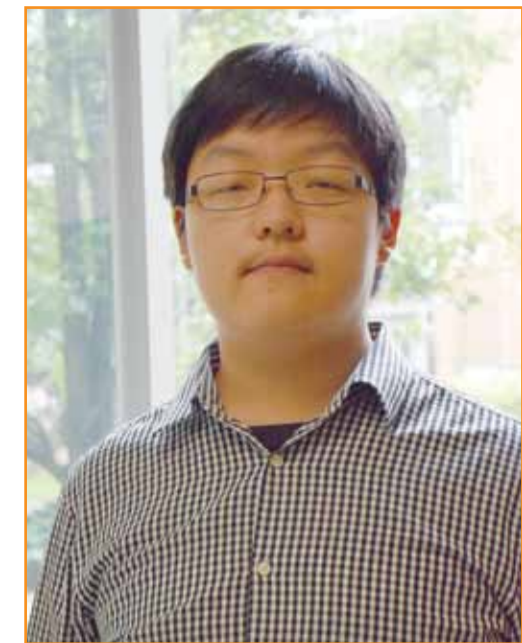


Mission:

The mission of the Mineola Union Free School District is to inspire each student to be a life-long learner, pursue excellence, exhibit strength of character and contribute positively to a global society.

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

- 85% of the Class of 2016 are going on to a two- or four-year college.
- Among the top colleges our students have been accepted to are: Binghamton University, Boston University, University of California, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Connecticut, University of Delaware, Fordham University - Lincoln Center Campus/Rose Hill Campus, University of Michigan, Northeastern University, Pennsylvania State University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education of the CUNY, SUNY College at Geneseo and Syracuse University.



Dan Rhim

"There is always more to learn, and clubs at the high school allowed me to do more things I enjoy while gaining more knowledge. The more I learned the better I got. We're always going to get new opportunities in life, and the best thing we can do is take those opportunities and learn from them."

Start

...exhibit strength of character

- 53% of the Class of 2016 were involved in extracurricular activities.
- 40% of the graduates participated on an athletic team.



Pratibha Anand

"When I first came to the high school, I was really shy. Teachers really got me talking, provided me with support and gave me the confidence to become more involved. And the more involved I got, the more I opened up and made more friends. The feedback I got from teachers really helped push me to develop myself and assume more leadership roles."

Kyle Kern



"Excellence is about always doing better for yourself, not against another's measure. Pursuing excellence has shaped my future; I wanted to make sure to utilize all I have learned and achieved, so I'm majoring in civil engineering in college. I feel it is what I can do to achieve excellence for myself and live up to my own standards."

...pursue excellence,

- 55% of the graduating class have taken an Advanced Placement course.
- 71% of the Class of 2016 are graduating with an Advanced Regents diploma. An additional 26.7% are graduating with a Regents diploma.

...and contribute positively to a global society

- 30% of the Class of 2016 were members of the Student Service Center.
- This year alone, the graduates completed nearly 1,000 community service hours.

Julianne Ortiz

"When you volunteer, the time you give, gives back. I always felt a concern for people, which really enabled me to bond with people over a common interest. The Student Service Center allowed me to help people and understand them more and has really shaped my plans for the future."



Finish

Class of 2016 Top 10



Valedictorian
Katie Shi
*Carnegie Mellon
Mechanical Engineering*



Christin Candela
*Quinnipiac University
Health Sciences*



Salutatorian
Marissa Karasz
*New York Institute of
Technology*



Linda Jin
*Adelphi University
Business*



Catherine Leong
*Stony Brook University
Biology*



Madison Brady
*Penn State University
Marketing*



Claudia Serna
*Sophie Davis
Medicine*



Gina Koros
*Stony Brook University
Bio/Pre-Med*



Kyle Kern
*Stony Brook University
Engineering*



John Rhim
*Boston University
Computer Science*

AROUND *the* Schools



Battle of Classes Ties to Community

In its first Battle of the Classes competition, Mineola High School classes and teacher teams went head-to-head in several exciting events to benefit the school's Student Organization Scholarship Fund and individual classes. Following a week of spirit activities, including a Twitter contest, the teams battled it out in a friendly competition of scooter races, freeze dancing, hula hoop contests, tug of war and a community service component of speed sandwich making to benefit the INN.



Awarded for Writing

Congratulations to Mineola Middle School seventh-grader Catherine Winski for being recognized with a Regional Award in the 2016 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Competition. Catherine was awarded the Silver Key in two categories: short story and humor. More than 320,000 works were submitted to the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards nationwide, and only the top 40% received some level of recognition.

Catherine also submitted a piece of writing to the Long Island Language Arts Council and won first place for grade seven in the 2016 Kenneth F. Gambone Writing Contest. The writing was in response to the prompt "Because kindness matters..." Catherine had her themed writing piece published in the luncheon program given by LILAC in May.



Certified Fitness

The physical education department at Hampton Street School awarded four second-grade students certificates for their outstanding performance in physical education class throughout the 2015-2016 school year. Physical education teachers Joe Cerulli and Nick Tonini honored Amanda Baker, Harrison Kearns, Jack Sweeney and Keira Vescovi for their excellent effort. Congratulations to the students!



Walk for Water

Following a unit on water scarcity in other countries, third-graders at Jackson Avenue participated in the school's Walk for Water. For the second consecutive year, students were asked to bring in a gallon bottle of water, which they carried during the walk to represent the long distances those in other countries have to make in order to get fresh water.

Following the walk, the bottles were donated to Island Harvest to benefit communities on Long Island. Approximately 200 gallons of water were donated as a result of the walk.



Living Zoo

Following a nonfiction unit on animals, first-grade students in Mrs. Wilson's class at Meadow Drive School became experts on their researched animal and created a living zoo. To prepare for the event, students visited a zoo and learned about exhibits and the type of information that a zoo provides on each animal. First-graders then created costumes at home and presented their information in a zoo-like format for visitors. Visitors included other students from the building, who came to learn fun facts about a variety of different animals.





The 2015-16 athletic seasons culminated on June 13 at the Chateau Briand Catering Hall, where the Booster Club held its Varsity Award Banquet for more than 300 parents and athletes. Through their diligent efforts, Booster Club parents and volunteers raised funds to pay for the athletes to attend this fine evening. Highlights of the evening included the presentation of team awards by varsity coaches, as well as several special awards, including the coaches' Old Reliable Award, the Booster Club Sportsmanship Award and the Mineola Athlete of the Year.

Athlete of the Year

1. Michael Bowen
2. Mallory Donelan

Old Reliable Awards

1. Velencia Hurd
2. Jason Sinert

Mineola Athletics Sportsmanship Awards

1. Matthew Kosowski
2. Emily Skupp

Mineola Booster Club Senior Scholarships

1. Christopher Alexander
2. Madison Brady
3. Marissa Buonincontro
4. Steven DePalma
5. Emma Fater
6. Tara Maloney
7. Colin Renner
8. Mackenzie Schnaufer

Physical Education Students of the Year

1. Tara Maloney
2. Matthew Tavernite



Sports Reminders

Sports begin:

- HS Football – Monday, Aug. 15
- HS Fall Sports – Monday, Aug. 22
- Modified Sports – Tuesday, Sept. 6

Sport physical dates at the high school are as follows:

- Tuesday, Aug. 9, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 16, 9 a.m.

District calendars are slated for delivery in mid-August to the homes of all residents who have a child currently enrolled in the district. For those who do not have a child in the district, but would like a school calendar, please contact Edward Escobar at 237-2039 after Aug. 20.



Publication Coordinator: Danielle Lambert

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Christine Napolitano, *President*
- Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion, Ph.D., *Vice President*
- Nicole Matzer, Brian Widman, Cheryl Lampasona *Trustees*

Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*