



Outreach

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BADGE Books



"I'm excited because I like to learn and it's fun to use the iPads."
- Becker Andrade, Kindergarten (Hampton)



"I'm excited to fill up my book with badges. Especially the bucketfiller one."
- Christopher Wan, Kindergarten Dual-Language (Meadow)



"I want to learn new things and fill up my whole book."
- Lucy Ambrose, Kindergarten Dual-Language (Meadow)

A new kindergarten initiative, Badge Books, is redefining how our district's youngest students are taking responsibility for their learning.

Designed by a team of teachers led by Sara Ortiz this past summer, the Badge Books are a replacement to the standard three-times-a-year report card for kindergartners and will provide a unique three-way method of communication between parents, teachers and students.

"We are always looking to strike an effective balance of play, fun and learning for our youngest students while making sure they achieve their goals," Ms. Ortiz said. "Typically, that conversation was between only the parent and the teacher but this book, utilizing stickers to track progress, will make the students able to be part of that conversation and understand their goals. The book really brings to life the standards in a way that is understandable and accessible to everyone."

Badge Books will provide students a way to visually track their progress towards mastering a skill or concept and allow for parents, students and the teacher to see that progress as it happens. Each badge contains a description of the criteria that must be achieved to earn that badge, as well as how students will be assessed. For parents, it also provides suggestions on how to practice each skill or concept at home and support their child's progress in a fun and interactive way. Pages are also designated for comments, communication and progress monitoring between parents and teachers as students bring these books

back and forth from home to school at least eight times throughout the year.

"What's important to note is that every student will be earning these badges at a different rate and each student will be celebrated for who they are as they master each skill," Ms. Ortiz said. "No longer is everyone getting the same report card at the same time, with students left out of the conversation."

Teachers will also be digitally tracking each student's progress within the badges to enable differentiated instruction and appropriate goal setting for each individual student.

Students can earn badges in all subject areas, including in specials, through parent communication and by supporting the district's mission. Books are accessible on the district's website under the Parents/Students tab as Badge Books. These books have also been produced for the district's pre-K students, as well as a special version for the dual-language kindergarten classes.



Mineola Union Free School District
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INTEGRATING CURRICULUM, K-7

Mineola takes a unique approach to integrating its curriculum while meeting Next Generation ELA Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and New York Social Studies Framework. In addition, our teachers are always incorporating the district's writing initiative, dual-language initiative, growth mindset and educational technology into all lessons. So how do we do it all?

There is a lot of planning that takes place and we deliberately design a "story" that connects the different social studies, science and ELA standards and concepts through a common theme within grade-appropriate units.

Example:

Grade 6, Unit 1 – Age-Old Conflicts in Eastern Hemisphere

Essential Question: How do we learn from obstacles?

Social Studies focus is The Middle East – How did we get here?

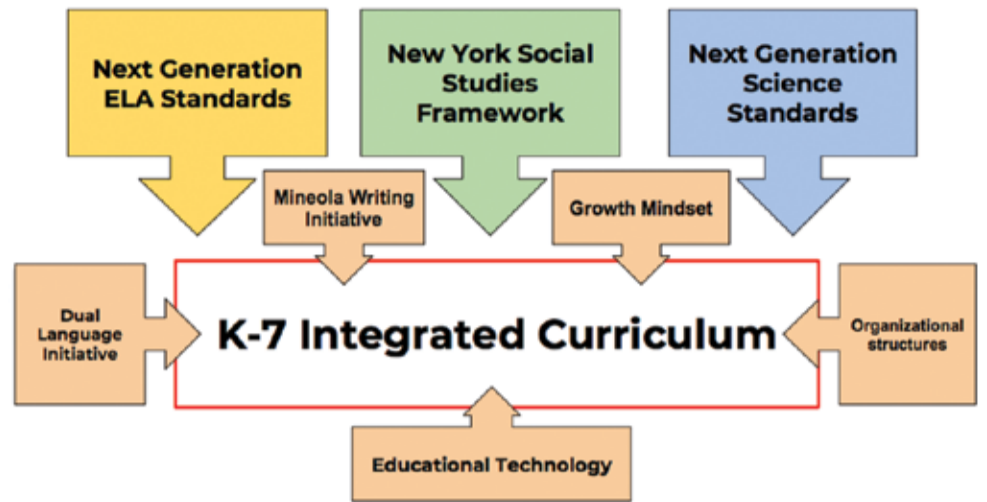
ELA focus is – Will there be resolution?

Technology is embedded in every unit through any of our integrated curriculum partners such as eSpark, Footsteps2Brilliance, Frontier, KidOYO, Raz-Kids and ST Math. These tools allow for differentiated instruction as well as choices in what pathway an individual student may need to reach their highest potential.

"When we asked the teachers to describe their best lessons and units, they all described lessons that incorporated integrated units," Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Matthew Gaven said. "We then asked

ourselves, why can't we design the entire curriculum this way? This integrated curriculum embraces all of the standards in a fun, engaging and meaningful way for our students."

This is the first year the district is rolling out this formal approach for K-7 instruction.



Capital Improvements



Through the use of community-approved capital reserve expenditures, the district is always improving its facilities for students, staff and the community at large.

These are some of the projects finished this summer, or that were started and are still underway:

- Extension at Hampton (ongoing).
- Pre-K bathrooms at Hampton.
- Baseball field at Middle School.
- New library flooring at Middle School.
- Reconfiguration of main office/guidance office at Middle School.
- Library renovation at Jackson Avenue.
- New doors and locks at High School.
- Panic buttons and strobe lights districtwide.



New to Our District

The district welcomed approximately 20 new teachers and student-teachers to the district at its annual New Teacher Orientation on Wednesday, Aug. 29. The purpose of the orientation is to acquaint the new staff with the district, its procedures and its mission.

Congratulations and welcome to the following new staff:

- Steven Benner – dean of discipline at Mineola Middle School
- Natalie Camacho – ELA/ENL at Mineola High School
- Richard Cardenas – social studies/Spanish at Mineola Middle School
- Jillian Edwards – math at Mineola High School
- Marta Fernandez – social worker
- Lauren Goldfarb – business education at Mineola Middle School
- Alexandra Levine – ELA/special education at Mineola High School
- Elissa Olivera – leave replacement at Hampton Street School
- Aislinn Oliveri – theater at Mineola High School
- Erika Pena – elementary dual-language at Jackson Avenue School
- Gina Principato – elementary teacher at Jackson Avenue School
- Stephen Raimondi – social studies/spec. education at Mineola High School

The district also welcomes its student-teachers from Adelphi University: Angelica Bianco, Ariel Catalanotti, Maggie Hardiman, Meghan Kingsley, Elizabeth Messin, Brianna Rafferty, Paula Spatz and Marisa Tyd.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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