



Outreach

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Welcome, New Administrators and Faculty

On Aug. 29, the district officially welcomed our newest team members for the 2023-24 school year, including administrators, teachers, staff and college residents.

With the support of district leadership, the new staff participated in the annual orientation day, which started at the Synergy Building with a deep dive into the Mineola mission and culture, as well as procedures, policies and other information to help facilitate a smooth transition to our schools starting on day one. The team then boarded a school bus and departed for a series of tours of the district's school facilities.

Welcome to the following individuals:

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| <p>Mineola High School:
Caitlin Anetrella – Science/Special Education
Victoria Badalucco – Math (Leave Replacement)
Steven Braut-Doherty – Science
Jenny Bravo – Bilingual Math
Peter Capanelli – Science
Jessica Carlson – Science
Demetra Kouspos – Science
Peter Macedo – Foreign Language (Leave Replacement)
Michael McShane – Computer Science
Alessandria Passarella – Math</p> <p>Synergy@MHS:
Chris Amato – English
Toby Klein - Science
Kristin Nicolai – Math</p> | <p>Mineola Middle School:
Alexandra Deliso – Part Time English
Jillian Hajek – Math (Leave Replacement)</p> <p>Jackson Avenue:
Iris Luna – 4th Grade Bilingual Dual Language
John Rivera – 3rd Grade Bilingual Dual Language</p> <p>Hampton Street:
Sarah Greene – Special Education Teacher
Monica Sanchez – Kindergarten Bilingual Dual Language
Tina Tudisco – Pre-K Elementary (Leave Replacement)</p> |
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- Meadow Drive:**
Caitlin Calio – Special Education
Kristin Knipfing – Speech
Emely Maldonado – 2nd Grade Bilingual Elementary (Leave Replacement)
- Adelphi Residents:**
Margaret Hall
Jordyn Hershman
Emily Incammicia
Gabriella Sferrazza
Alyssa Theofanis

Meet Your New Supervisor of Physical Education, Health and Athletics

With the retirement of Ralph Amitrano, the bright Mineola athletics torch has been passed to Christopher McCann, the new supervisor of physical education, health and athletics.



Mr. McCann joins us after a decade at Great Neck Public Schools where he served as physical/adapted physical education teacher, health teacher and varsity coach, educating students from pre-K through 12th grade. He has served as vice president of the Nassau County Soccer Officials Association and director of the Nassau County College Showcase. He holds a B.S. in physical education and health education and an M.A. in physical education/adapted PE from Adelphi University, as well as an advanced certificate in educational leadership from LIU Post. He looks forward to working with the team to motivate and inspire students so they not only become successful individuals in the classroom and on the field, but meaningful contributors to the community.

New High School Administrators

Mineola is proud to welcome back Edward Escobar, who has resumed his place at the helm of Mineola High School, serving as interim principal for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. Escobar rejoins the district after retiring out of Syosset School District, where he served as assistant superintendent for human resources since November 2020. With more than 38 years in education and nearly 20 of those in Mineola, he is a proven leader who has deep roots in the Mineola Community. During his time with the district, Mr. Escobar has held positions including director of guidance, assistant principal at MHS, principal for 10 years at MHS and assistant superintendent for human resources for five years. We are thrilled to have him back!



In addition, David Bodner has been added as the new high school dean. Mr. Bodner joins us after 11 years as a PE and health teacher in Brooklyn where he oversaw the behavior management team and served as the coordinator of the high school transition, community service and career readiness programs. He has a B.A. in psychology from Amherst College, a master's in physical education/teacher education at Adelphi University and earned the advanced certificate in school building leadership at St. John's University. Mr. Bodner has experience coaching high school soccer, track, basketball and softball and was a member of the football team at Amherst College.



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

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District Honored With Two NYSSBA Champions of Change Awards

The district has been honored with Champions of Change awards by the New York State School Boards Association for two innovative computer science programs. The district was recognized for its Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles course and the new Cybersecurity Pathway.

The awards, which were presented to Board of Education members at a ceremony on June 5, are a testament to Mineola's efforts to expand the equity and accessibility of computer science programs that are college and career focused and offer both classroom and asynchronous learning opportunities.

The Champions of Change recognition celebrates programs in school districts across New York State that optimize existing resources to address issues of equity, demonstrate strong student academic performance and introduce unique learning environments that are cutting edge and future oriented.



Members of the Mineola Board of Education were presented with Champion of Change awards for two innovative computer science programs at a ceremony in June. (L-R): NYSSBA Area 11 Director Robert "B.A." Schoen, Mineola BOE trustee Stacey DeCillis, trustee Cheryl Lampasona, Board President Dr. Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion and trustee Brian Widman.

● Capital Improvements *Districtwide* ●

Mineola is consistently budgeting with a multiyear outlook and a lens on the evolving needs of our learners. We are always balancing the needs of our aging buildings and their impact on taxpayers. In fact, you may notice our Middle School gym not completed as quickly as planned. That is because we are rejecting bids for work that have come in too high.

We are proud of our planning, which has allowed us to consistently improve our buildings and learning environments without the need for a bond or additional tax impact to our residents. Here, we share some of the more recent projects that have been undertaken as part of our ongoing facilities improvement plan and built into our low-impact budgets.

We will continue to keep you informed on the progress of all capital work at Board meetings throughout the year. If you are not able to attend a Board meeting, you can tune in via the livestream link on our website or you can access presentations on the Board presentations tab.

We thank the entire community for their continued support of our schools.

Mineola High School

- Three classrooms renovated, including ceiling and floor replacements.
- RISE room renovations.
- Unit ventilator replacement (using ARP funds).

Synergy@MHS

- Gender-neutral bathrooms.
- Basement egress installed.

Middle School

- New gym.
 - o Phase 1A demo completed (boys and girls locker rooms, balcony and weight room).
 - o Foundation work to be completed in fall 2023.
- Locker replacements.
- Fire alarm upgrade.
- PA system upgrade.
- Third-floor renovation.
- Water heater replacement.

Jackson Avenue

- Entranceway and columns restored.

Hampton Street

- Eight classrooms renovated, including ceiling and floor replacements.
- RISE classroom casework.
- Roof replaced.

Meadow Drive

- Kitchen refresh.
- Classroom sink cabinetry throughout building.

Former Cross Street School Building

- Sidewalk replacement, ADA ramp and new stoop.
- Seal coat and stripe in main parking lot.
- Asphalt play area extension and seal coating.
- Replacement of backstop fence and fence section by dumpster.
- Basement access-door replacement.



Hampton Ceiling and Floor



Jackson Avenue Entranceway and Columns



MS 3rd Floor Renovation with New Lockers



Meadow Kitchen



HS RISE Room



MS New Gym Foundation



Meadow Kitchen



HS RISE Room

Marching Band *Travels Through Space and Time*



After an undefeated 2022-23 season and bringing home the Small School Division 1 championship for the first time in Mineola history, the Mineola Mustangs High School Marching Band is preparing for Lift Off and hoping to make history again with their new show, "Odyssey: Through Space and Time," featuring music composed by our very own Mineola staff.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion, Ph.D., *President*
Patrick Talty, *Vice President*

Brian Widman, Cheryl Lampasona, Stacey DeCillis *Trustees*

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