



Outreach

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Mineola Middle School is Only in NY to Win Student Voices Award

Mineola Middle School has been awarded the top 2019 Student Voices Award by The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA). MMS was chosen for its ability to leverage technology to dramatically improve the educational experience and achievement of its students. This is the first time in the award's history that a New York School has won.

After completion of a rigorous application process, Mineola Middle School was chosen for its dedication to digital learning and support of individual student needs via project-based learning. As a winner, it will receive the Elsie Brumback "From Honored Founder to Future Citizen" Scholarship, which allows it to bring a team of students and educators to present at the annual SETDA Leadership Summit and tour of Washington, D.C. in

November.

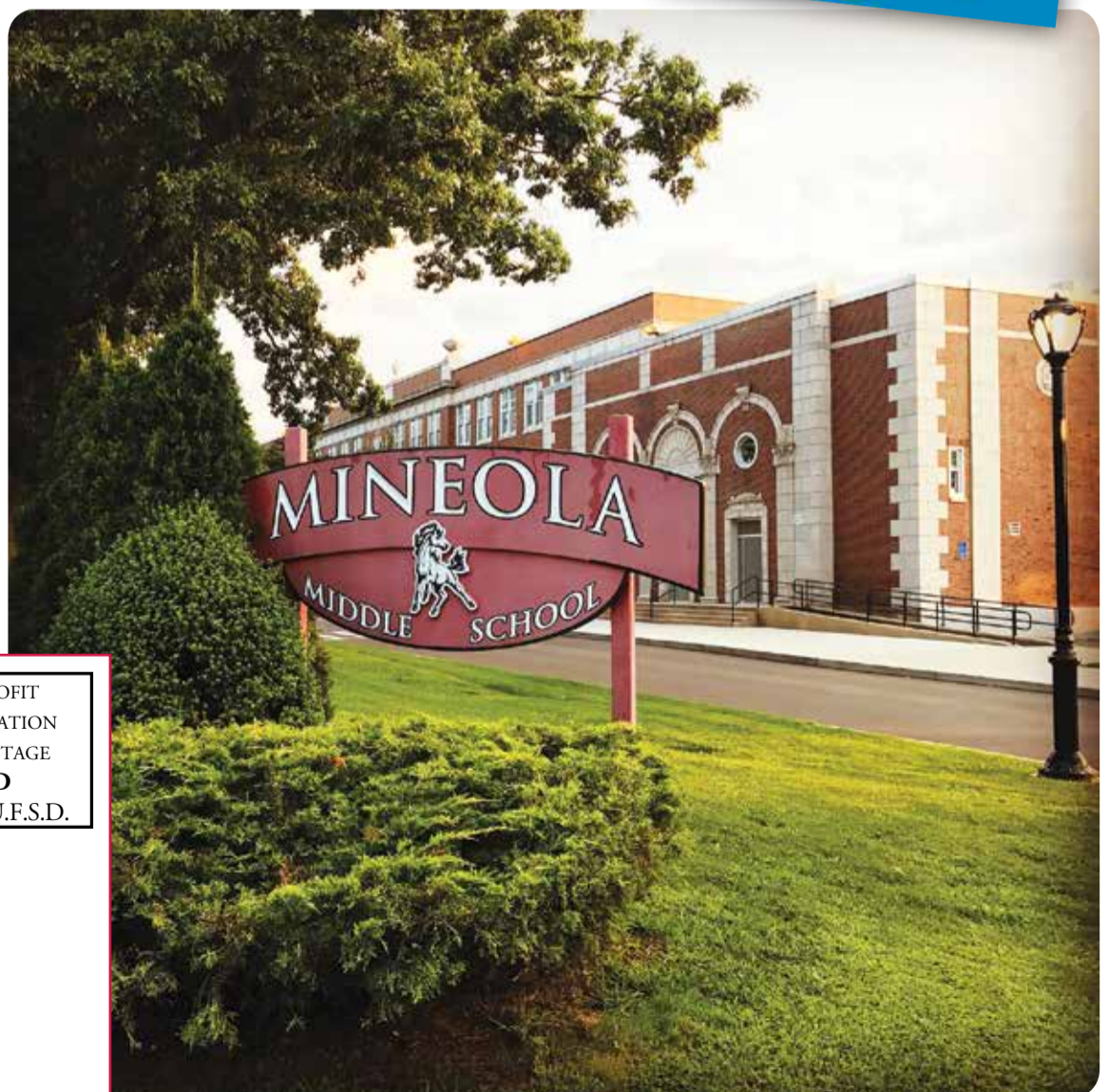
"Mineola Middle School is very excited to be recognized for its commitment to integrating educational technology into instructional practices, embedding hands-on design thinking experiences to engage students in collaborative group work and enhancing student experience through meaningful partnerships with the surrounding community,"

Principal Andrew Casale said. "We look forward to the opportunity to attend and present at the SETDA Leadership Summit. Our students, our greatest ambassadors for the teaching and learning taking place in

our school, will benefit from the opportunity to speak about and reflect on their process: the obstacles they faced, the solutions they were able to propose and their impact on a community initiative."

Mineola Middle School was also recently one of a select group of schools nationwide that were named to The National Forum's Schools to Watch for 2019. The honor recognizes schools for

their continued commitment to enhancing school program and practices.



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Pre-K Goes Full Day for All

Mineola School District has become the first on Long Island to offer full-day pre-K to all residents. The district has been offering a full day UPK program at Harbor Day located at Willis Avenue since 2011-2012. Students became eligible for this program via a lottery. The success of the UPK program led to a commitment from the Board of Education to fund a full day program for all students.

"Expansion into full-day pre-K was always our goal," Deputy Superintendent Matthew Gaven said. "We find real value in beginning to educate our students as early as possible."

The district now has nearly 200 students enrolled in the full day program. The students are divided into three attendance zones at either Hampton, Meadow, or Harbor Day School located at Willis Avenue School.

"I like going on the slide and playing on the playground."
-Maeven, Hampton Street Pre-K



"I learned how to write my name and draw myself."
-Zachary, Meadow Drive Pre-K



"I learned the ABCs. My favorite thing is playing."
-Giovanni, Hampton Street Pre-K



"I'm learning how to be a good listener."
-Elena, Hampton Street Pre-K



"My favorite thing is the block center. I like to build blocks."
-Cian, Meadow Drive Pre-K



"I like playing in the kitchen area. So far I've learned how to take a nap."
-Abygail, Meadow Drive Pre-K



In an effort to "right size" our buildings and accommodate our full-day pre-K program, the district has been expanding the Meadow Drive and Hampton Street schools. Pictured here is the nearly complete Hampton pre-K wing and new cafeteria extension.

"Children are so advanced that this new structure enables us to better prepare them for the rigor of kindergarten. It also helps them learn how to socialize and behave in school, as well as what the expectations are in a classroom setting."

-Ms. Patty Pearsall, pre-K teacher at Meadow Drive



"There was a lot of pressure in the half-day kindergarten ready. Now, there is just more time for our students to learn things authentically through play, which is a much better method of learning for them at this age."

-Ms. Christine O'Grady, pre-K teacher at Hampton Street



Pictured here, one of the completed pre-K rooms at Hampton Street School. These rooms are designed with structured play and learning engagement in mind.



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