



NOV. 10 CAPITAL RESERVE VOTE

Outreach

WWW.MINEOLA.K12.NY.US

Project Details

HAMPTON STREET SCHOOL

- Addition of New Cafeteria/All-Purpose Room
- Addition of New Classrooms
- Creation of Bus Loop with Parking
- Synthetic Turf Football Field
- Installation of Field Lighting and New Concession Stand

TOTAL: APPROX. \$5 MILLION

MINEOLA HIGH SCHOOL

- Renovation of Technology/Fabrication Lab for Robotics
- Additional Storage for Student Projects
- New Multi-Sport Synthetic Turf Regulation Field
- Replacement of Running Track to 382m Track

TOTAL: APPROX. \$2 MILLION

Key Factors

- No bond is required, saving taxpayers an estimated \$2.5 million over 15 years.
- Due to the curriculum-based components of each project, the entire \$7 million will be state aidable at a return rate of 15%.
- After completion of this project (and an upcoming energy performance plan), the district will have addressed most items on its Building Conditions Survey.
- Community organizations and teams, in addition to many student teams, will benefit from the new athletic field(s) and track.

CAPITAL PROJECTS PLANNED FOR COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

In a comprehensive plan addressing safety concerns, better quality fields for community use and the enhancement of facilities for students, the Board of Education unanimously adopted a resolution to seek voter approval on expending money from the district's capital reserve fund. With projects planned for Hampton Street School and Mineola High School, the \$7 million expenditure would carry **NO additional cost to taxpayers.**

The capital reserve fund, which acts as a savings account for the district, was established by voters in 2010. Since the fund was established by voters, it requires a vote for money to be expended from the account; however, the money can only be used on capital projects. It is important to note that this capital reserve has not reached its maximum allowable funding and can continue to be funded in future years.

Presentations detailing the full scope of the projects, as well as information on how to register to vote and absentee ballot information, are available online at www.mineola.k12.ny.us.

"It has always been the Board's goal to be in a position where we save money to pay for projects instead of borrowing and paying interest."

– Board President
Christine Napolitano

**VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 10
6:00 AM to 9:00 PM**

**@ Jackson Avenue and
Meadow Drive Schools
(Depending on Your Zip Code)**

Election District #1

Polling Place:

Jackson Avenue School
All those portions of the school district which are located within U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 11501 and 11040.

Election District #2

Polling Place:

Meadow Drive School
All those portions of the school district which are located within U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 11507, 11577 and 11596.

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

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FIRST TIME HONORS

Five Mineola High School students have been selected for the 2016 American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division Honor Choirs. To be considered, students from 11 states underwent a process of blind auditions. Twelve students from MHS applied for the choir, and this is the first year Mineola has boasted any acceptances.

Congratulations to senior Felicia Villa and sophomores Nathan Bischoff, Sarah Carbain, Katrine Gulina and Jake Lenze on being the first in Mineola history to be selected for this prestigious musical honor.

The Eastern Division Honor Choirs will perform Feb. 10-13 in Boston.

ALL-STATE MUSICIAN

Congratulations to senior Felicia Villa, who has been selected to perform in the All-State Music Festival of the 2015 NYSSMA Winter Conference in December. She was chosen for this prestigious honor based on the proficiency she demonstrated at NYSSMA auditions last May. Felicia will be performing as a soprano II in the festival's mixed choir.



NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLAR

Mineola High School senior Claudia Serna has been named a Scholar in the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program, designed to recognize outstanding academic achievement among Hispanic and Latino high school students.

The NHRP recognizes 5,000 academically outstanding students of Hispanic and Latino origin each year. Qualification for recognition as a Scholar is based on the student's combined math, verbal and writing scores on the PSAT/NMSQT taken in his or her junior year of high school, as well as a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students who earn this designation have scored in the top 2.5

percent among Hispanic and Latino test takers in the region.

In addition to this honor, Claudia has been named an AP Scholar with Honor and is a member of the National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Though the NHRP does not offer any financial award, the names of qualifying students are provided to admissions offices at colleges and universities throughout the country to encourage schools to recruit Hispanic and Latino students and provide financial assistance.

The district congratulates Claudia on this fine distinction.

AP Scholars

More than 50 current and former Mineola High School students have been recognized by the College Board as AP Scholars due to their outstanding success on Advanced Placement exams. Students took AP exams in May 2015 after completing challenging college-level courses in the district in a variety of subjects.

According to the College Board's website, the AP Program offers willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to take college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement or both for successful performance on the AP exams. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on these exams.

This is the highest number of National AP Scholars that MHS has ever had.

Congratulations to the following students:

National AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Alisha Cheung* | John Murray* |
| Catherine Cunningham* | Charlotte Ring* |
| Monika Dharia* | Craig Vande Stouwe* |
| Nathaniel Levy* | Michael Woytysiak* |

AP Scholar with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Pamela Alvarez* | Cristina Mirao* |
| Gregory Canell* | Cristina Pinto* |
| Jennifer Godinho* | Nadia Razick* |
| Rebecca Katinas* | Dhiviya Samuel* |
| Rebecca Levy* | Sophia Villa* |

AP Scholar with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| William Andrade* | Dan Rhim |
| Sandeep Bharti* | John Rhim |
| Brandon Durham* | Claudia Serna |
| Ana Gomes* | Scott Shannon* |
| Linda Jin | Tyler Villalona* |
| Kyle Kern | Joseph Wales* |
| Arya Lahijani* | Allison Yarri* |
| Catherine Leong | |

AP Scholar

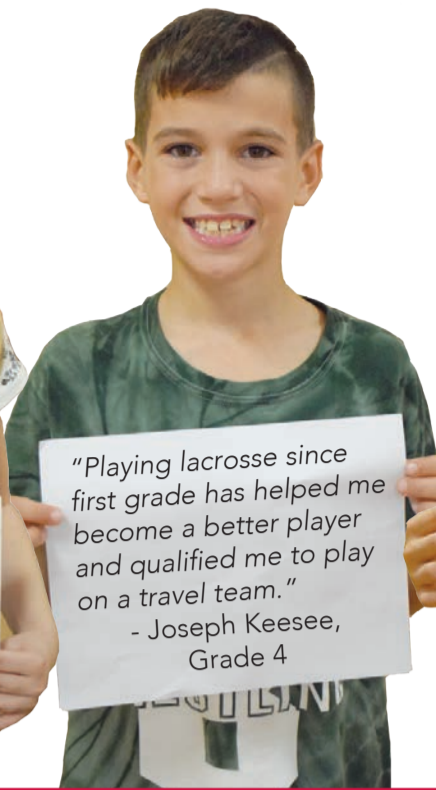
Granted to students who receive a score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Pratibha Anand | Joshua Kompancaril* |
| Erin Beatty* | Emma McGeown* |
| Kelly Behan* | Matthew Milwood |
| Sanskriti Bimal | Vithushan Nimalan* |
| Nathan Blaine | Hugo Renzzo Olcese |
| Daniela Borges | Julianne Ortiz |
| Madison Brady | Dominic Paggi* |
| Elizabeth Brown* | Sara Pires* |
| Kayleigh Bugalla | Alexandria Scala |
| Julianna Caruso* | Katie Shi |
| Brian Darmstadt* | Anand Varghese* |
| Ryan Eccher* | Joslynee Vernon* |
| Lauren Jenkins | Amy Wetzel* |
| Marissa Karasz | Madison Wolf* |

* denotes the student graduated



"I use my head to help me think about answers."
- Gianna Leggio, Grade 1, Hampton



"Playing lacrosse since first grade has helped me become a better player and qualified me to play on a travel team."
- Joseph Keese, Grade 4

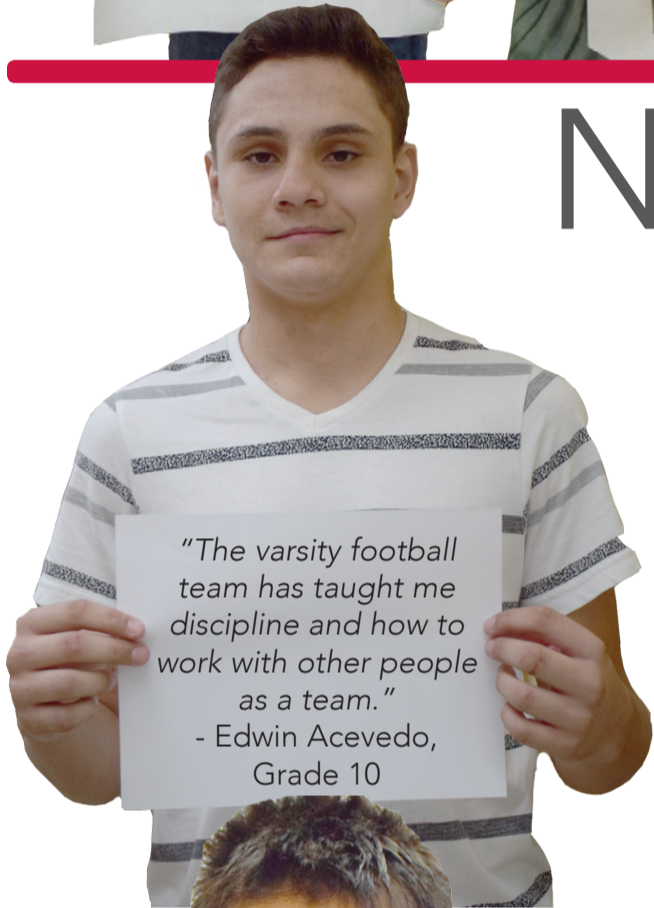


"Dance lessons since I was 4 have helped me get better. I used to be afraid to perform in front of people and now I am not."
- Olivia DeRose, Grade 4

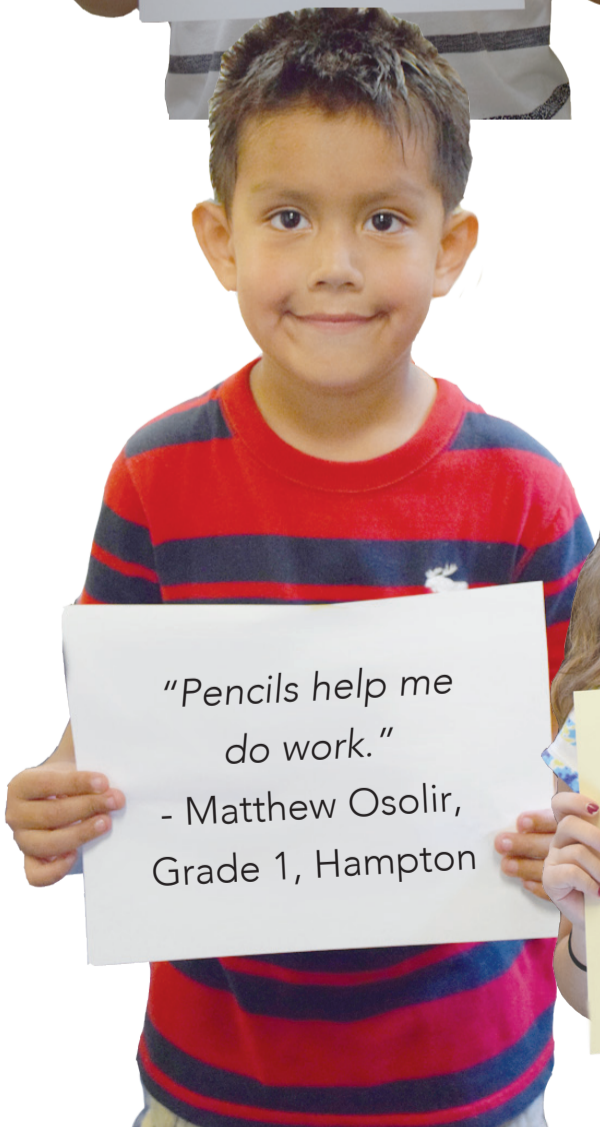


"The family aspect of the drama department helps me succeed because I know I have more than just my parents supporting me."
- William Carr, Grade 11

Name an
opportunity
OR TOOL
that helps *you*
PURSUE
EXCELLENCE



"The varsity football team has taught me discipline and how to work with other people as a team."
- Edwin Acevedo, Grade 10



"Pencils help me do work."
- Matthew Osolir, Grade 1, Hampton



"Last year I was given the privilege of singing "The Star Spangled Banner" at a concert because I auditioned for it and got picked. It inspired me to continue singing and to sing more."
- Sydney Klass, Grade 5



"Technology, because the apps help me learn."
- Massimo Catalano, Grade 2, Meadow



"It's amazing to have iPads because you can do all your work on them. They are a great tool for success."
- Aliene Granados, Grade 5

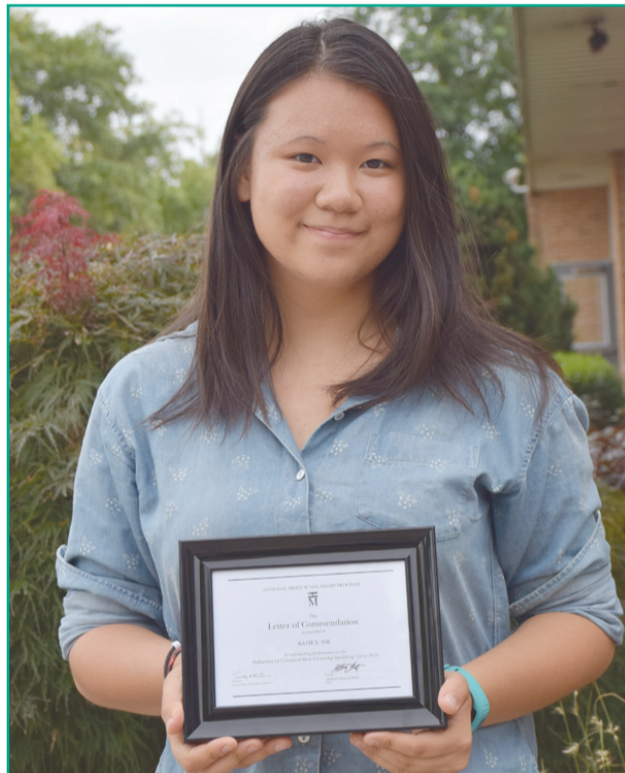
Mission:

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.

Start

Commended Student

Mineola High School senior Katie Y. Shi has been named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 34,000 students throughout the nation receive this honor, which is based upon the exceptional academic promise they demonstrated on the qualifying test used for program entry. Although she will not continue in the 2016 competition, Katie has placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the PSAT.



How is Mineola pursuing excellence?

- By providing opportunities for students to reach their full potential.
- By creating an environment that fosters curiosity and learning.
- With leadership that teaches with passion and presence.

QR Code

The district is now featuring videos on its website that highlight students fulfilling the mission. Scan here to see how some of our students are pursuing excellence in the classroom.



Pursue Excellence

In the book “The Little Big Things: 163 Ways to Pursue Excellence” by Thomas J. Peters, he breaks down the pursuit of excellence into several sub-categories of classification for discussion. Among them are: opportunity, resilience, the self, connection, attitude, performance, initiative, leadership, words, passion, presence, talent, listening, innovation, curiosity and learning. All of these are key components in what Mineola believes creates the road that allows students to pursue excellence.

Elementary STEAM Labs

New this year, Meadow Drive and Hampton Street schools each boast a STEAM lab. This is a room where classes host specific science, technology, engineering, art and mathematic activities and is designed to be colorful and engaging for young STEAMers. Coordinators Denise Maynard at Hampton and Katelynn Schmidt at Meadow are creating activities that reinforce each of the STEAM skills. Pictured, dual language kindergarten students at Hampton are learning how to use a scale to weigh basic objects.



A College Road Trip

A tradition since 2002, the guidance department at Mineola High School has been hosting an overnight college road trip each fall for students in grades 10-12. The road trip stops at three or four college campuses with the intention of expanding student horizons and interests in a variety of schools. Students are given a guided tour of the campus, the opportunity to taste-test from the college cafeteria, a feel for the surrounding area, and a chance to speak with current students (sometimes Mineola alumni) and counselors from the school.

“Visiting a college is a huge factor in making a final informed decision,” Assistant Principal of Guidance Jennie Fahey said of

the experience.

Each road trip gives 45 students who are in good standing the opportunity to experience new campuses. The 2014 trip focused on the Rhode Island area, while the 2015 trip featured stops at Boston University, Northeastern University, Suffolk University and Stonehill College. In addition to the two-day excursions each fall, a day trip is held each spring to one or two local colleges.

“We want to give students as many opportunities as possible to experience different areas, different schools and different types of campus settings,” Mrs. Fahey said. “If a student takes advantage of each field trip, even just over two years, they have

the potential to visit at least 10 college campuses. It can be difficult for families to visit all of these schools on their own. I am happy we can provide this opportunity for our students, and most importantly they are given a great experience.”

Senior Taylor Dalton attended the fall 2014 and 2015 road trips and agrees. “Now I have a totally clear view of what I am looking for in a school,” she said. As a result of the road trips, she intends to apply to the University of Rhode Island and Northeastern University – two schools she may not have otherwise considered. “I became much more comfortable with the process and the types of questions to ask when visiting campuses,” she said. “It really helped narrow down which types of schools I wanted to visit on

my own, as well.”

“Going on the college road trip last year made me work much harder,” fellow senior Kayleigh Bugalla shared. “It made me realize that college was coming up quickly and I needed to do well to get into the schools I liked.” As a result of the trip, she intends to apply to Roger Williams University, Boston University and Northeastern University. “Visiting the campuses really gave me a sense of ‘I can belong here,’” she added.

The college road trip is complemented by the many mini college fairs the school holds throughout September and October, which afford students more chances to meet with counselors from schools they may have visited and find out the specifics on their application processes.

Project-Based Learning

In an effort to expand and enhance students’ educational opportunities, the middle school has restructured its fifth- and sixth-grade program for specials like art, family and consumer science, and technology. Under the new structure, instead of every elective operating independently, all three specials work together on one common interdisciplinary unit. Each teacher still provides students with explicit instruction in the standards of his or her course, but the projects through which the children demonstrate their learning are linked.

In the sixth grade, students will work on creating projects related to the school’s spring production of “The Lion King.” Under this theme, students in family and consumer science classes are learning elements of costume design and sewing; in technology class, they are designing and engineering bones for the graveyard scenes; and in art class, they are using African-inspired symbols to create artwork for the sets.

“Our new special schedule has several benefits,” said Middle School Instructional Leader Andrew Casale. “First, students are working across different subject areas on a common theme. They come to understand that problem-solving requires knowledge from many disciplines. As our districtwide STEAM initiative has taken off, we have really come to understand that expertise is not compartmentalized. Our new program also allows larger groups of students to come together and share in the same experience. Finally, it allows us to harness the creative energy of our staff and students, creating opportunities for collaboration and discovery.”

At the fifth-grade level, the focus is on nutrition and healthy lifestyles. Projects for this grade will include interactive lessons such as monitoring one’s food intake through an app, reinventing recipes to make them healthier, and investigating how germs spread. Later in the year, students will be Skyping with scientists and nutritionists and designing MyPlate plates to take home.



Finish



NEW TEACHERS *Welcomed*

New teachers were welcomed in an orientation at the high school prior to the start of the 2015-16 school year. During the program, they were given the keys to a successful school year with students, as well as a sense of the Mustang culture. The purpose of the orientation was to acquaint the new teachers with the expectations and core values of the district, as well as introduce them to the technologies and resources available to them and their students.

Welcome to the following individuals:

- Diane Anderson, *Interim Principal of Hampton Street School*
- Amy Trojanowski, *Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Instruction at MHS*
- Heather Dvorak, *Dean of Discipline at MHS*
- Jamie Ackerman, *Math/Special Education Teacher at MHS*
- Lindsay Audiino, *ELA/Special Education Teacher at MHS*
- Jennifer Dralle-Moreano, *Librarian at Jackson Avenue*
- Brian Haber, *Math Teacher at MHS*
- Jeannette Herrera, *Elementary Bilingual Teacher at Jackson Avenue*
- Gregory Mayo, *Health/Physical Education Teacher at MMS*
- Thomas Wilkens, *Earth Science/Special Education Teacher at MHS*
- Stephanie Kelly, *Leave Replacement at Meadow*
- Lisa Krawciw, *Leave Replacement at Hampton*
- Lucila Guzman, *Leave Replacement at Meadow*
- Natalie Vattuone, *Leave Replacement at Meadow*
- Esther Villanueva, *Leave Replacement at Jackson Avenue*

In addition to these teachers, the district is joined by approximately a dozen student teachers through its Adelphi University partnership. These students receive valuable hands-on training and guidance from many of Mineola's finest educators while supplying the district with invaluable support within the classrooms.

Interim Principal for Hampton

Diane Anderson, a resident of Mineola and former assistant principal in Farmingdale, will serve as the acting interim principal for Hampton Street School this year. With more than 40 years of experience in education, Ms. Anderson most recently served as the assistant principal of Northside Elementary School for eight years. She earned her Bachelor of Science from Mansfield University, Master of Science from Hofstra University and Advanced Graduate Certificate in Educational Computing from Stony Brook University.



CAPITAL PROJECTS **UPDATE**

The district is nearing completion of its prior capital projects. Completed work includes districtwide masonry repairs and HVAC work and a science (STEAM) lab at both Hampton Street and Meadow Drive.

New windows will be installed at all buildings, including Cross Street School, beginning this winter and will be completed before the end of the school year. All window replacements will take place after school hours and on days school is not in session.

These projects were all deemed necessary in the Building Conditions Survey.

NEW WEBSITE **LAUNCHED**

The district officially launched a new website and design on Aug. 26, just in time for the new school year. The new format is more user-friendly and allows more students to be featured. It also enables content on the site to be translated into languages other than English. Content will be updated regularly, so parents, community members and interested homebuyers are encouraged to check the site daily for updates.



Alumni Spotlight

LEIGHMARIE WEBER, CLASS OF 2010

In high school, LeighMarie Weber was an active member of the color guard, winter guard, band, chorus and Student Service Center, and was a recurring face in the spring musical productions. It was her participation in the Student Organization, though, that ultimately shaped her future. Serving as a representative in her junior year, she was urged by then teacher and advisor Valerie Liese to run for the office of treasurer in her senior year.

“I was reluctant,” she recalled. “But I wound up loving it, and it ultimately shaped what became my love for student advocacy. I’m really grateful to [Liese] for urging me to participate more.”

LeighMarie graduated from Mineola in 2010 and continued her education at SUNY Cortland. Knowing the importance of being involved in campus life, she joined the school’s student government association and became a senate member. Within a few months, there was an opening on the executive board and a friend urged her to interview for the position. She was offered the position of parliamentarian, then served as executive assistant to the president and went on to serve as president during her junior and senior years. During that time, her interest in student government continued to grow.

In her sophomore year, LeighMarie and a classmate were responsible for hosting and coordinating a Fall Fest at the campus, which featured each of the clubs at the school as well as fall-inspired activities. The event has since become an annual school tradition.

With the intention of becoming an audiologist, LeighMarie earned a B.S. in speech and hearing science from SUNY Cortland in 2014.

“That last semester, though, I would sit in my classes and just not want to be there,” she shared. “With one class remaining to earn my degree, I had a conversation with one of my professors who helped me realize that being an

audiologist was just not my passion.”

And with that, LeighMarie changed her direction for graduate school.

“I began applying to colleges for a master’s program in higher education and student affairs,” she said. “My mom and grandparents all went to NYU and it has always been my dream to go there, but I never thought I would get in. When I changed my path, I figured I would try. It’s very humbling and almost surreal. I still don’t believe that I’m [at NYU] and will graduate from here. I hope that one day, my children will continue that legacy as well.”

LeighMarie is enrolled in NYU’s program for Masters for Higher Education and Student Affairs and is expected to graduate in May 2016. She currently works as a graduate intern in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Fordham University and serves as an assistant to the graduate intern in the Student Activities Office of SUNY Maritime. In her role at Fordham, she serves as the coordinator for one of the diversity peer leader programs and promotes social justice work and dialogue on campus.

“I’ve always said I’m a people person,” she said. “[My job] is very hands-on, and I’m learning every day. It’s about personal growth and development. I’ve always had an empathy and passion for people, and I’m always learning from the students whom I encounter.”

With this master’s degree, LeighMarie hopes to begin work as an assistant director for a student involvement office at a college. In the long term, she intends to continue her studies and earn her doctorate in the field. She hopes to ultimately serve as vice president or president of a university.

Despite going away to college, LeighMarie’s pulse on the Mineola community has remained strong. She is still residing in Williston Park, has remained close to a group of friends whom she grew up with and babysits for many local



“Growing up in Mineola felt very much like being part of a family. We are a close-knit community, and I love that. I like feeling that closeness with everyone and learning from each other.”

residents. She also works at a local pediatrician’s office two days a week.

“Growing up in Mineola felt very much like being part of a family,” she said. “We are a close-knit community, and I love that. I like feeling that closeness with everyone and learning from each other.”



A busy September provided a great start to the 2015-16 athletic season. After a summer spent training in our fitness facilities, our athletes hit the fields and courts with great pride. This summer welcomed a new program to our district in which more than 50 students were assessed and given specific training programs by coach Chris Schacca, the district's strength and conditioning specialist. As the year progresses, student-athletes interested in improving athletically should make an appointment to have an individual program created for them.

Our programs have already hosted several tournaments, including the Boys Soccer Mustang Cup and the Mineola Volleyball Invitational Tournament. The girls volleyball team won their tournament, beating Plainview's JFK in a best-of-

three series to take the tournament championship. The team has jumped out to a 4-1 start to the season and hopes for a repeat return to the county finals, where they were stopped by Lynbrook High School last year.

The varsity football team (2-2) beat Great Neck North in their home opener and scored another victory over Great Neck South. The golf team defeated Glen Cove and Hicksville in early-season action. The girls soccer and cross-country track teams are off to competitive starts as well. The girls soccer team had great success at their "Think Pink" fundraiser night game on Oct. 13 at Tully Park.

Two students have been named Student-Athletes of the Week so far. Congratulations to Claudia Serna

(cross-country track) and Madison Brady (volleyball), who have flourished not only on the playing field, but in the classroom as well. Both Claudia and Madison are ranked at the top of their class academically and are highly involved in all aspects of the school community.

Another student-athlete of note is Matt Kosowski, who has been a powerhouse on the football field, as he leads the Mustangs in rushing at the halfway point of the season. Matt is also a member of the varsity baseball team.

We are proud of the work that the coaching staff does on a daily basis to prepare young athletes for competition. The achievements of our student-athletes are the result of their hard work, preparation and attention to detail.

MUSTANGS RIDE A *HOMECOMING VICTORY*

On the beautiful, warm afternoon of Oct. 10, the Mineola community showed its Mustang pride during the 34th annual homecoming parade and game. Community members, donning red and black, filled the bleachers at Hampton Stadium, where the Mineola Mustangs varsity football team took on the Oyster Bay Baymen.

Before the game, the community was treated to a parade of colorful floats and vibrant banners representing each school. The high school marching band and the Mineola Royal Court helped lead the

parade through the town and onto the field.

After descending from their float, homecoming king Chris Alexander, queen Tara Maloney and princesses Michela Franz, Maria Martins and Nicole Pereira were presented. Following welcome remarks, high school student Felicia Villa officially kicked off the game by performing the national anthem.

Among a vocal crowd of supporters, the Mustangs defeated the Baymen with a final score of 35-9.



Publication Coordinator: Danielle Lambert

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