



Outreach

WWW.MINEOLA.K12.NY.US

National Merit Semifinalist

Congratulations to Mineola High School senior Vijay Paliath who has been named a semifinalist in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Vijay is one of 16,000 students nationwide, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors who qualify in the 63rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program.



About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered in the spring.

To become a finalist, Vijay must submit a detailed scholarship application, providing information about his academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and his honors and awards received. Approximately 15,000 semifinalists are expected to advance to the finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation.

Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

TOP 30 Digital Educators

Superintendent Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D. has been chosen as one of the Top 30 Technologists, Transformers and Trailblazers for 2017 by the Center for Digital Education. He has been chosen for this honor based on his efforts to transform learning through the innovative use of technology. Dr. Nagler will be honored with the award at the Digital Education Leadership Conversation K-12 Event in November.



Since becoming superintendent in 2009, Dr. Nagler has transformed the Mineola School District into a full 21st-century innovative learning environment. With its 1:1 iPad initiative and Apple Distinguished Schools, Dr. Nagler has also recently earned the Fred Podolski Leadership and Innovation in Technology Award. Most recently, the district completed a Fab Lab at both its high school and middle school, as well as added STEAM and Makerspace designated areas in each of its buildings, K-12.

“Our winners have shown an immense amount of passion and courage as they take on education in an era that encompasses rapid changes. They have demonstrated a unique ability to use technology as a catalyst to transform education at all

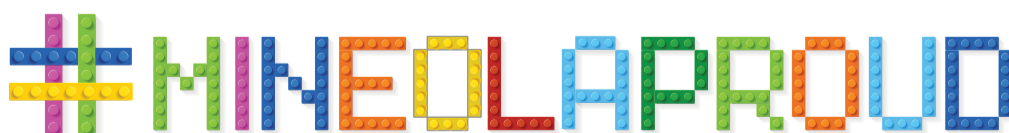
levels and to have a positive impact on student success,” said Dr. Kecia Ray, executive director, CDE.

The Center for Digital Education is a national research and advisory institute specializing in K-12 and higher-education technology trends, policy and funding. CDE provides education and industry leaders with decision support and actionable insights to help effectively incorporate new technologies in the 21st century.

The 2017 winners were selected based on their efforts to improve education through effective implementation of technology-rich solutions; their impact on student outcomes; and their overall initiative, creativity and leadership skills.

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

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



Be part of our social media campaign and show how you are #MineolaProud.



The Pursuit of Excellence



District Boasts First Scholar-Artist

Congratulations to senior Hymn Yiu who has been named as a 2017-18 Scholar-Artist by the Long Island Arts Alliance. To be considered, eleventh-graders had to have a 90 or better average, excel in artistic abilities, be a contributor to their school environment and have letters of recommendation. This is the first time the district has had a student earn this designation.

“Hymn is so incredibly talented and deserving of this honor,” said District Director for Music and Art Joseph Owens. “We are just so proud.”

Hymn was one of only 20 chosen from more than 120 submissions. He will receive a \$250 scholarship and was featured with a spread of his work in Newsday.



Commended Student

Congratulations to Mineola High School senior Daniel Murray who has been named a Commended Student by the National Merit Scholarship Program. He was recognized for this achievement based upon results of the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Those honored as Commended Students have finished among the top 5% of the more than 1.6 million students who took the exam nationwide. Although he

will not continue in the competition, Daniel’s academic promise has earned him this prestigious designation.

Honors-Level Vocals

Six student-musicians from Mineola High School have been accepted to the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division Honor Choir.

The students will travel to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, to perform under conductor David Fryling in March 2018.

Congratulations to juniors Josephine Jones, Samantha Trested and Miguel Velasquez and seniors Nathan Bischoff, Katrine Gulinao and Jake Lenze.

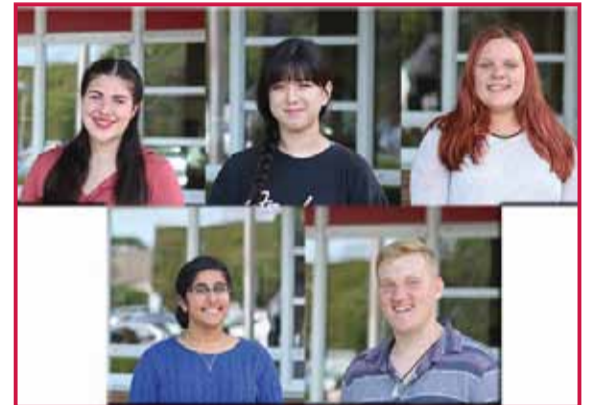
Founded in 1959, the American Choral Directors Association is a nonprofit professional organization whose central purpose is to promote excellence in choral music through performance, composition, publication, research and teaching. In addition, ACDA strives to elevate choral music’s position in American society through arts advocacy.



All-State Musicians

Five students from Mineola High School have been selected to perform in the All-State Music Festival at the 2017 New York State School Music Association Winter Conference.

Junior Samantha Trested and seniors Nathan Bischoff, Alicia Healy, Roseleen Kaur and Jacqueline Letta were chosen for this honor based on the proficiency they demonstrated at NYSSMA evaluations last May. Congratulations to each of these talented student-musicians.



AP Scholars

Fifty-nine students from Mineola High School earned the designation of Advanced Placement Scholars for excelling on their 2017 AP exams. A total of 59 past and present students were recognized as AP Scholars this fall, including Class of 2017’s Salutatorian Elizabeth Ryan, who earned the prestigious designation of National AP Scholar.

Congratulations to the following students on achieving this honor:

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 exams.

Elizabeth Ryan*

AP Scholars 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 exams.

Serena Berger*, Ryan Demagistris, Kayleigh Dipietrantonio*, Gabriella Martinez*, Emily McGuire, Daniel Murray, Vijay Paliath, Anmol Patel, Philip Pereira*, Sandra Pinto*, Danny Pires*, Reesa Rene*, Kacie Rumm*, Elizabeth Ryan*, Erin

Servinkas*, Anisha Shah, Zachary Sloan*, Erica Sze-Tu*, and Zachary Tarab*.

AP Scholars 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.

Andrew Desiderio*, Bryan Franz*, Jisoo Kim, and Erin Talty*.

AP Scholars

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

Awdifa Abdin*, Nathan Bischoff, Blake Bodson, Michael Cappeller*, Christina Cardinal*, Emily Comito*, Anne Cripps*, Brendan Cunningham*, Molly Donelan, Madeline Feehan, Michela Franz, Michael Gay, Jack Gorman*, Ameena Hamraz, Sheharbano Jafri*, Mansi Kutwal, David Lee*, Elliot Lee*, Rachel Leone*, Brianna Lopes*, Daniel Mangoianu, Aileen Miller, Emily O’Connell, Jillian Palma*, Nicholas Paternostro*, Samantha Ramalhete*, Matthew Ramos*, Neal Ressa*, Natalie Rodriguez, Courtney Scheuer*, Preeti Singh, John Thilbour*, Michael Valente*, Michelle Vande Stouwe*, Monika Waszczuk* and Hymn Yiu.

*Class of 2017



"That I'm learning a lot."
- Ashton PolICASTRO,
Kindergarten
(Meadow)



"To have fun."
- Lediona Kabashi,
Grade 1 (Hampton)



"Everyone here is so nice and caring."
- John (Jack) Peters,
Grade 4



"It's my final year here and I feel like our school is such a community. We always come together to help others and I know that's what makes me proud to be part of Mineola."
- Sarah Carbain, Grade 12

What does it mean to you to be **#MINEOLAPROUD**



"Showing good school spirit and participating in events. We go to a great school with lots of opportunities. We have something really special here."
- Morgan Brady, Grade 10

"Helping each other."
- Justin Berry,
Grade 1
(Hampton)



"I love our pride assemblies because every assembly we get a new goal for ourselves."
- Rachel Stiehl,
Grade 6



"We have a lot of freedom and different choices to do what we like."
- Derek EscorcIA, Grade 6



"To learn more things and make new friends. It's a great experience to be in this school."
- Natalie Chang, Grade 2 (Meadow)

Mission:

The mission of the Mineola Union Free School District is...

Start

...pursue excellence

Girls Who Code

Congratulations to Abbey Ahamed (left) who is pictured with Reshma Saujani the founder and CEO of Girls Who Code, a national non-profit organization working to close the gender gap in technology. Abbey represented Mineola High School this summer as a participant in the Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program. Girls Who Code is leading the movement to inspire, educate, and equip young women with the computing skills to pursue 21st-century opportunities.



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

Growing with Growth Mindset



In Ms. Romano's first-grade class at Meadow, students are banned from using the word "can't" unless it is used with "yet." This display is their reminder of what they can do, and what they just can't do yet, but hope to do by mid-year.

Last year's Growth Mindset pilot program is now expanding as a districtwide focus for both teachers and students during the 2017-18 school year. To kick off the initiative, co-founder and CEO of Mindset Works Eduardo Briceño delivered an exciting keynote address as part of Superintendent's Conference Day. The mission at Mindset Works is to enable a world in which people seek and are fulfilled by ongoing learning and growth.

"It's not about 'working harder' or trying to change a behavior," Eduardo said. "You actually have to change the thinking that led to the behavior in order for growth to be effective."

"Growth mindset really embodies our mission of creating life-long learners," said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Matthew Gaven. "It was a natural fit for us here in Mineola and we have the perfect culture, teachers and learning environments for our students to see increased successes with this approach. We are really excited about it becoming a districtwide initiative."

Eduardo, who is married to a Mineola alumna and has been working collaboratively with Mineola Middle School teacher Jennifer Maichin for the past 10 years, has spoken at numerous conferences,



Ms. O'Grady's pre-k classes at Hampton Street School discussed what they can't do YET but will be able to do soon.

given two popular TEDx talks and has been featured on prominent media outlets. His interactive keynote served to motivate and deepen teachers' understanding of growth mindset and how to foster a growth mindset in oneself as well as in students.

Growth mindset is the understanding that we can develop our qualities and abilities.

...exhibit strength of character

Superintendent for a Day

Knox Pace, a second-grader at Meadow Drive School, served as Superintendent for a Day on June 15. As part of his duties, he toured the school, created a growth mindset video with the actual Superintendent of Schools Michael Nagler, Ed.D., and even crafted a proposal to add a bike rack to the grounds at Meadow Drive.

Knox, who rides his scooter to school most days with his dad, needed somewhere to store his scooter until the end of each school day so that his dad wouldn't have to carry it back-and-forth every day. Dr. Nagler took Knox's proposal under consideration and this summer a bike rack was installed at Meadow Drive to accommodate those students who prefer to bike or scooter to school each day.

"I love to ride my scooter to school because it's a fun way to start the day and I like to do it with my dad," Knox said. "Now all the kids can ride their bikes without putting pressure on their parents to take the bike's back home."



...and contribute positively to a global society

Hoops for Hurricane Relief

To raise money for those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the physical education teachers at Meadow Drive School organized a Hoops for Hurricane Relief fundraiser. Over the course of the week, students practiced their basketball skills in gym classes and on Sept. 20, participated in four mini-games to raise money. The event culminated with a teachers/staff game and raised more than \$1,500 for the cause to date. Once collections have ceased, the funds are intended to directly benefit a school in each area.



Finish

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Districtwide

Along with contractors, the district's maintenance and custodial staff have been hard at work the last few months renovating and upgrading facilities, districtwide. The Board of Education is proud to be able to complete these renovations for the benefit of our students, staff and community, all without the need to bond any money.



High School • Athletic Field at Hampton Stadium



Jackson Avenue • Library Updates/Coding Lounge



High School • Dedication Pavers



Meadow Drive • Playground & Resurfacing



Middle School • Coding Lounge



Hampton Street • Bus Lane



Middle School • Library Renovations



Hampton Street • Gym Flooring, Padding and Rock Wall

INNOVATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

With an emphasis on 21st-century learning, Mineola has redefined itself as more than just a school building but as an innovative learning environment. "When you change the way students are learning, it's natural for the environment to need to change as well," Superintendent Dr. Nagler says of the advancements.

What makes our schools innovative learning environments?

- Desks that double as whiteboards students can write on
- Fab Lab at both high school and middle school levels
- Makerspaces that include 3-D pens and Ozo Bots
- Designated research facilities
- Redesigned classrooms to embrace collaboration
- Interactive lessons with hands-on learning
- Our 1:1 iPad initiative



Alumni Spotlight

DANIELLE GANGEMELLA-TAYLOR, CLASS OF 1990

During her time at Mineola High School, Danielle Gangemella always thought of herself as a compassionate person. She was a member of the Lunch Bunch and participated in many activities through the Student Service Center. She was a member of the basketball, softball and soccer teams and has many fond memories of key influencers in her life.

"I always loved Mr. Weidlein," Danielle said. "He always seemed to believe in me and made me believe that my capabilities were endless. And Ms. Knabbe. She was a real inspiration because she was so giving and nonjudgmental. And my guidance counselor Mr. Angelo, who was just so amazing. I remember not really knowing what I wanted to do and he helped me narrow down my options and decide on the best choice for me."

After graduating, Danielle went on to major in sociology with a minor in political science and a concentration in criminal justice at SUNY Fredonia. Shortly after graduating, she was called for the New York City Police Department, but had already been working a full-time job for a company that sold medical services to corporations. Eventually she

became a Global Account Manager and traveled throughout the U.S. and Europe selling risk-management software.

In 2007, she married Stephen Taylor, whom she met through her job. Together they have two children, Andrew (age 9) and Christian (age 8) and now reside in Oyster Bay.

On her 40th birthday, she decided to do something different. She resigned from her job and refocused her efforts.

"I just always wanted to pay it forward," Danielle said. "I wanted to make a difference."

Inspired by her husband who had completed a Civilian Military Combine obstacle course race in 2012, she decided to recruit a friend and former Mineola graduate to compete in a race with her, for a local charity. After much research, Danielle decided the pair would raise money and compete for The Morgan Center, a Long Island school for young children who are undergoing chemotherapy treatment and can't attend a public school because of their compromised immune systems. With a goal that first year of \$500, the pair actually raised \$3,000, which was enough to put one child through



"I always loved Mr. Weidlein," Danielle said. "He always seemed to believe in me and made me believe that my capabilities were endless. And Ms. Knabbe. She was a real inspiration because she was so giving and nonjudgmental."

schooling at the center.

Since then, the team has grown to more than 50 members and their 2017 goal is \$50,000. They competed in The City Challenge Race in Hoboken in October. The team utilized crowd-funding websites to raise money, and has formed partnerships with local companies, such as Lifetime Fitness in Syosset, who are willing to donate their time and/or resources to the cause. The \$50,000 goal would fund ALL students who currently attend The Morgan Center, as well as help finish completion of a second school in East Islip.

Over four years, Team YOLO, as they call themselves, has raised more than \$60,000 that goes directly to the organization. The team includes seven Mineola High School graduates, as well as a current teacher.

"It's really caught some momentum," Danielle shared. "We've been featured in women's running magazines, on News 12, in Newsday and we were invited to be part of the audience on the Ellen DeGeneres Show. Lululemon has also recently partnered with us, so we are hoping that helps spread awareness. This has become a passion of ours."

"Clearly, Mineola set me up educationally, but they also set me up cognitively," Danielle said. "The biggest trait Mineola enhanced for me was compassion. We were a diverse school and I think they made kindness cool. It was really instilled and it was noticed and rewarded."

If you wish to contribute to Danielle's Team YOLO fundraising efforts, please visit: <https://www.crowdrise.com/yolostrong2017>.





CELEBRATING PAST AND PRESENT ATHLETES

Halftime of the Oct. 13 Varsity Football game v. Carle Place was highlighted by the presence of the 1967 Mineola Mustang Rutgers Cup team. As the first inductees into the Mineola Hall of Fame, recently completed at the new Hampton Field, these gentlemen and their loved ones were our special guests. Their day began with a tour of the high school then continued to the game to watch

Senior Night for the 2017 Mustangs. As the game rolled into the second quarter, the team assembled, and at halftime each 1967 team member was announced and stood near the plaque that will ultimately be placed in the Hall of Fame area.

The night featured a great opportunity for the 1967 players to reminisce and watch a senior ceremony that celebrated our current

senior football players and their parents, just as they may have experienced 50 years ago. During the 2017 ceremony senior athletes presented carnations to their parents and took pictures that will be sent to them as keepsakes, as all senior team members in the program do. The 1967 team took home commemorative glasses to mark the occasion and as a memory of the this special induction night.

HOMECOMING

2017

On Oct. 7, Mineola High School held its 36th annual homecoming parade and game. Prior to the game, a special ribbon cutting was held for the new turf field and lighting at Hampton Field. Congratulations to our Homecoming Court (L-R) Freshman Princess Colleen Miller, Sophomore Princess Katelyn Escorcia, Junior Princess Abbey Ahamed, King Michael Buono and Queen Diana Araujo.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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