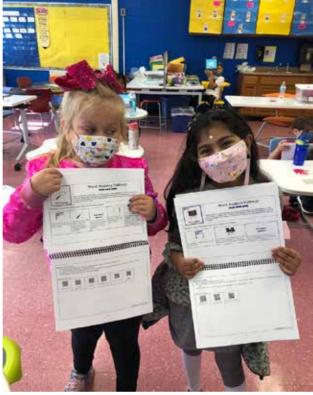


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Learning

"Each year we reflect on how to engage the learners in their progress and mastery more and more, and to make the process meaningful for them at their developmental level. We are excited to see our second graders advocate for themselves and manage their progress over the course of the year as they work through the learning pathways towards the mastery badges!"

Principal Sara Ortiz, Meadow Drive

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

In 2018, we created Badge Books as an initiative for our kindergarten students as a way to track a student's progress using stickers. Badge books replaced the typical report cards kindergartners would receive three times a year, making it easier to assess growth and progress for parents, teachers and students at the different rates our young students learn. Since then, it has expanded to be a full pre-K to grade 2 initiative and, this year, we are adding a new element with Learning Pathways for our second grade students.

A learning pathway, as the name suggests, is a series of micro badges that represent components of a larger standard. When students complete all of the badges in a pathway they earn a 'power badge' which represents grade level

achievement in that standard. By breaking down the standards into smaller, more discrete skills, we can help children understand specific areas of growth. They also can create goals in those areas. Finally, we can introduce and reinforce the practice of having a growth mindset. If students are unable to meet the criteria to earn a badge, but the demonstrate their work toward their goal we can issue neuron stamps that recognize the effort

The new Badge Book format for second graders is designed for grade-level-appropriate readers and to create a better transition into the third grade KidOYO platform of badges. The books take the place of traditional grading systems and really engage students as stewards of their own success.

MISSION Pathways

As part of the Learning Pathways in KidOYO at the middle school level, we have developed a special Mission Pathway. As opposed to tracking how our students are developing in subject areas, Mission Pathways is a way to design opportunities to view how our students are living out Mineola's mission on a daily basis, focusing more on goal setting.

Mission Pathways will present students with different challenges they can complete to earn badges. The challenges highlight work the students can complete at home and in the classroom to carry out the pillars of the district's mission:

- Be a lifelong learner.
- Pursue excellence.
- Exhibit strength of character.
- Contribute positively to a global society.

There are many challenges middle school students can take part in to earn badges. One example would be participating in a school or community event, then submitting a reflection about the experience.

Another aspect of Mission Pathways is teaching our students about civics. Some badges and challenges are designed to make sure students have an understanding of civics and the importance of participating in society as responsible citizens.

Mission Pathways kicked off at Mineola Middle School during the week of Oct. 13 and is just another way for us to illustrate the many ways our students make us #MineolaProud.





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