



# Outreach

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## A CHANGE IN CLASS RANKING: LATIN HONORS SYSTEM

This year, the high school adopted the Latin Honors System to recognize the academic achievements of the Class of 2021. Previously, the top 25 students in the graduating class were ranked in numerical order based on their GPAs through 11th grade. The Latin Honors System gives us the chance to recognize more students who have achieved at the highest levels.

The high school will not be revealing any student's specific rank other than the valedictorian, at No. 1, and the salutatorian, at No. 2. Instead, students in the top percentages of the class will graduate with these designations:

- Top 5% will graduate with summa cum laude status.
- Top 10% will graduate with magna cum laude status.
- Top 25% will graduate with cum laude status.

The change to class rank was made after thorough research. A committee made up of students, parents, faculty and administrators was created last school year, prior to the pandemic. The committee identified changing trends in the college admissions process, finding that, in more recent

years, a lower percentage of colleges and universities give weight to class rank when considering a student.

The committee explored the effects of ranks on a student's growth mindset, social-emotional well-being, motivation and overall academic performance by surveying the school community. The group also compared class ranking systems in other Nassau County school districts. Ultimately, the committee presented its conclusions to our Board of Education in October, and the Latin Honors System was adopted.



**“The Latin Honors System allows us to recognize more students for their academic accomplishments while shifting the focus away from competing for a number that is often so close to the next one as to make it meaningless.”**

**Whittney Smith, Ed.D.,  
Principal**



## Top of the Class of 2021

Congratulations to Julia Perrino for being named the Class of 2021 valedictorian and to Serena Koshy for being named the salutatorian. The designations Julia and Serena received are based on their GPA through 11th grade.

Julia is involved in many extracurricular activities, including the Key Club, Science Bowl Club, Student Political Action and Debate Club and the World Language Club. She is also an active member of the marching band, jazz band and pep band. Most notably, Julia was honored with an Excellence in Marching Band Award and a Band Achievement Award.

Julia's academic achievements have earned her various honors throughout her time at the high school. She was named to the Junior National Honor Society, Music Honor Society and National Honor Society, and selected to participate in the Institute for Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students. Most recently, Julia received the Girl Scout Gold Award for creating an online curriculum pertaining to civics

for fifth through seventh grade students at our middle school. She also serves the school community as a representative for the Board of Education, providing insight into student issues and perspectives.

Salutatorian Serena Koshy is an active and accomplished member of the high school community. Serena has played on the varsity soccer and basketball teams and is a member of the Athletes Helping Athletes club. Her accomplishments and involvement in the arts have been recognized with a variety of awards, including Excellence in String Ensemble Award, Orchestra Leadership Award and Orchestra Outstanding Achievement Award. Over the years, Serena has dedicated her time to volunteering at the Student Service Center as a peer tutor and as Leadership Council vice president. This past summer, she was named an AP Scholar with Distinction for her high performance on the AP exams.

The district is #MineolaProud of Julia and Serena and wishes them the best of luck in the future!

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# College Board National Recognition Programs

Congratulations to our seniors who were invited to participate in the College Board National Recognition Programs. Yesenia Hanif and Ana Victoria Serna were selected for the Hispanic Recognition Program and Matthew Manevitz was selected for the African American Recognition Program.

The College Board National Recognition Programs create pathways to college for students from underrepresented communities. The programs award academic honors and connect students

to universities and scholarship opportunities around the country.

Students who take the Preliminary SAT, or PSAT, and identify as Hispanic American or Latinx are considered for the Hispanic Recognition Program. Those who identify as Black or African American are considered for the African American Recognition Program. Students must earn a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher by the middle of their junior year to qualify, as well score in the top 2.5% of PSAT test takers in the country.



## Honoring Our Seniors & Students

There's no question the COVID-19 pandemic has changed things this school year, but as we adjust to the new normal, we are still finding ways to honor our student body and to make a memorable year for the Class of 2021. Our high school students and staff have participated in many spirit days and events despite all of the changes.

This fall, we held our annual Think Pink day to support breast cancer awareness. While the girls varsity soccer team was unable to play in the traditional Think Pink game, it didn't stop our students and staff from purchasing pink shirts and supporting the cause. The high school also voted on a homecoming court, and we celebrated Halloween while wearing masks, even if the costume didn't call for one.

As we moved into the holiday season, we celebrated with a holiday pajama day as well as a Mineola spirit day for students and staff to show off our colors. We look forward to keeping our traditions and continuing to shine a positive light on our students as we enter the new year.



Congratulations to the high school's 2020 homecoming court! Ian Timoteo Franza was named homecoming king and Isabella Gaglione was named homecoming queen.



The girls soccer team and Student Organization sold Think Pink shirts, with all proceeds going toward breast cancer research and awareness. Students and staff came together in late October, showing off their shirts on the same day.



The senior class bundled up on the high school football field for a socially distanced Halloween movie night in October. Not only did students get to watch the big screen, some also participated in a costume contest.

# AP Scholars in Mineola

116 current and former students from Mineola High School earned the designation of Advanced Placement Scholars for excelling on their 2020 AP exams. 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. Stephen DaSilva, Valerie Mallon, and Julia Perrino

### 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 of these exams. Katherine Ahn, Hugo Amador, Kirsten Benes, Kristen Benes, Sofia Berger, Wenny Cheng, Stephen DaSilva, Yesenia Hanif, Meghan Heckelman, Zhengda Huang, Madeline Irish, Sayem Jabbar, Marcella Joaquin, Guy Kerney, Joshua Kessler, Serena Koshy, Carmen Lima, Valerie Mallon, Matthew Manevitz, Jennifer Moglia, Alexandra Mora, Keara Mulrooney, Neha Parambi, Ankita Patel, Anushka Patel, Julia Perrino, Isabella Polanco, Isabella Schlichting, Ana Victoria Serna, Kristin Tarab, Rinoy Thomas, Ian Timoteo Franza, and Nicholas Treibman

### 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. Sofia Amador, Alisha Augustine, Benjamin Ayende, Victor Baley, Stephanie Bell, Zach Buongiovanni, Thomas Catania, Jake Chesna, Ava Cohen, Daniella Condon, Isabella Gaglione, Bridget Healey, Jennifer Joaqui-Almendar, Christina John, Benjamin Joseph, Aulona Kabashi, Erlisa Kabashi, Samuel Levitan, Alice Li, Colleen Miller, Brent Muessig, Christopher Osorio, Daniel Parada, Jillian Parrino, Nicole Pastorella, Gabriela Paternostro, Julian Posillico, Elizabeth Ricardo, Andreas Rodriguez, Ethan Sargeant, Ronit Setia, Bethany Shatz, Keira Talty, Rebecca Tobar, and Catherine Winski

### AP Scholars

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. Miko Amican, Amanda Argueta, Emily Asam, Morgan Brady, Thomas Brenes, Trista Bugalla, Nicole Chan, Yesim Cinar, Jade Conway, Kristen Cox, Catherine Cullen, Alyssa Garbarini, Patrick Gay, Victoria Godinho, Francisca Gomes, Erin Grafing, Jibin James, Jessica Kessler, Arash Lahijani, Nicole Laszewski, Aidan Levin, Nicholas Limazopoulos, Tess Loehner, Emma Lopes, Gabriella Marquez, Theresa McCarey, Michael McCormack, Abby Meehan, Caitlin Miranda, Suruthica Nimalan, Urja Patel, Melissa Pereira, Stephanie Pereira, Steven Pereira, Aaliyah Rakeem, Dayana Restrepoross, Ariana Rodrigues, Julie Rodrigues, Julia Rosati, Rodina Sabeha, Daniella Schlichting, Kaitlyn Servinskas, Daniella Speranza, Benjamin Stiehl, Colleen Talty, Julia Therassi Arruda, and Stephen Toms

### AP Capstone Diploma

Granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing. Wenny Cheng, Daniella Condon, Stephen DaSilva, Yesenia Hanif, Meghan Heckelman, Marcella Joaquin, Joshua Kessler, Serena Koshy, Samuel Levitan, Jennifer Moglia, Alexandra Mora, Christopher Osorio, Julia Perrino, Ana Victoria Serna, Ronit Setia, and Ian Timoteo Franza

### AP Seminar and Research Certificate

Granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams. Miko Amican, Amanda Argueta, Catherine Cullen, Isabella Gaglione, Sayem Jabbar, Jibin James, Matthew Manevitz, Jordan Manu, Gabriella Marquez, and Isabella Polanco

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