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DR. NAGLER NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, has been named the 2020 New York State Superintendent of the Year by the New York State Council of School Superintendents. Bestowed at the Winter Institute, the award is part of the American Association of School Administrators' national award, which was established in 1988. The announcement was made at the Oct. 24 Board of Education meeting.

After graduating with his doctorate in education from Columbia University, Dr. Nagler began his career in the New York City school system. Dr. Nagler has been with the Mineola School District for 21 of his 33 years in education and served as a principal and deputy superintendent before becoming superintendent in 2009.

In his first years, Dr. Nagler was responsible for consolidating and reorganizing schools. With that change and savings, the district was able to begin

funding transformational technology advancements for all of its students, including being among the first to adopt a 1:1, take-home, iPad initiative that eventually rolled out to all students in grades K-12, all while remaining at or below the tax cap for its residents.

"This award is really a testament to the work my teachers, staff and administrators do every single day in those classrooms by impacting the lives of our students, and to Mineola's Board of Education, who have embraced my ideas and sometimes out-of-the-box approaches, to drive this district forward. I am humbled to receive this honor on behalf of Mineola's everyday heroes."

- Dr. Nagler, Superintendent

Under Dr. Nagler's leadership, the district has continued to soar:

- Mineola is one of the only, and first, districts to have all five of its schools earn the distinction of an Apple Distinguished School.
- All five schools have been recognized as a Common Sense School for Digital Citizenship.
- The district is one of only 114 members nationwide in the League of Innovative Schools.
- In 2018, Mineola was also named one of the Top 25 Most Innovative Districts by the American Association of School Administrators and SPN.
- Mineola High School and Mineola Middle School became the first on Long Island with a Fabrication Lab, commonly referred to as a Fab Lab, where students learn, design, collaborate and build in a small-scale workshop environment.
- Mineola was named among the Top 10 Digital School Districts in 2017-18 by The Center for Digital Education and the National School Boards Association.
- Expansion of the district's fine arts and music offerings, including a recent win in its division at the New York State Field Band Conference competition.
- Mineola is the first and only district on Long Island to offer full-day pre-K to all of its residents.
- Established a culture of growth mindset districtwide, and of cultivating the 4Cs of creativity, communication, critical

thinking and collaboration into all of its innovative learning environments.

- Capital work continues each year to advance the schools for our students and protect taxpayers' investment in buildings, all without the need to bond any work. To date, more than \$45 million in capital improvement work has been done at no additional expense to our taxpayers.

Dr. Nagler is past president of the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents, a member of the National Council on Digital Convergence, a member of the American Association of School Administrators, and is on the advisory board for Digital Promise's League of Innovative Schools. He has also received the Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award for 2019 and the New York State Council of School Superintendents Appreciation Award in 2017, and was named one of 2017's Top 30 Technologists, Transformers and Trailblazers by the Center for Digital Education.

As the New York State Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Nagler now becomes New York's candidate for National Superintendent of the Year, to be awarded at the American Association of School Administrators' National Conference on Education in San Diego in February 2020. Dr. Nagler was nominated for the award by Board of Education President Christine Napolitano and will be honored on March 2 at the State Conference in Albany.

Mineola Union Free School District
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KidOYO

Jackson Avenue School has been increasing its coding opportunities for students and teachers alike by inviting KidOYO mentors into the classroom to assist in projects on the Chromebooks.



These visits are teaching skills that will be built upon throughout the year and can eventually be done with only the classroom teacher present.

The new initiative was developed by the district's Computer Science Committee in conjunction with increased professional development for teachers, to provide increased support during the coding

experience. This team of mentors, along with library media specialist Jennifer Dralle-Moreano, plans to visit each classroom several times throughout the year.

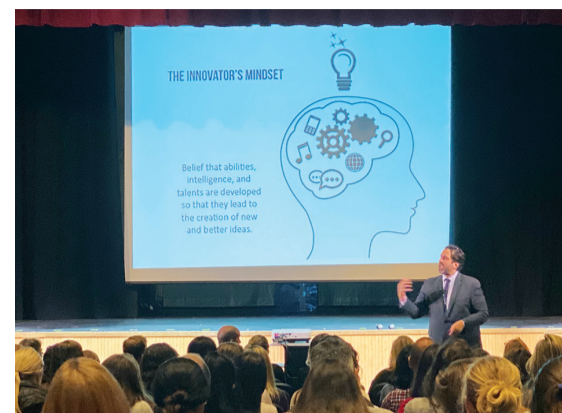
BENEFITS OF CODING

- Builds creativity.
- Promotes problem-solving.
- Establishes presentation skills.
- Teaches resilience.
- Can be a confidence-boosting hobby.



Stepping Into the INNOVATOR'S MINDSET

In a joint venture of professional development, the district teamed up with neighboring New Hyde Park-Garden City Park School District to bring in writer, educator and motivational speaker George Couros to work with teachers as part of Superintendent's Conference Day on Nov. 5.



Through stories in his keynote address, Mr. Couros illustrated the importance for teachers to exhibit not just a growth mindset, but an innovator's mindset, to effectively make connections and encourage next-level learning among students. Mr. Couros then spent the day working with teachers and administrators in breakout sessions and workshops to facilitate getting everyone to think differently and approach learning within the classroom in new ways.

Some of the key takeaways included:

- The importance of nurturing the gifts within each student.
- Making connections with students is more meaningful than pushing content.

- Instead of focusing on what students shouldn't do, focus on what they could do.
- The importance of embracing change and innovation.
- Allowing kids to be curious.
- Collaboration is key to any educator's success.
- Technology is more than a tool, but it will never replace the role of a true teacher.

"Much of what Mr. Couros brought was reinforcement to what Mineola has always believed and always instilled in its professional staff," Deputy Superintendent Matthew Gaven said. "However, his fresh perspective and humor brought a new awareness and appreciation for what we do here. I think his visit will be remembered by everyone."

MARCHING BAND PLACES FIRST

For the second year in a row, Mineola High School's Marching Band placed first in its division at the New York State Field Band Conference State Championship held at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, NY.

This year's show, "The Walkabout" was written entirely by Mineola staff members about the Aboriginal Australian culture. It is a story of a tribe with a 12-year-old learning how to live off the land, as the

ancestors had done.

Under the direction of Christopher Toomey, students have been diligently rehearsing the show since last May. The band finished its weekend placing first in the Small Schools II Division. The band was welcomed home by members of the school community and a special escort from the local fire department.



...For a Lifetime of Learning

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