



# Outreach

WWW.MINEOLA.K12.NY.US

## Mineola Drives Tech Learning Evolution

As technology continues to impact every aspect of our lives, Mineola strives to harness the power of our digital resources for learning at all levels, from Mineola's littlest learners in pre-K to professional learning for our educators throughout the district.

This focus on access and integration allows learners and teachers to benefit from a wide array of digital tools and other applications that have been vetted not only for their instructional and developmental value, but for common sense concerns such as security and privacy.

Mineola is proud to be leading the way when it comes to incorporating technology into our educational strategy, and we are excited to share some of our innovative initiatives with the community.

### Educational Technology ECOSYSTEM

#### The Digital Resources Available to Our Community of Learners

Mineola UFSD's Educational Technology Ecosystem is the main portal that gives learners, teachers and caregivers access to all the technology being used throughout the district. This website offers transparency and cohesiveness, so that parents can understand what's being used at each grade level and the benefit of each application.

Whether the learners are accessing these applications on their iPad, in the classroom or at home, their progress is recorded and becomes part of their portfolio that stays with them throughout their academic career, providing a rich overview of their achievements and productivity, as

well as their creative and artistic projects.

- The pre-K through elementary school Digital Ecosystem features apps that offer support in core subjects such as early literacy, reading, writing, language and math. Additional age-appropriate apps such as Book Creator and Chatter help foster creativity and build social-emotional skills.
- The middle school and high school Digital Ecosystem features standards-aligned and project-based learning solutions, study aids, digital textbooks, quiz games, and other applications, as well as access to digital creation platforms such as Canva, GarageBand, iMovie, Sketchbook Slides and more.



Scan this QR code to visit the Educational Technology Ecosystem website.



### SNAX (Short New Applications of eXpertise)

The Mineola SNAX program began as the opportunity for educators to benefit from professional learning on their own time, giving them the flexibility to take short, focused online lessons anytime and anywhere on a variety of pedagogical topics.

Developed by our team of

instructional leaders, the SNAX courses help teachers sharpen their skills and learn new teaching methods and strategies that they can immediately put into action in their classrooms.

Teachers choose from a SNAX catalog that features over 60 online

courses and continues to grow. Each 50-minute course includes an article, video and resources that help them understand the strategy. Upon completion they post a Padlet, which is like a digital sticky note, with comments and feedback that other teachers and administrators can see and reply to, resulting in a virtual discussion on the topic. Teachers can also engage in SNAX to gain certifications on a variety of tech applications.

While our teachers still meet in person with colleagues for collaborative professional learning sessions, with SNAX their potential for growth transcends the limits of time and space. This suite of tools, along with the Mineola philosophy of lifelong learning, has resulted in exceptional innovations in the classroom and notable academic successes for our students.

#### SNAX for Students

This year, SNAX have evolved to include online courses for learners, focus on creation tools and are accessible on the kidOYO platform.

These courses, created by our technology team and middle school students, include video tutorials to teach concepts. Learners can earn digital badges, making them the classroom experts, able to teach others the specific tool.

These courses are designed to be accessible to students on their own time. Parents can see a growing list of Student SNAX on the Educational Technology Ecosystem portal.

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

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



# LEARNERS GET LESSON IN LEGISLATION

Ten members of the Mineola Middle School Speech and Debate Club traveled to Albany for the New York Youth and Government Conference, a three-day program in which students engage directly in a simulation of the state's democratic process. The sixth and seventh grade learners were joined by their advisers, Ms. Cavuto and Mr. Fenty, for this unique experience.

Prior to the trip, the members authored three bills that they feel should be passed as legislation in the state of New York:

- Bill No. 1 – Mandating a road test every 10 years for senior citizens, who are over the age of 65, with an active New York State driver's license.

- Bill No. 2 – New York State should ban pharmaceutical drug advertisements.
- Bill No. 3 – All students who attend New York State high school must be required to take a life skills course to graduate.

At the conference, the learners acted as senators and assembly members and presented each bill for debate in front of over 300 participants from around the state. They argued their cases, listened as the pros and cons were weighed and, finally, celebrated as each of their bills were passed!

"This unique opportunity offers two main benefits: First, learning how local government works and how citizens are empowered to get involved and make a difference in their community. Secondly, we stress the value and importance of respectful debate, [such as] how to present a con argument in a civil and constructive manner."  
- Jack Fenty, social studies teacher

"This experience is emblematic of the district's focus on critical thinking, inclusivity, empathy and civic engagement. From day one our learners have these values instilled within them and know when we introduce civil discourse and respect for other people's perspectives, something beautiful is created."  
- Jenna Cavuto, social studies teacher

Mineola was the only Nassau County school represented at the conference and one of only three from Long Island.



Vanessa Rosiak, Abigail Bennett, Mia Kim, Leah Perro, Luke Faisca, Brandon Chen, Matthew Ahlfeld, Erin Miller, Prashasti Huliya and Alex Zameryka

We are #MineolaProud of our boys varsity soccer and girls varsity volleyball teams for winning the Long Island Class A championships and earning spots in the state semifinals!

Long Island Champs



## RISE AND SHINE

Every Friday, learners in the Reaching Independence through Support and Education (RISE) program at Mineola High School are delivering coffee and treats to faculty and staff and gaining valuable lessons in return.

First thing in the morning, the students are excited to organize the orders made the day before. They help prepare the coffee and sort the items before heading out, with help from a teaching assistant, to make the deliveries.

The learners practice greeting the customers, handing over their orders, taking money, giving change and thanking them. Deliveries aren't just

limited to the high school. Often the learners make their way to Synergy and the district office to deliver, which usually involves seeing old friends and meeting new ones!

After all the deliveries are made, the students learn to count the money and find out how much they made in tips. They can decide whether to use the tips to get a treat from the vending machine now or wait to use it for an occasional trip to Dunkin' Donuts.

We are #MineolaProud of our amazing RISE students who put a smile on our faces every day. Special thanks to Ms. Ramos and Ms. Palladino for guiding them on this incredible life lesson.



### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion, Ph.D., *President*  
Patrick Talty, *Vice President*

Brian Widman, Cheryl Lampasona, Stacey DeCillis *Trustees*

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