

## utreach

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#### MAKES US #MINEOLAPROUD

Congratulations to our Class of 2024 learners who turned their tassels and became high school graduates on June 22 at the Tilles Center.

The 133rd Mineola commencement not only conjured memories from the past five years of high school but represented a giant step forward into the future as our learners embark on a quest for success and happiness.

Our graduates venture into their next chapter as lifelong learners who are amply prepared to shine as the generation that will be our next entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 on your exceptional accomplishments!

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"This is a time to make mistakes, take risks, do things we're afraid of, accomplish anything to find that definite answer to the question, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?"

-Kelsey Morrison, class president

# Congratulations to Our Academic Leaders









**Cum Laude** 

Magna (

























































### Congratulations, Class of 2024 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Mineola Union Free School District is proud to congratulate Ria Thomas and Lucas Beresheim, valedictorian and salutatorian from Mineola High School Class of 2024.

In addition to being named valedictorian, Ria has proven herself to be a leader and tireless advocate for public service at Mineola High School. As co-president of the Student Service Center, she has been instrumental in the development and execution of fundraisers and events and has dedicated her time to helping those in need. Her volunteer service has been recognized by the South Asian American Women's Alliance who honored her with the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Ria is also an active member of the Science Bowl, Science Club, Environmental Club and Key Club, where she serves as president. She is a member of the National Honor Society and National Science Honor Society and has excelled in science research competitions, winning Best Project award at the Long Island Youth Summit in 2022 for her research on segregation in Long Island communities and its impact on education. With her focus on a career in medicine, Ria is getting experience as a junior volunteer at NYU Langone Hospital and North Shore University Hospital, where she has logged over 200 hours of service through a shadow program with a local internist. Ria will be attending The City College of New York Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program where she is enrolled in a seven-year BS/MD program.

Lucas' road to salutatorian has included a variety of achievements, including receiving the AP Capstone Diploma and NYS Seal of Civic Readiness and being named AP Scholar with Distinction in 2022 and 2023. He is a member of the Computer Science Honor Society, National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society and has attended DNA Science and Genome Science camps at the DNA Learning Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Lucas plays trumpet for

the concert and jazz bands and is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society where he has served as secretary. He is also a member of the high school varsity track team. Lucas is passionate about volunteer work, serving as secretary of the Student Service Center and dedicating time to community initiatives, including Computeers, which pairs senior citizens with students who help them understand new technology, including phones, laptops and tablets. This fall, Lucas will be majoring in chemical engineering at Villanova University.



"Rather than seeing our
peers as competition, we should focus on
collaboration and all strive to support each other at
whatever stage of life we are in."
whatever stage of life we are in."
"Life is not fair for everyone. Some people start 10
feet behind the starting line, while others start 100
feet behind it. However, we have the opportunity to
feet behind it. However, we have through our actions
create a more fair environment through our actions
and morals."

-Valedictorian Ria Thomas



"As we all go our separate ways and encounter new paths in life, I'd like to emphasize the importance of making your own choices and putting the trust in yourself to choose the life you want and the dreams you want to chase. Do things that will make you and the people you love proud, and don't let others make decisions for you or make you believe you can't achieve your goals."

—Salutatorian Lucas Beresheim



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