



Outreach



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Alex Toth with Principal Ed Escobar, teacher Ms. Campbell and Supervisor of Music and Fine Art Peter Freeman

Musical Standouts

Two Mineola High School students were honored recently by being selected as All-State musicians.

Alex Toth was chosen as a String Bass Player for the String Orchestra as well as an Alternate Bass Player for the Jazz Ensemble. Last year, he was a member of the All-State Concert Band and Wind Ensemble. He is an excellent musician who has performed with the Mineola HS Orchestras, Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra, and Marching Band. He is also a member of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and has attended the USDAN Summer Program.

Siobhan Adams was selected as an Alternate for the All-State Chorus. Siobhan is a wonderful singer and actress who performs with the Select Singers, Dynamics, and has been a featured actress for Mineola Middle School and High School plays and musicals. She was last seen as Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*.

These musicians will perform in the All-State music concerts held in December in Rochester as part of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Winter Conference. They were selected through auditions that occurred this past spring. Alex and Siobhan earned the highest scores while performing at the most difficult level of music.

LI SCHOLAR ARTIST AWARD OF MERIT

Mineola High School senior Siobhan Adams has been recognized with the Award of Merit from the Long Island Arts Alliance and *Newsday*. She received this honor for her outstanding work in the field of musical theater.

Siobhan has been a leader in the music department for years. She is an outstanding singer who performs with every Mineola High School choral ensemble. In addition, she regularly appears and has starred in musicals and dramas such as *Guys and Dolls*, *The Laramie Project*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Rumors*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *The Crucible*.

The artistic and leadership qualities that Siobhan has exhibited make this honor truly deserved. She will be officially recognized at a gala event next spring at the Tilles Center and will have her picture featured in an upcoming edition of *Newsday*.

The Long Island Arts Alliance, a group which consists of arts organizations and arts administrators, sponsors the Long Island Scholar Artist program. Every school can nominate one student in each art area of the fine arts - music, theater, art, and dance. Eligible students must be graduating seniors of the Class of 2012, must represent the highest level of artist excellence, and must demonstrate superior academic achievement with an unweighted grade point average of 90 or above. Applicants are required to submit a portfolio of their work and an essay that describes ways in which involvement in the arts has enriched their lives.



All-State Alternate and Scholar Artist Certificate of Merit Winner Siobhan Adams with teacher Mrs. Messina and Principal Ed Escobar.

Mineola High School senior Siobhan Adams has been recognized with the Award of Merit from the Long Island Arts Alliance and *Newsday*. She received this honor for her outstanding work in the field of musical theater.

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

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Reconfiguring Our Website

Simultaneously with the start of the new school year, the district launched a new website. The new site offers a much more simplistic look, easier navigation, and prominently features student photos. As with the reconfiguration of our schools, the new site aims to be much more efficient in its organization of material. As always, the district will be utilizing the new site to relay important information such as emergency school closing notifications, upcoming events, and budget details.



Visit us at www.mineola.k12.ny.us

A MESSAGE FROM *Your Superintendent*

A FIRST LOOK AT THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Residents,

It's hard to believe the summer has already come and gone, but the new school year greets you with some unbelievable and exciting new initiatives for the Mineola School District. The new reconfiguration has aligned us for better meeting New York State's Common Core Standards and has resulted in our eighth graders having the rare opportunity to take math Regents exams a full year earlier than most Long Island students. We have also completed some upgrades at the High School and will begin expansion work on Meadow and Hampton this spring (see full details at right).

You will see in this issue that we have a special technology pull-out section. That is because there have been so many advancements and upgrades that we want to share all of them with you at once. Most exciting for the staff, students, the Board of Education and myself is that we have not only been able to expand our iPad program to all fifth-grade students, but have given Microsoft-based Netbooks to all sixth graders as well. This initiative will leave our students well-versed in programs, resources and terminology for both PCs and Mac/Apple computers, before they even leave the Middle School. Please take the time to read through the pull-out section and learn more about these exciting programs.

If it seems like we've done a lot more with our tax dollars this year, that's because we have. The majority of these technology initiatives actually come with a cost *savings* (in-depth savings article on page 5 of this newsletter), and with the closing of Cross Street School, we have saved approximately \$1.5 million this year alone. This has enabled us to make many advancements for our students and put us on the cutting edge of technology.

These initiatives are helping to create a more competitive school district and are enhancing our educational practices for students to succeed beyond the classroom and become lifelong learners. We look forward to sharing more exciting news with you in the next edition of the *Outreach*.

Sincerely,

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

Principals in New Positions

As a result of the district's reconfiguration, most of the principals in our district have reconfigured, as well. While this may seem confusing at first, rest assured that the principals will not be switching schools again next year. Please join me in congratulating each of the principals on a successful transition.

High School – Ed Escobar, *Principal (unchanged)*

Larry Puccio, *Assistant Principal (unchanged)*

Whittney Smith, *Assistant Principal*

Middle School – Mark Barth, *Principal (unchanged)*

George Maurer, *Assistant Principal*

Jackson Avenue – Patricia Molloy, *Principal*

Hampton Street – Devra Small, *Principal*

Meadow Drive – Deborah Shaw, *Principal*

Willis Avenue – Dr. SueCaryl Fleischmann, *Principal*

In addition, Matthew Gaven, former principal of Jackson Avenue School, has been promoted effective June 30, 2011 to the position of Director for Pupil Personnel Services.



A new lifefskills room has many added features for those in the lifefskills program.

Included in the district's 2011-12 school budget, approved by residents in May, were renovations prudent to reconfiguration at several of the school buildings. We are happy to report that some of the construction has not only begun, but was completed over the summer for student use in September. Listed below is the current status of each capital improvement project.

MINEOLA HIGH SCHOOL

Science Labs – Two new science labs were created on the main floor to accommodate eighth-grade science students. These labs are conducive to lab-style activities and include sinks, electrical outlets and ample counter space in order to accommodate work in the science curriculum.

Parking Space – Over the summer, the old district tennis courts were eliminated and additional parking was made in front of the High School. This lot will accommodate overflow from the main parking lot and includes state-of-the-art lighting for safety. This project was completed prior to the start of the new school year and features an additional 70 parking spaces.

Softball Field – This project is slated to begin this fall and reach completion by the start of the girls softball season.

Lifefskills Room – This project was not in the budget, but was made possible due to donations from various community members who saw a need and wanted to help. The lifefskills room was completed over the summer and includes a washing machine, dryer, refrigerator, stove, sink, pantry, and cubicle workstation. This room will be utilized by eighth through twelfth-grade students in the lifefskills program.



New science labs at Mineola High School accommodate the eighth-grade students and keep them separated from ninth through twelfth graders.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

HAMPTON STREET SCHOOL

\$2.1 Million Extension – The extension at Hampton, which will house a library media center, music and art rooms, and additional instructional space, is awaiting approval by the State Education Department. We are hoping to begin construction in March, with completion projected for Summer 2012.

MEADOW DRIVE SCHOOL

\$500,000 Library Expansion – The library media center expansion for Meadow is currently in the final design stages. We anticipate submission to the State Education Department before Thanksgiving and are hoping to begin construction on July 1, 2012.

Each of these renovations has assisted in our reconfiguration efforts to create a superior academic environment for our students, as well as added value to our curriculum and school buildings.





Students to Master Dual Platforms

Meet the Players



Vincent Interrante,
Microsoft Innovative Educator/Master Trainer

Mr. Interrante is a sixth-grade science and math teacher at the Middle School. After attending a two-day intensive workshop to become a Microsoft Innovative Educator, he was offered the opportunity to become a national master trainer. As a result of his accomplishments, he has participated in the United States Innovative Educator Forum and collaborated with other educators from around the

nation. He is one of approximately 250 Innovative Educators to date in the United States.

Due to his outstanding efforts, Mr. Interrante was one of 50 teachers from 31 countries worldwide, and one of only two from the United States, to be selected for participation in the Global Innovative Educator Forum this past July. "This forum has given me the professional development skills to really implement change here in Mineola," he said of the experience. The forum has also led to many professional contacts around the globe, as well as the opportunity to present at various conferences as an expert in the field.

Matthew Gaven,
Apple Educator



Currently in his sixth year with the district and his sixteenth year in education, Matthew Gaven was trained in the spring of 2011 as a certified Apple Educator. Having served as principal of Jackson Avenue School for five years and now being promoted to District Director of Pupil Personnel Services, his education background is actually in computing and technology.

In May of 2011 Mr. Gaven was nominated by an Apple representative to participate in an official Apple Educator training. The Apple rep selected Mr. Gaven for the program after being highly impressed with Mineola's iPad program and the promise of its expansion for the following year. In late-May, Mr. Gaven boarded a plane and spent a full five days immersed in Apple Academy training in California. The training put a strong emphasis on challenge-based (i.e., project-based) learning as an instructional method, for which Mineola plans to utilize the devices.

Meet the Potential



Microsoft Wows Students & Administrators

When Vincent Interrante first piloted Netbooks in the classroom back in May, he and members of administration had no idea of the real potential a Windows-based, portable operating system would have for the students. It started in April when Mr. Interrante, then the Middle School's technology innovator, was selected by Superintendent Dr. Michael Nagler to participate in a workshop entitled "21st Century Learning Tools for Microsoft." The intensive two-day workshop focused on how to engage learners using Microsoft tools. Upon his return from the conference, Mr. Interrante launched a pilot program with Acer-brand Netbooks in his classroom. The Netbooks were a fraction of the cost of an iPad and came fully equipped with Windows 7 and Office Suite 2010.

For the remaining six weeks of school, Mr. Interrante dove right in and created a project-based learning experience for his students based around a weather investigation. The project asked students to use a variety of programs on the Netbook to create "OneNote" notebooks, movies, collages and PowerPoint presentations. "The whole project was collaborative," he explains, "so each student had ownership to the end product, which enhanced the engagement of all the kids."

The project was such a success that Mr. Interrante submitted his lesson to the U.S. Partners in Learning Competition, which led to its selection as one of 72 top projects in the United States. His lesson was one of only two selected from New York State.

This October, every sixth-grade student in the district received an Acer Netbook to utilize both inside and outside of the classroom. Over the course of the year, students will be using an assortment of free tools and online textbooks, resulting in a substantial cost savings for the district.

All sixth-grade teachers participated in a series of professional development workshops led by Mr. Interrante over the summer. The Netbooks offer teachers the opportunity to fully collaborate and to formulate lesson plans and learning experiences while utilizing a variety of digital resources. "These tools enable us to facilitate learning," Mr. Interrante said of the Microsoft platform. "We can guide students' learning instead of just 'teaching' a subject or fact."

In their first science project with the Netbooks, students will design their own water rockets, in collaboration with other students from around the globe. These young scientists will come up with their own water rocket designs, create videos on why they think their design is best, build their rockets out of recycled materials, and launch their rockets to see whose can stay in the air the longest. The same project will be simultaneously completed by students in South Africa, Texas, Australia and the United Kingdom. Following the rocket launches, students will send their data to a partner school around the globe, evaluate the others' designs, and share suggestions on how to improve the rocket design for a longer elapsed time.

In addition to the exciting lesson plans, Mr. Interrante intends to utilize the Blackboard Learn platform launched by the district this fall (see page 4 for more information). "It really opens the walls of the school... Learning doesn't stop at 2:30 anymore," Mr. Interrante stated, adding, "We really are giving students the tools they need to become life-long learners."

iPads Expand the Curriculum



"The first time I saw the iPad and how intuitive it was, I knew kids would be able to just pick it up and go," Matthew Gaven said of the device. "It's inspiring."

It began with discussions between Mr. Gaven and Dr. Nagler in June 2010, when the pair decided it was time to put this idea into action with a pilot program at the fifth-grade level. With last year's program so successful and receiving so much positive feedback, it was decided that the program should be expanded to all fifth-grade students for 2011-12. More than 30 educators visited Jackson Avenue last year to view the use of this technology first hand.

This year, more than 200 students have received an iPad and will utilize them throughout the year for classroom projects. Students will be able to bring iPads home with them to complete homework assignments and explore any enrichment options beyond the classroom by using BlackBoard Learn (article on page 4).

Having attended the Apple Academy in the spring and earning his certification as an Apple Educator, Mr. Gaven spent the entire summer training all fifth-grade teachers on the iPad and its many academic uses. Workshops focused on the four basic Apple applications of Key Note (similar to PowerPoint), Pages (similar to Microsoft Word), Numbers (similar to Excel), and Garage Band, as well as additional free applications (apps) that could be downloaded to assist in various lessons and exercises. "We want the iPad to become a creation studio," Mr. Gaven said of programs such as Garage Band. "It gives students the tools to respond to learning challenges through a variety of outlets."

One such iPad application that will be utilized this year is E-Spark. This app will use NWEA test data for each student to recommend a series of related applications and experiences (such as a specific iTunes video) that may benefit the specific individual student. "This will provide a nice synergy between iPads and NWEA data," Mr. Gaven said of the free application, which will be piloted in two inclusion classes this year. The district hopes to utilize E-Spark for the first time after the fall NWEA tests.

Among the first projects that students will complete is a mini research project, which will teach them how to use the various applications. "iPads expand the curriculum and make learning an interactive and engaging process for everyone," Mr. Gaven said of the platform. "No longer are teachers bound by a text-book and students limited to 2:30 p.m. as the last opportunity to ask questions of their homework... The resources are endless."

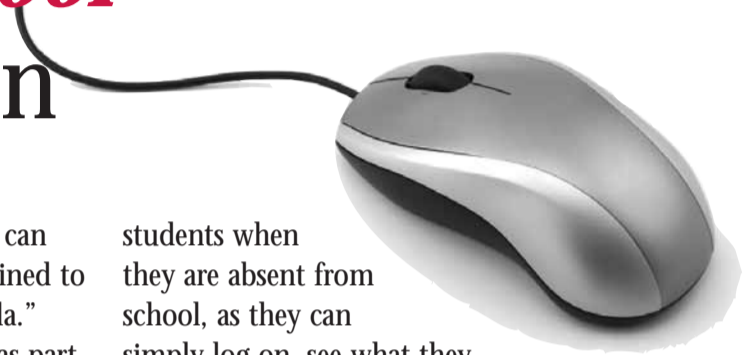
Featured in National Journal

Mineola Union Free School District, always on the cutting edge of technology, was recently featured in *The Journal*. This national publication and online resource is dedicated to informing and educating K-12 administrators on how to improve and advance the learning process through the use of technology. Superintendent Dr. Michael Nagler was featured throughout the article for coming up with the “five-

year replacement plan,” aimed at keeping the most current technology in the hands of students and staff members at the most affordable means possible.

The article also focused on Mineola’s plans for a mobile future and how the district was the first on Long Island to distribute iPads to students. You can view the complete article at *The Journal’s* website, www.thejournal.com.

Creating a *Family-to-School* Community Connection



“In the past, teachers were always hesitant to post classroom content or assignments on their webpages, as it was accessible to everyone and anyone all over the world who has an Internet connection...”

... Superintendent Dr. Michael Nagler.

New this fall, the district has created a website through the community management system, Edline. This website is an adjunct to the district’s main website (www.mineola.k12.ny.us) and is accessible by all students, parents and staff of the district to serve as a secure network for the dissemination of classroom content and monitoring of student success.

Edline utilizes a unique blend of popular social networking sites to make itself more palatable and familiar to students, and more user-friendly to teachers and parents. It allows students to post questions and “blog” on specific classroom topics while providing them with a secure network where they can engage with their peers and teachers. For parents, the site creates a strong family-to-school connection, which that allows them to monitor their child’s success, observe what they are doing in class, and know when a test is approaching or an assignment is due. Teachers can utilize the site to securely post classroom content, special projects and homework.

“In the past, teachers were always hesitant to post classroom content or assignments on their webpages, as it was accessible to everyone and anyone all over the world who has an Internet connection,” explained Superintendent Dr. Nagler. “[Edline] will be a secure site that only

students, parents and staff of the district can view, so teachers will be much more inclined to post and share their content and curricula.” Teachers, who were trained with Edline as part of Superintendent’s Conference Day in September, will be required to create and maintain their webpages through Edline.

Gone will be the days when students had to rely on their classmates to find out what they missed and bring home required materials for them. Edline will provide a great service to

students when they are absent from school, as they can simply log on, see what they missed that day through their teacher’s postings, and interact with classmates to get more specifics on the lesson or to answer any questions.

Edline is slated to launch in October, with all students, parents and staff members receiving individual log-ins by November.

To Virtual Classrooms... and Beyond

The district has implemented the use of a new online platform that will enable students and teachers to extend the school day through a virtual learning center. Blackboard Learn for K-12 will provide online courses for students to utilize from their district-issued iPads or from their home computers. It will also serve as an additional resource for teachers to utilize 21st century learning tools and engage students in subject areas beyond the classroom.

Blackboard Learn offers a comprehensive online solution that helps deliver a personalized learning experience to impact the performance of every student. It will foster active and social learning, enhance teachers’ abilities to monitor and evaluate student progress, promote planning and productivity, and facilitate districtwide efficiency.

Fifth-grade students who have a district-issued iPad will be utilizing this service through a Blackboard Mobile Learn application. Teachers of Advanced Placement courses will also find this tool most valuable, as it will allow them to extend classroom time and reinforce key concepts found on Advanced Placement exams.

“We are always saying that there is never enough classroom time,” said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Patricia Burns. “This allows us to create a classroom that students can access after school.”

Another advantage with the platform is that it will enable teachers to take professional development courses for credit. Superintendent Dr. Michael Nagler already has plans to “teach” an online course about 21st century technology through Blackboard Learn.

Teachers were trained on the platform throughout September and kids will have access in October.

Technology Saving Money

Mineola School District participates in the BOCES multi-year purchasing plan, which allows the district to update its technology equipment every five years. At the speed with which technology and equipment is being created, it is much more efficient and cost-effective for the district to replace old, outdated items on a regular basis. With updated equipment come more efficiencies, and despite the initial investment, a significant cost savings. The list below takes a look at some of the ways the district has saved money by advancing technology in the last 12 months.

Multi-Function Printers (MFP - Fall 2010) – With the installation of new MFP machines districtwide last fall came an enormous savings in district expenditure on paper. The new machines were advanced enough to recognize individual teachers and gave each a maximum number of copies over the course of the year. This forced teachers and staff members to think twice about whether they really needed physical paper copies for all of their students, or if

projecting the image on an overhead or displaying it through an interactive whiteboard would serve the same purpose. As a result, the district spent half the amount of money on copy paper as had been anticipated, resulting in a savings for future budgets.

iPads & Netbooks (2011) – While these items obviously come with an up-front cost (though much of it has come from grant monies,) the payoff is astounding. As this year continues and the district can get a good grasp on the success of

utilizing the 1:1 tablet computers, it is possible to begin phasing out desktop computers at some of the grade levels. In addition, these tablets come equipped with many free applications to enhance students' educational experience, as well as reduce the need for paper between student and teacher.

As more time elapses and the district is able to see the line-by-line savings in such items as paper and books, we will be in a better position to actually quantify this savings to residents.

Youngest Achieve Success

SuccessMaker Enterprise is a new program the district is utilizing this year with its youngest students. Kindergarteners will be using the program, which offers individualized learning in English, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. The program tailors the questions to each student's ability and measures their success in each area. Based upon each student's "report," the program even allows teachers the opportunity to forecast student performance on future high-stakes tests.

The program is available on all computers at Willis Avenue School and brings kindergarten children the excitement of being able to navigate a computer on their own.

Approximately 16,000 schools nationwide utilize the SuccessMaker program to enhance their students' success. Mineola is proud to offer this program as yet another outlet for teachers to utilize for the enhancement of their curriculum.



***"This is a way for students to use a feature of their phones to document math...Most students don't think their phones are capable of creating art, but they are."
... Bette Sloane, teacher***

The Mobile Phone Education Revolution

Instead of banning cell phones from class, Bette Maggie Sloane, a math teacher in the high school, had the unique idea of incorporating this "everyday necessity" into her classroom. She began having her students use mobile phone cameras as a creative way to find geometry and algebra in the world around them. For this innovative idea, she was one of five educators selected from a national pool to receive the NEA Foundation's Challenge to Innovate (C2i) Mobile Project Award.

In one of her projects last year, students went on a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. While there, Ms. Sloane asked her students to find parallel and perpendicular lines in their surroundings and to document them with their cell phone cameras. Students then emailed photos to her, which she posted on her website to create an interactive, digital museum.

"This is a way for students to use a feature of

their phones to document math. Instead of texting or emailing, which can be a quick and even forgettable interaction, students can keep their photographs in their phone files to look at in the future," she explained. "By sending me their submissions, digitally, the art they created with their phones can be exhibited on my website. Most students don't think that their phones are capable of creating art...but they are!"

The NEA Foundation created C2i to uncover innovative approaches in teaching and enable educators to share and build on these ideas to improve student learning. C2i is an incentive-driven networking site, hosted on the Department of Education's Open Innovation Portal, where public school educators and others are offering solutions to pressing classroom challenges. The latest challenge explores how to use mobile phone technology to transform teaching.

A Focus On Our Future



"The Wii. I have a lot of games."
Connor Magurno, Grade 2 (Hampton)



"Computer. I like to play dress-up games."
Seline Oliveira, Grade 2 (Hampton)

"The computer because I get to play Nickelodeon games on it."

-Ava Cohen, Grade 2 (Meadow)



"My iTouch because I can use it for school notes and listen to music."

Taylor Dalton, Grade 8 (High School)



Students Speak:

"What Is Your Favorite Form of Technology and Why?"

"My cell phone because I can talk to everyone at the same time no matter how far away they are."

-Kelyn Pereira, Grade 9 (High School)



"Xbox is my favorite because it's a lot of different things in one. I can play video games, download music and go online."

Guy Kearney, Grade 4 (Meadow)



"The cell phone is my favorite because you can call your parents so they don't worry while you are at a friend's house...it's small and portable."

Syart Dalipi, Grade 7 (Middle School)



"I don't know what that means."

Benjamin Solomon, Kindergarten (Willis)



"The computer. I play games."

Massie Duda, Kindergarten (Willis)



"Computer because you can web chat, play games, interact with your friends and type papers. Plus a laptop is portable."

Jaycee Jones, Grade 6 (Middle School)



"iPhone. It has lots of good uses for parents and kids. Kids can play games on it while parents can talk and email."

Simon Peter, Grade 4 (Jackson)



"The iPad...I have one at home and I put it to good use. I like how you can listen to music."

Valerie Mallon, Grade 4 (Jackson)



Remembering 9/11 Through Spirit and Service

In honor of September 11, 2001, Mineola High School hosted a Day of Service and Remembrance on Friday, September 9. During class time, students were asked to wear red, white and blue, while they learned the history of and reflected on the tragic events of 9/11. Throughout the day, students were urged to participate in service projects, including the opportunity to: purchase baked goods or an original t-shirt with the slogan "We Honor, We Help, We Heal" to benefit a 9/11 charity; write letters of thanks to first responders and service men and women; and make sandwiches to benefit a local soup kitchen.



Evidence of Mineola's spirit of giving was seen in the hundreds of students who participated in the sandwich making, enabling more than 1,000 sandwiches to be made in under ten minutes. "It makes us who we are as a community and as a school district," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Nagler said of the day's service projects and memorial.

The day concluded with a special tree planting and dedication ceremony, which featured student performances and reflections by those directly affected by the attacks. Class of 2007 alumni Caitlin Langone and Mary Ellen Owen lost their fathers in those attacks and spoke to gathered administrators, Board members, staff and students about the importance of honoring that day. "It's important to never forget, but it's also important to talk about it," Caitlin shared. "If we don't discuss it, we won't understand it, and if we don't understand it, we can't learn from it."

Mineola High School has planted a tree in the senior courtyard in the rear of the school to honor all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.



From left to right, teachers: *Theodora Katsionis, John Fretz, Hilary Pavels, Cheryl Lippert, and Joseph Cerulli.*

Welcoming New Teachers

Before the start of school, the district held its New Teacher Breakfast, Orientation and Luncheon for all new faculty members who are beginning with Mineola this year. Five individuals have been chosen to carry on the Mineola pride as teachers or leave replacements, and an additional ten will be serving as student teachers.

As part of the orientation program, the new staff participated in a curricula overview and learned how to use the district's technology and programs. The rest of the day was focused on familiarizing the new faculty with the Mineola Union Free School District, its code of conduct, and the high standards to which the students will be held.

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Joseph Cerulli
Hilary Pavels
Cheryl Lippert
Theodora Katsionis
John Fretz
Kyle Elmore
Jennifer Scarnati
Felicia Singh
Diana Sirabella
Grace Polson
Kristin Jones
Kaitlin Clarke
Emily Desiderio
Alyssa Skidmore
Martyna Sokol

Phys Ed
Phys Ed
PreK
Social Studies Leave Replacement
Social Studies
Student Teacher - Math
Student Teacher - Math
Student Teacher - English
Student Teacher - English
Student Teacher - Science (Chemistry)
Student Teacher - Social Studies
Student Teacher - Elementary
Student Teacher - Elementary
Student Teacher - Elementary
Student Teacher - Elementary

Reconfiguration Offers Opportunity

In addition to the monetary savings that reconfiguration is offering our district, there are also the benefits of efficiency and added opportunity for students. Specifically, efficiencies will be evident in the district's ability to comply with New York State's Common Core Standards and opportunity will be available for students to participate in programs a year earlier than they previously may have been able to. For example, fifth graders now at the Middle School will get a broader scope of clubs and extracurricular activities in which to participate. The district has also been able to launch an elementary world language program for its youngest students to be exposed to a second language. In addition, all eighth-grade students, now at the High School, will be able to take a double period of math, enabling them to take the Integrated Algebra Regents a year earlier than their Long Island peers. This opportunity gives students a chance to take additional Advanced Placement courses in the years to come.

With respect to the Common Core Standards, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Patricia Burns has already attended the NYS Ed Network Team Institute in Albany and has begun implementing recommended changes with staff. All literacy coaches have been meeting to plan professional development activities for teachers in the district, and math lead teachers will provide on going support and staff development to align curricular materials and classroom instruction with the six shifts in ELA and math. Superintendent's Conference Day has focused and will continue to focus on deepening teachers' knowledge and understanding of Common Core Standards as well as using assessments to inform instruction. Teachers will continue to work together throughout the year to align materials, lessons and activities to CCS.

UPCOMING *Events*

Thursday, October 20

Board of Education Business Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Tuesday, October 25

Districtwide Parent University Workshop
7:00 PM @ WI Board Room

Thursday, November 3

Board of Education Workshop Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Tuesday, November 8

Election Day & Superintendent's Conference Day
Schools Closed

Friday, November 11

Veterans Day
Schools Closed

Thursday, November 17

Board of Education Business Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Friday, November 18

Fall Thespian Production
7:30 PM @ HS

Saturday, November 19

Fall Thespian Production
2:00 PM & 7:30 PM @ HS

Thursday, November 24 & Friday, November 25

Thanksgiving Recess
Schools Closed

Thursday, December 1

Board of Education Workshop Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Thursday, December 15

Board of Education Business Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Monday, December 26 – Monday, January 2

Holiday Recess
Schools Closed

Thursday, January 5

Board of Education Workshop Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Honoring the Golden Rule

Throughout September, the District Council PTA hosted a "Golden Rule" Project asking the community for school supplies and gently used backpacks. The items were collected for donation to two elementary schools upstate that suffered severe water damage from flooding due to very heavy rainfall during the first day of school. "Two hundred miles do not make us any less neighbors," parent coordinator Robin Bischoff said about the project, which got its name from the "golden rule" to always help neighbors in need. Mrs. Bischoff coordinated this with Phyllis Badinger.

The Mineola community went above and beyond donating more than was ever anticipated for the fundraiser. As a result, the district donated the use of their box truck, and Superintendent Dr. Michael Nagler volunteered to drive the supplies to their destination upstate. "I graduated from Binghamton University and feel this is the least I can do to help them during this time."

Thank you to the entire community for donating and helping to contribute positively to a global society.



SPORTS CORNER

The Mineola Boys Varsity Soccer team has started this season in a dominating fashion. In the opening weekend, the team took the Mustang Cup Tournament by defeating Lynbrook with a score of 3-1 in the semifinal round, then defeating Oceanside with a score of 2-0 in the final. The game was tied 0-0 at halftime, but the Mustangs took control late in the second half. The tournament MVP was presented to Christian Lird. Christian has also been recognized by MSG Varsity as a Top 20 player on Long Island. The All-Tournament team included Dennis Cruz, Josh Lopes, Richie Forte, Andre Cancelina and Paul Sandoval. Prior to the start of the final game, all four teams took part in a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives on 9/11.

After taking the Mustang Cup, the team played North Shore High School in their first league game. The team ran away early and completed a 6-0 victory. So far the leading goal scorers are Christian Lird (3), Danny Pardo (2) and Paul Sandoval. Returning defenders Dennis Cruz, Richie Forte, Dan Muller and Josh Lopes solidify a strong defense.

The Football team hosted pivotal games in their conference this season as they dominated Oyster Bay High School on September 24 during Homecoming Day (full article will appear in the next issue of *The Outreach*). They will take on Seaford in the annual night football game on October 14 at 7 p.m. The team is primed to repeat their playoff season of last year and look to advance in the county playoffs. The team is led by seniors Rob Clarkin, Nico Pantelides, Steve Napolitano and Joe Massaro. The Football team will also host Malverne High School on October 29.

The Girls Volleyball team hosted their home tournament on Saturday October 1. The team looks to build with young players, as last year's team graduated many seniors. Senior Captain Nicole Lockwood will lead the team into a competitive conference schedule this year.

The Girls Soccer team, led by Senior Captain Alicia Mercurio, took on Valley Stream South High School in a featured night game at Tully Park on September 27. The Cross Country Track Team will compete for a conference title this year as they run their meets at Bethpage State Park and are paced by junior Fred Lang.

The Golf team has already won a match this year and has only one senior in Willie Cashin. With the remainder of the team all underclassmen, they look to establish success to build on in future seasons.



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Publication Coordinator: Danielle Lambert

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