

Institute of CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

Two students from Mineola are among only 85 chosen Islandwide to participate in the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at SUNY College at Old Westbury. Congratulations to sixth-grader William Massaro and freshman Deanna Polosino on being selected for this prestigious and rigorous program.

To qualify for this honor, students competed against more than 500 of the top-ranking students across Long Island. Acceptances were based on school transcript, teacher recommendations, a brief statement written by the student and a rigorous entrance exam.

William and Deanna will spend 20 Saturday mornings – more than 50 classroom hours – tackling mathematical areas such as algebra, geometry, discrete math and number theory. The program focuses on problem-solving skills and challenges students beyond their typical course of study. The course is tuition-free to the 85 selected students and runs through March.

"It's a fun way to find out why math works. It's really challenging and makes you think of more ways to do the same thing."
– Deanna Polosino

"I really like the challenge. It has increased my learning and understanding in math."
– William Massaro



Gaining Real-World Experiences at Mineola High School

Mustang Media

As a result of our district's innovative spirit, our students are always taking the initiative when it comes to creating new outlets for their creative interests. What started out of a general interest to take the Newspaper Club into news broadcasting has now turned into Mustang Media. Since the fall of 2017, three students at Mineola High School have taken the reigns and brought broadcast media to life.

Sophomore anchors Isabella Polanco and Jennifer Moglia work with fellow tenth-grader Isabella Gaglione and adviser Drew Smith at developing content and ideas for the broadcast, which airs every two weeks. Class of 2018 graduate Jennifer Berkowitz is part of the original group that helped spearhead Mustang Media.

The broadcast highlights the top five stories most relevant to the school climate and includes a question of the week or something to engage the audience on social media. The three- or four-minute segments are recorded in advance using the school's green screen and student iPads, along with TouchCast software for editing and a teleprompter.

You can view broadcasts in homeroom every two weeks or by visiting Mustang Media's YouTube channel at MHS Questionmark.



MUSBUYTANGS
MADE BY STUDENTS, SOLD BY STUDENTS

MINEOLA MADE

MusBuyTangs is a student-run business that operates as part of the district's Entrepreneurship class and Business Club. In its second year, the course offers three components that work together to form the business – design, business management and production. Last year the class focused on establishing the business and its core products, but this year the class has partnered with Real World Scholars, which will add an e-commerce component that otherwise wasn't possible.

Under the direction of teacher Bonnie Greene and with help from Mr. Sommer and the DDP students in the FabLab, MusBuyTangs does its own market research, demonstrates products, administers surveys and then finalizes a product that will sell. This year the group is working on an iPad/

phone stand and an arm sleeve to add to the collection. The e-commerce shop will launch this January.

"It's been interesting to see how entrepreneurship has changed in the last 20 years," Ms. Greene shared. "This class is more authentic than anything I've ever done and really lets students flourish by giving a hands-on experience outside the core content areas."

This year's class is also seeking to identify a social cause and to contribute positively to society by donating a portion of the company's profits. Last year, MusBuyTangs profited approximately \$1,500, which was mostly used to reinvest in the purchase of materials for its product creation.

You can check out its e-commerce shop through www.mineolamade.com.

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MARCHING INTO FIRST

It has been nine years since the Mineola High School's Marching Band last placed first in its division at the New York State Field Band Conference championships, and a lot has changed in that time. Despite now including eighth-grade students, the band has seen a decrease in overall participation, and there has been a shift in staff, as well as how the shows are produced. This year's show, A.I.: Artificial Intelligence, was written entirely by Mineola staff members, including Ken Kamping and Marching Band Director Mr. Toomey.

The band starts soliciting for members in the spring of the year prior. Training begins in May, when members begin to go over basic skills, steps and warmups. New members can use this time to decide if participation in the band is right for them, as a final count of members needs to be determined by summer.

"If a student wants to participate," Mr. Toomey said, "we will find a way to make them shine."

The band practices several times a week throughout the summer and then culminates with a weeklong band camp in August. Going

into camp, students must already have the music and drills committed to memory. Upon return from camp, competition season kicks off and the band participates a competition nearly every weekend through the end of October. Every season culminates with the New York State Field Band Conference championships in Syracuse, New York.

Last year, the band came in second place, but was able to cinch the first-place position in Division II this year. It was one of the band's most successful seasons in recent history.



"Staff is always there to push you to be better. One thing really special is how close everyone is. We all love and respect each other. I think it's what makes us so amazing."
 -Austin Velez, Trumpet, Grade 11, Rookie Liaison (third year in Marching Band)

"We like to write our own show because we can tailor it for our band. We've been more successful the last two years because we get to plan out the entire show ourselves."
 -Mr. Toomey, Marching Band Director

- 96 members, grades 8-12.
- Not all students in band class participate in the Marching Band.
- Marching Band is considered an extracurricular activity.
- Mineola joined the Marching Band circuit in 2002 as a Division III band.
- The band moved up to Division II in 2004.
- The band spends more than 400 hours rehearsing on the field each season.



"We always say everyone's important. Just knowing I helped us get here and that I was a part of it, is incredible."
 -Natalie Rivera, Grade 11, Mellophone (second year in Marching Band)

"I knew the Marching Band was a truly unique experience. I started playing the mellophone just this year so I could be part of it. It required a lot of practice in my spare time, but was worth the commitment."
 -Maya Diaz-Portalatin, Grade 10 (first year in Marching Band)

"I've changed a lot since I joined. We're all just so connected and being part of this prepares you for life. You learn people skills and lessons beyond the music. I think we were so successful this year because of our prior failures and coming so close last year."
 -Miranda Bradley, Grade 12, Second-Year Drum Major (fourth year in Marching Band)

"I joined for my friends, but I stayed for the memories."
 -Alexa Schneider, Grade 12, Color Guard Captain (fifth year in Marching Band)

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