

Outreach

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THE TOP of '12

In every class, there are a handful of students who excel at just about everything they do, who consistently strive for more, and who accept nothing less than their very best. This year, Mineola had so many students who fit these criteria that there were mere decimal points between some of our highest-ranked achievers. It is with great honor that we announce Siobhan Adams as the Class of 2012's valedictorian and Zachary Englis as the class' salutatorian. Both of these fine students continue to impress their teachers and principal every day. Let's take a moment to see why.

Siobhan Adams has earned many awards and honors during her tenure at Mineola High School. Her leadership abilities shined when she was selected in both her sophomore and junior years to be an ambassador for the HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership) World Leadership Conference. This year alone, she was named an

AP Scholar with Distinction, received a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, and was honored with a Scholar-Artist Award of Merit. The community may be most familiar with Siobhan's voice, as she is a phenomenal singer who has performed the national anthem at many of our school functions and football games over the years. Her vocal talents have stood out as a member of the treble chorus, concert singers, Dynamics, and A Cappella, as well as in performances at our annual musical productions. This year, Siobhan is serving as president of the Thespian Society, secretary of the Environmental Club, a member of the National Honor Society, and a peer tutor. She is hoping to pursue a degree in pre-med and/or theater.

Equally as impressive, Zachary Englis has made significant contributions to our school community. Captain of the Varsity Cross Country team and a member of the Varsity Winter Track and Spring Track teams, he has received the Strive for Excellence Award and was Class A County Champion in Spring Track. Academically, Zachary was named an AP Scholar with Distinction and has excelled with our science research program. As a junior, he received the Long Island Science Congress Achievement Award, as well as a second-place prize in the medicine and health

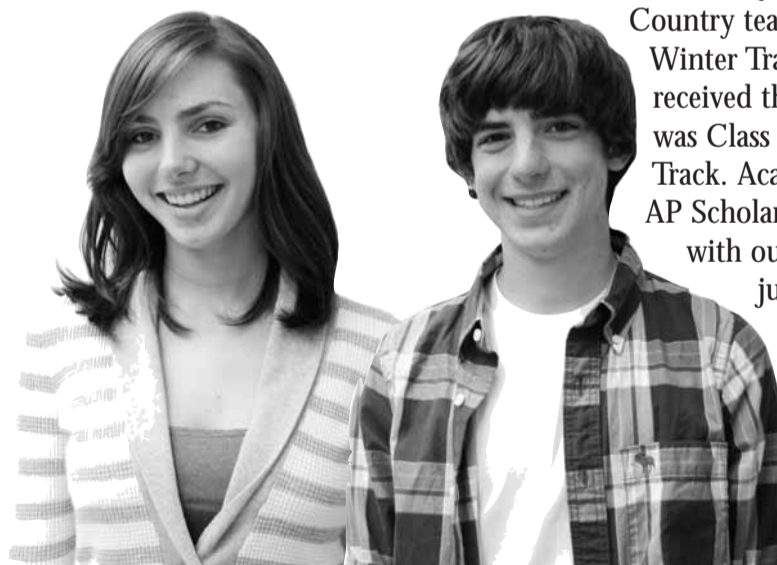


category of the New York State Science and Engineering Fair. Currently serving as vice president of the student organization, he is also a member of the National Honor Society, Environmental Club, Key Club and the yearbook committee. In keeping with the district's mission of contributing positively to a global society, Zachary is also well-known for his volunteerism. This year alone, he has volunteered with the school's Book Buddies, Athletes Helping Athletes, peer tutoring and Computers programs, as well as participating in Mineola "Breaks the Silence" and the NOCC Ovarian Cancer Walk. Zachary plans to harness his love of science by majoring in a science-related field at college.

Rounding out this year's top ten students are:

- #3 - Stephanie Flaum
- #4 - Emily Mahlmann
- #5 - Amanda Buckley
- #6 - Jessica Makowski
- #7 - Karen Lee
- #8 - Sharon Yeung
- #9 - Ludi Zhao-Orena
- #10 - Kaitlyn Farrell

Congratulations to all of these fine students, as well as all of their peers who have strived for excellence these past four years.



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

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Mark Your
Calendar

The Board of Education has adopted the 2012-13 school calendar and classes will most likely begin for students on Wednesday, August 29. Please note that this is prior to the Labor Day weekend.

A MESSAGE FROM *Your Superintendent*

Dear Residents,

Welcome to 2012. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and has been enjoying this unseasonably mild weather. The holidays always prompt me to pause and reflect on how blessed I am to have a wonderful family and to work in a position at a district that I genuinely enjoy. I greatly appreciate all the opportunities this community has afforded me, and I thank you for them. I think of us all as one big family, who, even though we may not agree at times, has the same common goals of focusing on our future and educating our children at the highest and most affordable level.

The new year is also a time of change for our district, as it is for most districts on Long Island. As we begin formal planning for the 2012-13 school budget, it goes without saying that the 2% tax cap will require unprecedented questions, discussions and explanations. I urge everyone to attend future Board of Education meetings to remain up-to-date on this process and to hear any relevant presentations. Please know that Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Jack Waters and I are available to answer any of your questions and address any concerns. Literature, in the form of our annual *Outreach* Budget Edition, will also be mailed home to residents with a full explanation of the tax cap, what it means for Mineola, and our proposed budget.

The final stage of district reconfiguration will take effect for the 2012-13 school year, as well. The district is currently considering rental offers for Willis Avenue School and is hoping to have an agreement in place before June. The closure of both Cross Street School and Willis Avenue School has already resulted in cost savings for our district and puts us in a much more stable financial position moving forward.

I look forward to entering this final phase of reconfiguration with you and working together to maintain an efficient and affordable education for our children.

Sincerely,

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

Board Member *Honored*

Irene Parrino, member of the Board of Education, was recently recognized by New York State School Boards Association for having earned the School Board U Recognition Program's Board Achievement Award. The award is designed to recognize Board members who devote extensive time and effort to expand their governance knowledge and skills. Mrs. Parrino received the award upon completing 75-hours of training through her participation in NYSSBA developmental activities.

For the honor, she has received an Award Certificate and Board Achievement Award lapel pin. Mrs.

Parrino is currently in her second year on the Board of Education and has two children in the Mineola School District. She has been an attorney in New York City for 18 years.



BOARD GOALS FOR 2011-12

The Mineola School District Board of Education adopted its District Goals for the 2011-12 school year. This year's goals include:

Educational:

- To increase the use of assessment data (NWEA) to inform differentiated instruction, thereby increasing individual student achievement
- To continue our growth as professional learning communities focusing on common formative assessments to demonstrate individual student growth
- Re-engage the community in the District's Strategic Plan with a specific focus on the quality indicators that define Mineola's expectations of academic excellence
- Increase opportunities for participation in science and math research at the elementary and middle school levels

Facilities:

- Continue projects that incorporate "green" technologies, that over time will decrease our dependency on fossil fuels

Finance:

- To continue the district initiative to actualize a five-year plan to maintain a stable tax levy while minimizing loss of program

These goals will provide a framework for the Board and members of the administration to work towards throughout the school year. To remain informed on these goals and the district's progress towards completing them, residents are urged to attend the district's Board of Education meetings, held the third Thursday of every month at Willis Avenue School. For a complete and updated schedule, visit the district website at www.mineola.k12.ny.us.

A Focus on Our Future



“Art because I like drawing.”
- Sabrina Matzer, Meadow
Grade 1



“I like to read because it is a
good thing for everyone to be a
good reader.”
Leana Coelho, Hampton Grade 1

“My favorite is gym because
we get to exercise a lot and
play fun games.”
- Joe Cosgrove, Meadow
Grade 4



“I like to make games
because they are fun.”
- Catalina Mercado,
Hampton Grade 1



Students Speak: What Is Your Favorite School Activity and Why?

“Making macaroni
necklaces.”
- Marissa Brown, Willis
Kindergarten



“The autism program at
Willis because you get to
help other kids.”
- Anisha Shah, Grade 6



“I like art.”
- Conor Scott, Willis
Kindergarten



“Drama Club because it’s a way to
sing and dance and be yourself.”
- Christa Post, Grade 6



“Arts and Crafts because its
fun to cut out and glue
different shapes.”
- Sergio Dacunha, Jackson
Grade 2



“Marching band because I like to play
music. There is a lot of camaraderie in the
group and I’m friends with people I may
not have gotten to know.”
- Eric Timlin, Grade 11



“I like the drama class because we
get to act and I can be in plays
when I get to the Middle School.”
- Melissa Leung, Jackson Grade 2



“Drama Club because everyone
is like a community and it’s
really fun to do.”
- Rebecca Bastos, Grade 10



Spotlight Senior: Preserving the Past

Mineola High School senior Danielle Cohen recently culminated her senior project by hosting a “Fight for Tolerance” night for the entire community. The free evening program featured Holocaust survivor Irving Roth, who recounted his experiences, the loss of his brother in the Holocaust, and the importance of preserving the legacy of survivors. Mr. Roth runs the Holocaust Resource Centers at the Temple Judea in Manhasset and created the Adopt a Survivor program that enables survivors’ legacies to be preserved long after they pass on.

Danielle’s decision to pursue this creative endeavor for her senior project is personal, as her grandfather is a Holocaust survivor. She met Mr. Roth through her mother, who is a teacher at a school he visits each year. “There are so few survivors left and I think it’s

important to preserve their memories,” Danielle said of her interest in the subject. “Having that primary source tell you what happened, how he feels about it and why it is so important is completely different than reading it in a textbook.”

In addition to hosting “Fight for Tolerance,” Danielle visited all fifth-grade classrooms during the month of December and conducted an age-appropriate lesson on the Holocaust for students.



TOP ACHIEVERS

Fifty-Seven Named AP Scholars

Fifty-seven students at Mineola High School have earned AP Scholar Awards for their exceptional achievement on Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams. Students took AP Exams in May 2011, after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students’ performance on AP exams.

Congratulations to the following students:

National AP Scholar (Granted to students in the U.S. who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams): Seung Jae (Sean) Cha, Jessica Y. Shi and Abigail L. Sia.

AP Scholar with Distinction (Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams): Siobhan Adams, Bethanne Bartscherer, Lauren S. Bonilla, William M. Buehler, Seung Jae (Sean) Cha, Zachary R. Englis, Luke D. Escobar, Kevin J. Hale, Nicholas J. LaBarbera, Renjith R. Maracheril, Danniya Samuel, Jessica Y. Shi, Abigail L. Sia, Lauren

M. Siemann, Robert L. Steinmann, Gabriela Voll, Nathaniel G. Williams, Sharon Yeung and Andres F. Zapata.

AP Scholar with Honor (Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams): Jessica Makowski, Mathias N. Penaherrera, Daniel Pinto, Olivia R. Rodrigues and Nicole Scala.

AP Scholar (Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams): Milton Arantes, Emily Barron, Catherine B. Braun, Danielle V. Cohen, Katherine J. Dul, Kaitlyn M. Farrell, Lacey J. Fater, Kelly S. Fernandes, Kevin F. Ferreira, Nicholas C. Fiori, Stephanie L. Flaum, Christopher M. Gavin, Nicholas R. Harran, Christiana P. Joyce, Chae Won Lee, Min Y. Lee, Ma-Deza J. Lerasan, Nicole M. Lockwood, Jenna M. Maher, Cinthia P. Martins, Caique Mello, Matthew Moro, Steven Napolitano, Emma F. Perez, Carly Rome, Constantine T. Saketos, Amy J. Steinmann, Ryan Timlin, Nikolas G. Vale, Hayley L. Ward and Spencer R. Wolf.

Three Commended Students

As a result of their academic performance on the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), three Mineola High School seniors have been named Commended Students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 34,000 students throughout the nation are being recognized for this exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2012 competition for National Merit Scholarships, being named a Commended Student recognizes that these students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition.

The Mineola Union Free School District congratulates the following students for receiving this honor:

Siobhan Adams
Emily Mahlmann
Matthew Moro



Pictured (L-R) Commended Students Emily, Matthew and Siobhan

A World of Languages

New this year, kindergarten and first-grade students throughout the district are learning the foundation of their first foreign language. The district's World Language Program has begun to implement teaching Spanish at the elementary level. The district will expand the program to include second graders next year and plans to add a grade-level each year thereafter.

The program is based on research indicating that children have the ability to learn languages much more easily at a younger age than they do later on. Previously, students were not introduced to a foreign language until the seventh grade. The seventh-grade foreign language program has been eliminated this year, with high school levels, including eighth grade, remaining in tact.

"Students get more comfortable with the language and learn the base vocabulary so that when they get to the grammar portion later on, they are much more comfortable with it," Spanish teacher Stephanie Klein said of the program. She added, "At this age they have no inhibitions, no insecurities, so they are more

willing to learn the unfamiliar sounds and make mistakes without being judged. The kids are so excited to learn something new."

The program currently has students engaging in Spanish as a foreign language for thirty minutes twice a week at Hampton, Meadow and Willis. Ms. Klein and fellow Spanish teacher Laura Coppi travel between the schools in addition to teaching at the high school. During their first year in the program, students will master such Spanish basics as greetings, numbers, colors and animals.



Willis Goes Global

In Dr. Peter Hofmann's class at Willis Avenue School, English is not the primary language spoken throughout the day. These kindergarteners,

many with families from El Salvador, Honduras, Ecuador and Guatemala, speak Spanish as their primary language and are in the process of learning and perfecting their English grammar. The class reads books, recites the Pledge, and learns basic phrases in both English and Spanish. "The idea is to enhance their English vocabulary, while preserving their Spanish heritage," Principal Dr. SueCaryl Fleischmann said of the class.

Approximately twenty students are currently benefiting from this program which is preparing them for the first-grade vocabulary.



"We learned about the Nazis in class and then saw first-hand the carts that were used to carry people out on." – Parth Dave

"You could sense the historic background there, I wish it could have been longer." Katie Shi

"I liked the Air and Space Museum best. I had never been interested in that before but found it very cool and I may pursue more science classes as a result."
– Matt Tavernite

To Washington and Beyond

While on the surface it is an eighth-grade trip to Washington, DC, when speaking to students or advisors who actually go on the trip, it is about so much more. The annual two-day experience yields approximately 160 eighth graders who take a five-hour bus ride into history. This year's trip featured a tour of the U.S. Capitol and the White House, exploration at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and Museum of Natural History, and visits to the Grant Memorial, newly-established MLK Memorial, and the Lincoln, Korean and Vietnam Veterans Memorials.

"The kids thoroughly enjoy every aspect of the trip, from the friends, the sights, the museums, the bus ride and the hotel stay...It is unequivocally one of their best educational experiences," coordinator AJ

Hepworth said of the experience. This trip has been offered to eighth-graders for the past 10 years and serves as a great culmination to seventh-grade and early-eighth-grade social studies curricula.

To see what students are saying about the experience in their own words, read their thoughts at left.



Embracing Opportunity

The numbers prove it - students are avidly embracing the new structure of Mineola Middle School. Since September, Principal Mark Barth has seen a dramatic increase in student participation in after-school clubs, the morning breakfast program, intramurals, and at-school events. In some instances, participation has doubled over the average of years past. Photography club, for example, went from 10-15 members last year to approximately 35 this year, and intramural sports saw an increase to 40 students from just 20 last year.

Mr. Barth attributes the rise in participation to fifth graders who have been given more opportunity for extracurricular activities and seventh graders who are now the leaders of the school. "Kids respond positively to extra responsibility and independence," Mr. Barth said of the phenomena. "I think students and their families are really embracing our new configuration and the culture of engagement."

Also of note, the middle school was able to host a full two-and-a-half day teacher conference schedule this year, affording more parents the opportunity to meet and spend more time with their child's classroom teacher. The district now has the opportunity to hold these conferences in the spring as well as in the fall. Under the prior structure, the middle school only hosted conferences in two-hour blocks of time. This year's change is due to the new configuration, which follows a more "elementary" structure of scheduling.

An Election All Their Own

Fourth graders at Hampton Street learned about elections in a special way. The school's service organization K-Kids, led by faculty advisors Lois Haque (nurse) and Andrea Romano (first-grade teacher), held elections. Students had to write an essay that would be signed by their parents, teacher and principal about how they would serve the school and the K-Kids organization if they won. Each candidate then made and hung up colorful posters promoting his or her platform. Finally, all of the fourth graders gathered in the cafeteria, where each candidate made a speech. After a secret ballot vote, the winners were announced:

Ethan Sargeant, President
Francisca Gomes, Vice President
Alyssa Garbarini, Treasurer
Victoria Godinho, Secretary

Congratulations to all of the students who ran and learned about democracy in action.



Woman of Distinction

Jodi DeSantis-Helming, learning specialist at Jackson Avenue School, was recently honored as a recipient of Assemblyman Tom McKeivitt's Women of Distinction Award. One of only two educators selected for the award this year, she received a special citation at the 5th

Annual 17th Assembly District Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony, held on August 13, 2011 at the Albertson VFW Hall.

An elementary teacher in Mineola for more than 20 years, Jodi serves as a role model for all children. She has dedicated countless hours to meeting the needs of students, particularly those who may be struggling as learners. Two years ago, she authored her first book, entitled "Take Three Miracles and Call Me in the Morning," a story about appreciating the things we have and that was written for adults to read to their children. She is currently working on her book "Positive Thinker's Toolkit," specifically for use with children.

Mrs. Helming earned her bachelor's degree in education from the University of Michigan and her masters of science and educational administrative degree from Hofstra University. She is the only teacher in the Mineola Union Free School District who holds National Board Certification. National certification requires completion of a rigorous application process and is only given to highly-distinguished professionals.

An elementary teacher in Mineola for more than 20 years, Jodi serves as a role model for all children.

Donating Food for THANKSGIVING

During this Thanksgiving season, Jackson Avenue School's student council sponsored a food drive to benefit local Mineola families for the holiday. Each grade level was asked to donate Thanksgiving food items to create baskets that would enable families to truly celebrate a "Happy Thanksgiving." As a result of the entire school community coming together, the student council was able to put together baskets that would benefit 35 local families. Pictured are some of the student council members organizing the food donations.



A Music Minute



Mr. Ratner with 2011 7th Grade Honors Band Members Kayla Orefice, Ryan Hornberger, Michelle VandeStowe, Daniel Reardon

High Honors

The Mineola High School Mustangs Marching Band took fifth place in their class with a score of 85.7 at the 2011 New York State Field Band Championships held at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, NY on Sunday, October 30. The top bands were all very closely ranked!

Throughout the season, which began in May with rehearsals and concluded at championships, the band wowed the audiences and judges, with scores that helped to make it one of the fan favorites.

This was the first year that Mineola was in the Small School One class. They had been part of Small School Two, but moved to the top level because of the growth and success of their band program. Mineola competed against schools from across New York State, and each performance of this season's show, "The Heist," was amazing. Although the competition was much harder, the Mineola students rose to the challenge!

The entire community should be very proud of not only how the band performed, but of how it represented the community. The students were wonderful ambassadors for Mineola, and their actions throughout the season and into finals reflected their dignity and pride.

Congratulations to the 2011 Mineola High School Mustangs Marching Band!



College-Level Musicians

Four Mineola Middle School seventh graders recently performed in the Hofstra University Middle School Honors Band. They were -

- Kayla Orefice - Clarinet
- Ryan Hornberger - String Bass
- Michelle VandeStowe - Flute
- Daniel Reardon - Tuba

The Honors Band was conducted by Professor Peter Boonshaft, Director of Bands for Hofstra University, and by world-renowned composer Larry Clark. Following a rehearsal the day before, the band held a concert at Hofstra on Friday, October 21.

Congratulations to these outstanding musicians and to their band director Marc Ratner.

Celebrating 50 Years at Homecoming



This year's Homecoming Court included: (pictured above left to right, with Principal Ed Escobar and Superintendent Dr. Mike Nagler) ninth grader Elizabeth Brown, tenth grader Emilia Beszerda, senior Homecoming King Joseph Massaro, senior Homecoming Queen Alicia Mercurio, and junior Nikki-Taylor Massaro.

On the field the Varsity Football Mustangs took on Oyster Bay, defeating them with a score of 28-7. Earlier that day, the school's Junior Varsity Team also won their football game against Oyster Bay.

The theme of this year's annual Homecoming Celebration for Mineola High School was celebrating the school's 50th anniversary. Erected in 1961, each of the district's schools paid homage to the building in this year's homecoming parade. Decked in classic cars and holding "Happy 50th" balloons, students and staff gathered to honor the Mustangs' big day. The parade, which began at Andrews Road and proceeded more than a mile to Hampton Stadium, brought together the entire Mineola community.



UPCOMING Events

Monday, January 16

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Schools Closed

Thursday, January 19

Board of Education Business Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Thursday, February 2

Board of Education Workshop Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Friday, February 3

Musical Production 7:30 PM @ MS

Saturday, February 4

Musical Production 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM @ MS

Thursday, February 16

Board of Education Business Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Monday, February 20 – Friday, February 24

Winter Recess – Schools Closed

Wednesday, February 29

District Choral Night 7:00 PM @ HS

Thursday, March 1

Board of Education Workshop Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Thursday, March 15

Board of Education Business Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Tuesday, March 20

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

Friday, March 23

Spring Musical 7:30 PM @ HS

Saturday, March 24

Spring Musical 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM @ HS

Thursday, March 29

Board of Education Workshop Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Upcoming PTA Cultural Arts Series

Foot and Fiddle Dance Company

Saturday, January 21st
2:00 PM @ MHS

A show that hardly stops to catch its breath! An exciting blend of traditional dance and lively music. Cowboy hats and boots welcome!

Tickets are \$5 per child.

Please contact Debbie Tobar at 214-4456 for tickets or with any questions.



Success On & Off the Field

Mineola High School's Athletic Department would like to congratulate all of its teams that represented the Mineola community with distinction and sportsmanship during the 2011-2012 fall sports season. In addition to multiple team successes, many of our student athletes were individually honored in their respective sports for succeeding both in the classroom and on the playing field. Congratulations to the following student-athletes for distinguishing themselves this season:

FOOTBALL

Robert Clarkin & Joeseeph Massaro	All-County
Brian Gaffney	All-Conference
Thomas Breslin & Steven Napolitano	National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Nicole Lockwood, Delores Chichi & Danielle Martinez-McCormack	All-Conference
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BOYS SOCCER

Denis Lazo-Cruz & Christian Lird	All-County
Andre Cancelinha, Richard Forte, Daniel Muller, Daniel Pardo & Kevin Mulder	All-Conference
Caique Mello	Senior Scholar-Athlete

GIRLS SOCCER

Alicia Mercurio	All-County
Julianne Falotico	All-Class B
Nicole Forte	All-Conference
Nicole Vella	Senior Scholar-Athlete

CROSS COUNTY

Fredric Lang	All-Conference
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Publication Coordinator: Danielle Lambert

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