



Special Graduation SECTION INSIDE

utreach

WWW.MINEOLA.K12.NY.US



A Musical High Note:

One of the Best

For the fourth year in a row, Mineola has been selected as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in America.

This designation was given to districts nationwide by the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation, which helped to put together a survey that was completed by thousands of districts across the country. The districts were measured across curricular and programmatic criteria, as well as through public support of their music programs, and only the top-rated districts were chosen.

Participants in the survey answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, course offerings, extra- and co-curricular opportunities, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and other relevant factors in their communities' music education programs.

Congratulations to the entire district music staff on this incredible honor.

EMERGING ENGINEERS MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY TAKES GOLD

SOLAR POWERED SPEED

Sixth-grade students at Mineola Middle School had the unique opportunity of constructing solar-powered cars as part of their end-of-year unit on energy. After researching designs, students were given a kit from which to construct a basic solar-powered car, but were able to add their own tweaks based upon the results of their research. Groups were given four days to construct the mini-vehicle and vie for the opportunity to compete at the Junior Solar Sprint competition in May, held at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City.



"The genesis of this project was to create a grade-level, project-based learning exercise that was consistent with student collaboration and critical thinking, while being relevant to what is being taught in the classroom," teacher Vincent Interrante said. "The excitement among the teachers really reinforced and encouraged the creativity of the kids."

Students tested their cars' ability to run for 60 feet in the bright spring sun. The best times ranged from 6 to 8 seconds completion.

"Putting the cars together and testing them were my favorite part," student Jordyn Sinert said of the experience.

As a result of their hard work, Team Mineola took first, second and third place against 21 teams from across Brooklyn, Nassau and Suffolk at the Junior Solar Sprint competition.

GOLD MEDAL KIDWIND

Select students from Mineola Middle School earned a gold medal in the KidWind Regional Competition hosted by the Cradle of Aviation Museum and National Grid. Middle and high school students from all across Long Island competed in the challenge, which engages students in an open-ended competition to build small-scale wind turbines that demonstrate the promise and limits of a wind-powered future. Mineola placed first among all middle schools in their division.



After two weeks of collaboration on their design, the team constructed a wind turbine to create the greatest amount of electricity. At the competition, the students had to present their design to a panel of judges from the Cradle of Aviation Museum and National Grid.

MOST INNOVATIVE, ONCE AGAIN

For the second consecutive year, teacher Vincent Interrante has had one of his classroom projects chosen by the Microsoft Partners in Learning forum as one of the most innovative projects in the United States. Mr. Interrante is one of 102 finalists across the nation selected to showcase the creative ways he is using technology to transform the classroom.

Reach for the Stars is a 21st century project-based learning experience in which sixth-grade students collaborate with those in their grade level at other schools to design and construct a water bottle rocket that will have the longest elapsed flight time. Over 225 students from five schools on three different continents participated in this year's challenge.

Mr. Interrante, along with his collaborator Robyn Hrivnatz from Texas, will be presenting the Reach for the Stars project at the Microsoft forum in Washington over the summer.

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

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

Around Our Elementary Schools

Jackson Avenue

Featured in Bank Ad

Lizbeth Peña, a third-grade student at Jackson Avenue School, is currently being featured in an advertisement on display at 31 branches of Capital One Bank throughout Nassau County. Lizbeth and her ESL teacher, Christine Shields, were selected to be featured in the display ads for the Nassau County branches, and Lizbeth herself is featured on a pamphlet distributed to customers. The campaign spotlights a charity that grants money to teachers to sponsor their projects for a better classroom. Ms. Shields was selected for one of these grants several months ago, through which she was able to purchase speaking dictionaries for her ESL classroom.



The pair's selection was based upon a connection Ms. Shields has to someone who works in the marketing department of the bank. "They were looking to feature a real Long Island teacher and her student. My friend reached out to me and asked if I wanted to do it," Ms. Shields explained. "It was very exciting," Lizbeth added of the day she and her teacher had their photo shoot at a studio in the bank's main office in Melville.

Anti-Bullying Workshops

Third and fourth-grade students at Jackson participated in an anti-bullying workshop led by the ninth-grade upperclassmen. As part of a service-learning project, the high schoolers organized a complete lesson plan centered on anti-bullying, read a book with students and led discussion groups on how to handle a bully. Much of the workshop focused on being an "upstander," a person who speaks up for someone they witness being bullied, rather than of a bystander, and served as reinforcement to anti-bullying tactics discussed throughout the year in the classroom.



Hampton Street

Principal For A Day

Second-grade student Katelyn Gayson from Hampton served as Principal for a Day, an honor she won through a raffle on the school's Bingo Night. Over the course of the day, Katelyn was very helpful to Principal Devra Small, assisting her in writing a few memos and joining her for classroom visits. The second-grader learned how to observe what the students are learning and to ask questions of the children as she walked around. When Mrs. Small had to go to a meeting at the end of the day, she was able to count on Katelyn to make the dismissal announcement over the PA system. Katelyn said her favorite part of the day was visiting her own class.



Recycled Artwork

The K-Kids Club at Hampton hosted a recycled art contest for Earth Day. As part of the contest, any student wishing to participate had to create a free-standing piece of art no bigger than 2'x2' and made of only recycled materials. All participants received green-related prizes, and each winner received a gift card to Barnes & Noble.



Pictured with their artwork are all of the students who participated in the contest.

Graduation Issue

Top 10 of '12



#1 – SIOBHAN ADAMS

Attending: Boston University

Major: Pre-med

Academic Honors/Awards: Scholar Artist Award of Merit, AP Scholar with Distinction, Letter of Commendation from National Merit Scholarship Program, HOBY Ambassador, and an attendee of the World Leadership Conference

Senior Activities: National Honor Society member, Treble Chorus, Concert Singers, Dynamics, A Capella, president of Thespian Society, fall & spring musical participant, Environmental Club member and peer tutoring



#6 – JESSICA MAKOWSKI

Attending: New York Institute of Technology (NYIT)

Major: Physical Therapy

Senior Activities: Student Service Center volunteer, Concert Band, National Honor Society and National Society of High School Scholars



#2 – ZACHARY ENGLIS

Attending: Hofstra University

Major: Biology

Academic Honors/Awards: LI Science Congress Achievement Award and AP Scholar with Distinction

Senior Activities: National Honor Society member, Student Organization vice president, Environmental Club member, Yearbook Committee, Key Club member, Varsity Winter Track, Varsity Spring Track,

Varsity Cross-Country captain, Book Buddies, Athletes Helping Athletes and Student Service Center



#7 – MIN (KAREN) LEE

Attending: SUNY Stony Brook

Major: Pre-med

Academic Honors/Awards: NYS Science and Engineering Fair 5th Place Recognition in Andromeda Division, Honorable Mention at LI Science Congress and AP Scholar Award

Senior Activities: Vice president of Science Club, vice president of Environmental Club, National Honor Society member, Yearbook Club, Key Club, treasurer of Mathletes, Latin Club, Student Service Center volunteer, Winthrop University Hospital Internship Program and Cross Country team member



#3 – STEPHANIE FLAUM

Attending: Hofstra University

Major: Undecided

Academic Honors/Awards: AP Scholar Award and Fairfield Book Award

Senior Activities: National Honor Society member, public relations manager for Key Club, Long Island Leos, vice president of Mathletes, secretary of Environmental Club, Yearbook Committee member, Student Service

Center volunteer, Dynamics, A Capella, Thespian Troupe and spring and fall musical participant



#8 – SHARON YEUNG

Attending: St. Johns University

Major: Pharmacy

Academic Honors: AP Scholar with Distinction

Senior Activities: National Honor Society member, Student Service Center volunteer, president of SADD, secretary of Kiwanis Key Club, Environmental Club member, Yearbook Club member, Latin Club and treasurer of Student Organization and Science Club member



#4 – EMILY MAHLMANN

Attending: Florida State University

Major: Choral Music Education

Academic Honors/Awards: Commended National Merit Scholar and Level 5 NYSSMA Perfect Score

Senior Activities: National Honor Society member, vice president of Latin Club, Marching Band, president of Mathletes, A Capella, Drama Club member, Jazz Band, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Peer Tutor and Student Service

Leadership Core



#9 – LUDI ZHAO-ORENA

Attending: Hofstra University

Major: Undecided

Senior Activities: National Honor Society member, Latin Club, Italian Club, Dynamics and Student Service Center volunteer



#5 – AMANDA BUCKLEY

Attending: Adelphi University

Major: Mathematics Education

Senior Activities: National Honor Society member, Student Organization representative, Concert Band and Marching Band



#10 – KAITLYN FARRELL

Attending: Western New England University

Major: Forensic Science

Academic Honors/Awards: AP Scholar with Distinction

Senior Activities: National Honor Society member, president of Environmental Club, Increase the Peace, Drama Club, Yearbook Club, Student Service Center volunteer

Students Speak:
What is your most memorable moment at Mineola HS?



"It would be Reggie Carter Night this year for basketball. I had been injured in past years and it was nice to receive that honor for my hard work and commitment." - Matthew Moro



"The presentation of Rachel's Challenge. To see how she affected so many people really hit me and made me think about a lot of things. It was very touching. I'll never forget it." - Anthony Martins



"After Matthew Hylton died, our grade really came together and it was nice to see how everyone changed. One day can change everything." - Jasleen Kaur



"Rachel's Challenge a few years ago. I liked it because it gave everyone an understanding of bullying and the affects it can have. It really brought our school together. I think we should do more things like that here." - Alicia Mercurio



"Senior project because I worked with my friend on a video that explained the impact of using words like "retarded." We showed the finished work to fifth graders. It was really special to me because I spent three summers working with special education students and it was a really memorable experience." - Nikki Vella



"Being part of the student service center since I was a freshman because it allows students to give back to the community. It leaves you with such a great feeling. It is the most heartwarming experience." - Wendy Espinosa



"Senior project. I didn't think it would be much at first, but it turned into a 25-hour internship with a lawyer. I want to be a corporate lawyer and this really gave me the opportunity to expand my knowledge and realize that helping people through law is what I really want to do." - Alexis Majano

The Class of 2012: Now and Forever

Parents, siblings, extended family, friends and peers gathered at the Tilles Center on June 22 to honor the Class of 2012 at Mineola High School's 121st commencement ceremony. The procession, set to "Pomp and Circumstance" as performed by the high school orchestra, was led by valedictorian Siobhan Adams and salutarian Zachary Englis. The ceremony was laced with special performances delivered by members of the graduating class, including the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner," Stevie Nicks' "Landslide" featuring Christopher Gavin on guitar and a rendition of Randy Newman's "You've Got a Friend in Me."

Prior to the presentation of the diplomas, Board of Education President Christine Napolitano, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael P. Nagler, Principal Edward Escobar, Siobhan and Zachary were each given an opportunity to address the graduates and leave them with words of reflection, encouragement and best wishes.

Both Siobhan and Zachary spoke to their peers on how close the Class of 2012 had become, citing the death of classmate Matthew Hylton in May of 2010 as the bond that forever united them. "The future will split us apart, but our experiences will unite us for life,"

Zachary noted. Siobhan offered her peers these words, which were shared with her, in part, by fellow graduate Christopher Gavin: "Think of life as a show... Every scene is a new show and today the curtains are down while we set up for the next act... I hope you will look back on high school as a stepping stone to the future."

Mr. Escobar and Dr. Nagler spoke highly of Matthew and shared their memories of him with the crowd. "Let his spirit give us a reminder to live and enjoy life," Dr. Nagler advised.

Following the presentation of the last diploma by Board President Mrs. Napolitano, the graduates celebrated with the traditional cap toss. With the orchestra performing Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" for the recessional march, the graduates reunited with their loved ones as official alumni of the Mineola Union Free School District.



"Being Homecoming King and juggling that with being in the homecoming game. That was one of the best games of my high school career." - Joe Massaro



"Our sophomore year, a friend and classmate passed away (Matthew Hylton). It was a defining moment for our maturity and a big moment here in Mineola." - Steven Napolitano

"Sophomore year I participated in the Spain Exchange. My exchange student and I became best friends; I actually went to visit her this past summer. It was a really great experience and taught me a lot about their culture." - Emma Perez



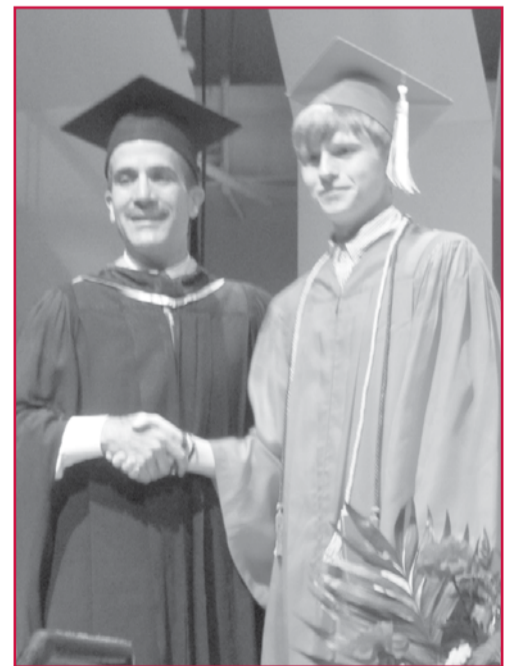
Members of the Class of 2012

Siobhan Caitlin Adams
Monica F. Alves
Joseph An
Carolynn Rose Aragona
Charles Andrew Attard
Jose Barajas
Emily Barron
Nathany Otto Barros
Lauren Ashley Barry
Lissanny Batista
Lauryn Bayne
Juana Benavides
Steven Bernal
Alyssa Bestler
Katina Billiris
Jairo Bonilla
Chance Bonne
Jennifer Rose Bonziglia
Catherine Breanna Braun
Thomas J. Breslin
Elizabeth Brooks
Amanda Marie Buckley
HanByul Byu
Andre Cancelinha
John Canzoneri
Marlon Cardona
William C. Cashin
Nicole Marie Cerruti
Jose Miguel Chuco
David H. Chung
Alan Patrick Clarke
Robert M. Clarkin
Dana Alexandra Clingo
Christopher Coelho
Danielle V. Cohen
Deanna Constantino
Nicholas Vincent Conway
Detrick Cuascut
Andre Cunha
Erik W. Darmstadt
Andres Felipe David
Laura Delgado
Paola Delgado Ita
Manuel Diaz
Dylan V. Dombrowski
Daniel E. DosSantos
Julius (J.P.) Paul Duic
Rachel Easton
Zachary R. W. Englis
Wendy Espinosa
Erin Kathleen Etherson
Emanuel Alexandre Faria
Kaitlyn M. Farrell
Michael D. Fernandes
Bruno Ferreira
Stephanie Lynn Flaum
Richard C. Forte
Jeremy Friedman
Amanda Micelle Fucci
Ariella Galimi
Carmen Garcia
David Garcia
Christopher M. Gavin
Anthony Giaimo

Edwin Gochez Rivera
Amadeu Goncalves
Nicholas John Goncalves
David Gorry
David Greenberg
Lorenzo Guilas
Brendan Gunshinan
Rebecca Guy
Crystal Michele Hanley
Kristen N. Harran
Nicholas R. Harran
Ryan Harty
Nicole Henrichs
Danielle Hernandez
Steven Omar Hernandez
Josue David Hincapie
Ivan Hosein
Marco Iannelli
Kerline D. Joseph
Christiana P. Joyce
RaeAnn Margaret Kalenka
Anna Kang
Jasleen Kaur
Ian M. Kelly
Jacqueline F. Kelly
Patrick Kelly
Dow Kim
Tiffany Klein
Jonathon Klicpera
Matthew Kohl
Jocelyn Kompancaril
Tara Lynn Kubat
Baback Lahijani
Kevin Lang
Joseph M. Lao
Denis Lazo-Cruz
Chae (Brianna) Lee
Min Y. Lee
Natalie Leitman
Ma. Deza Javines Lerasan
Angela Licari
Emily Anne Lipton
Christian Lird
Marko Lisonek
Nicole M. Lockwood
Vanessa Lopez
Jenna M. Maher
Emily L. Mahlmann
Gregory Michael Maisch
Alexis Majano
Jessica Michelle Makowski
Shannon Maloney
Alexa R. Marazzo
Juan Marquez
Anthony B. Martins
Cinthia P. Martins
Joseph Massaro
Shaun Mathew
Mairead Julia McGrath
Kerri Ann Medlock
Caique Mello
Alex Mendes
Nichole Mendieta
Alicia Ann Mercurio

Rachel Montanez
Matthew John Moro
Filipe A. Mota
Kevin Mulder
Daniel Muller
Kelsey E. Napolitano
Steven Elvis Napolitano
Shana Natale
Ahsan Nehal
Joseph Nunziata
Vishal Ochani
William Olanick
Milenice Olio
Jose Ortega
Quinn Michael Paggi
Mary Palumbo
Nico Anthony Pantelides
Luisnel Pantoja
Antonio Paravisini
Stephen Pawlowski
Mathias Penaherrera
Emma Perez
Justin Stewart Pilla
Daniel Pinto
Kenny Portillo
Brian Posner
Natalie Rose Post
Jasmine Ramos
Mersima Redzematovic
Alisha Reyes
Anthony Ribando
Andrea Celeste Ribeiro
Anthony R. Riccardi
Samantha Ricciardi
Scott Rivera
Steven Rizzo
Silvia Rodriguez
Nicholas Daniel Rutigliano
Christopher Ryan
Cynthia Sanchez
Paul Sandoval
David Santodonato
Dianna Santodonato
Mariacamila Santoli
Alixandrya Santos
Adriana Sarno
Nicholas Carmine Sarno
Nicole Scala
Erick Seno

Carina Silva
Jason Cardoso Simone
Harkirat Singh
Ashley E. Sonera
Susana Cristina Sousa
Chantele Sterling
Carrie Taveira
Ashley Lynn Thilbourg
Alexandra Thomas
Ayanna Loriann Thorpe
Michelle F. Toscano
Alexander Toth
Nicole Trivigno
Vincent Tullo
Valentina Usma
Kristopher Vale
Gina Lynn Valente
Jonathan Valentin
Dave Winston Valmond
Pedro Vela
Nicole Kristin Vella
Catherine Ventura
Julio Danny Vigario
Stephany Villacreses
Craig Alfred Weber
Matthew R. Wetzel
Daniel Willis
Louise Wilson
Victoria Catherine Wresch
Sharon Yeung
Ludi Zhao-Orena



Around Our Elementary Schools

Meadow Drive

Celebrating the Stars & Stripes

Red, white and blue were the colors of the day as all students at Meadow Drive presented a festive and patriotic assembly for Flag Day on June 14.

Surrounded by their "special persons," students recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sung a classic rendition of "America the Beautiful."

Select fourth-graders shared their knowledge on the importance of the flag and key facts about its meaning.

The celebration tied into the fourth-grade unit on immigration, in which students had to interview a special person and trace their family history to the time they first came to America. The ceremony concluded with the singing of "Fifty Nifty United States."



Willis Avenue

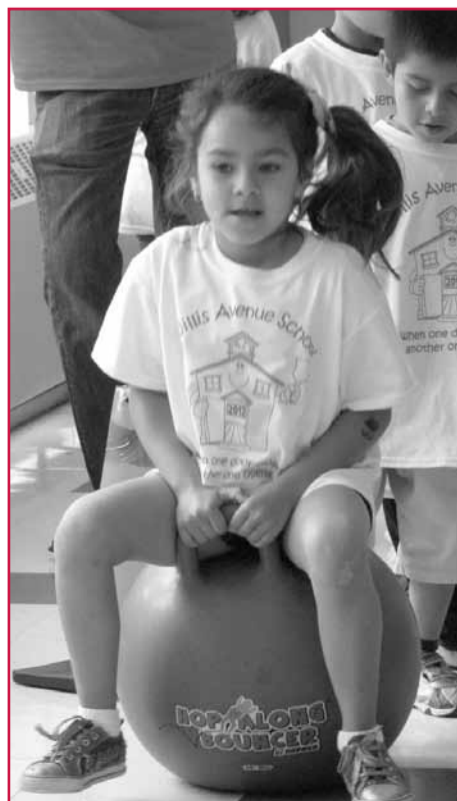
KISSING THE YEAR GOODBYE

Denise Maynard's kindergarten class at Willis Avenue School celebrated the end of the school year in style. Members of district administration, together with family and friends gathered to watch Ms. Maynard's class perform a final "Kiss This Year Good-Bye." The show featured a medley of songs and nursery rhymes complete with coordinated movements and Broadway-style rhythms from each of the children. Among the songs were "Summertime," "It's the Hard Knock Life" and "Doe-A-Deer."

"This year's class was enthusiastic, dramatic and loved to learn," Ms. Maynard gushed. At the conclusion, parents had the opportunity to "purchase" their child's artwork from throughout the year by making a small change donation to the Help A Child organization.



Time for *Teamwork*



In celebration of the end of the school year, each of the elementary schools in the district host an annual field day for students. This event allows students the opportunity to spend half of their regular school day engaged in fun activities, friendly competition and physical activity. Each school sets up stations of activities on their field, and students rotate among them. Activities include sack races, relay races, partner building exercises, volleyball and tug of war. Pictured are some highlights of the field day at Willis Avenue School, which culminated in a special barbecue celebration.

Calendar Notice

District calendars are slated for delivery in mid August to the homes of all residents who have a child currently enrolled in the district. For those who do not have a child in the district, but would like a school calendar, please contact Sharon Macken at 237-2030 after August 20.



New Middle School Principal

Although not new to the district, Matthew Gaven will be new to the position of principal at Mineola Middle School, effective July 1, 2012. Mr. Gaven has completed his sixth year with the district and his 16th year in education. During his time in Mineola, he served for five years as principal of Jackson Avenue School and one year as District Director of Pupil Personnel Services. He was trained in the spring of 2011 as a certified Apple Educator and has an education background in computing and technology.

Congratulations to Mr. Gaven on this new position in our district.



Sports Wrap-Up

The Mineola Athletic Department is proud to announce the following senior award winners. These awards were presented at the Senior Breakfast and at the Athletic Awards Banquet.

Joseph Massaro and Kerri Medlock – Athletes of the Year
Quinn Paggi and Nicole Lockwood – Old Reliable Coaches Award
Steven Napolitano and Alicia Mercurio – Sportsmanship Award
Kelsey Napolitano and Robert Clarkin – Student Athlete Leadership Award
Thomas Breslin, Robbie Clarkin, Zachary Englis, Matthew Moro, Kevin Mulder, Nicole Vella, Craig Weber, David Gorry & Kerri Medlock – Booster Club Senior Scholarship Award Winners

We also congratulate the following county award recipients from this past spring season. They are as follows:

Christina Palmenteri – All-County Softball
Emily Skupp – All-County Softball
Valerie Fischer – All-Conference Softball
Kathryn Priolo – All-Division Softball
Lauren Fischer – All-Division Softball
Brian Gaffney – All-County Lacrosse
Steven Napolitano – Honorable Mention All-County Lacrosse
Robert Dwyer – All-Conference Lacrosse
Matthew Moro – All-Conference Lacrosse
Kerri Medlock – All-County Lacrosse
Emma Perez – Senior Scholar-Athlete Lacrosse
Natalie Kain – All-Conference Lacrosse
Alicia Mercurio – All-Conference Lacrosse
Ashley Stavish – All-Conference Lacrosse
Nicole Vella – Unsung Hero Lacrosse
Craig Weber – All-County Baseball
Detrick Cuascut – All-County Track
Fred Lang – All-County Track
Brad Coleman – All-Division Track
Nick Harran – All-Division Track
Joseph Mulder – All-Division Track
Jake Tavernite – All-Division Track
Nina Ribeiro – All-County Track

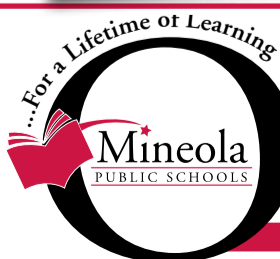
Newly Tenured Professionals

Four professionals were granted tenure at the June 6, 2012 Board of Education meeting of the Mineola School District. They were honored by their supervisors, as well as Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Nagler with small tokens of appreciation and words on why they were chosen for tenure with the district.

It is with great honor that the district announces the following individuals as having received tenure:

Patricio A. Romero – psychologist
Bette Sloane – math
Sharon A. Macken – Chief Information Officer
Marc B. Ratner – music

The newly tenured individuals are pictured with former Board President Christine Napolitano and Dr. Nagler.



Outreach

WWW.MINEOLA.K12.NY.US

Publication Coordinator: Danielle Lambert

BOARD OF EDUCATION

William Hornberger, *President*

Terence Hale, *Vice President*

Irene Parrino, Christine Napolitano, Arthur Barnett *Trustees*

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