

Miller Place

Spring 2022

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

Top of the Class: Congratulations to Miller Place High School's 2022 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

It takes a special combination of intelligence, discipline and drive to be in the top two of one's graduating class. For Emma LaMountain and Diya Saini, these are skills they possess in abundance. Emma and Diya are a credit to our district, and the only sad part of highlighting their achievements is recognizing that we must soon say goodbye. On behalf of all of us on the Miller Place Board of Education and within the District Administration, congratulations to our Class of 2022 valedictorian and salutatorian. The success of both students exemplifies the intellect and commitment they have put into their education throughout their academic careers.



Emma LaMountain

Emma has earned the top-grade point average (GPA) of her graduating class with a cumulative GPA of 101.69. She is an Advanced Placement Scholar, was awarded Academic All-County by the Suffolk County Women's Basketball Coaches Association and was named to the Suffolk County Girls Soccer Academic All County team. She was also recognized as a NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete and is Captain of the Miller Place Girls Varsity Lacrosse and Basketball teams. She is a member of the National Honor Society, volunteer Coordinator at NSHOA Cancer Specialists, Athletes Helping Athletes, and the Service Club. Emma plans to attend Cornell University to study Biology on a pre-medical school track in September.



Diya Saini

Diya had the second highest cumulative GPA in her class, with 101.52. She is an Advanced Placement Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society and the Foreign Language Honor Society, and was a participant in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Summit. Diya is the Class of 2022 Vice President. As a sports standout, Diya is captain of the Miller Place Varsity Girls' Badminton team. She also boasts a music background and is a member of the Panther Players Pit Orchestra and was selected as an All-County bassoonist. Diya is a member of the Miller Place School Improvement Team (SIT) and Service Club, and a volunteer Coordinator for the NSHOA Cancer Specialists medical group. She plans to attend Tufts University and major in Environmental Science this Fall.

Miller Place School District Thanks Community Voters

The Miller Place School District Board of Education and District Administration would like to thank the community for their support of our budget on May 17. We believe truly that public education is a cornerstone of communities, and schools can only thrive with community support and participation. Moving forward, the Miller Place School District will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that the young men and women of our community continue to receive the best possible education.

A Message from the Board of Education

As the 2021-2022 school year draws to a close, I'd like to commend all Miller Place School District students, educators, staff, and family members for another tremendous spring. Year after year, our students continue to impress and inspire with their boundless enthusiasm, intelligence, and talent. I'd also like to express my appreciation to the Miller Place community for their support of our district by approving our 2022-2023 proposed budget last month. The Board of Education is committed to repaying the trust you have shown in us by continuing to serve as strong advocates for every Miller Place student. Please know that our office, like the office of the Miller Place superintendent, remains open for questions and comments throughout the year. We are partners in education.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I'd like to express my deepest sympathy for the families who lost loved ones in the senseless and tragic shootings across our country these last few months, specifically those in schools. I know that no words could truly express our sympathies or articulate our anger. We reaffirm our commitment to monitor our security at all buildings and to continue to explore all options or enhancements available. Every student, staff member, and human should be safe in our facilities.

Lastly, how do you sum up in one paragraph the ten years of leadership Dr. Cartisano devoted to our Miller Place School Community? On behalf of the entire Board of Education, I thank her for her dedication, her thought, and care for every student, employee, family, and community member in our district. Her desire and her tenacious efforts have moved our district forward immeasurably. We wish her well as she moves on to the next chapter of her life. She leaves us with a solid foundation, and we hope she will stay in touch to see us continue to flourish.

Panther Pride and Miller Place Proud!

Sincerely,

Johanna Testa,
President, Miller Place School District Board of Education

A Message from the Superintendent

Spring is one of the most beautiful times of the year on Long Island and throughout our school community. The season also represents a culmination of the school year, with our students working on projects and studying for exams as they patiently await the wonderful months of summer. I know that this time can be stressful for many of our young scholars, but I am confident in their ability to excel in the face of these academic challenges as they have throughout the year.

The end of the school year will also bring my career at Miller Place School District to a close with my June 30th retirement. Know that I have been truly honored to have served our students, staff, and school community for nearly 20 years, with the last 10 as your Superintendent of Schools. As you may expect, my retirement brings an array of personal emotions along with professional pride. I am confident the District will continue on the positive path of supporting youth mental health, increasing student achievement, remaining focused on student and workplace safety, providing our school community the multiple opportunities to share our Panther Pride and maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Wishing you all a safe summer and a traditional 2022-23 school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano, Superintendent of Schools

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY

JUNE BRINGS AMAZING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT AMPS

The end of the school year is such an exciting time. This certainly held true for Andrew Muller Primary School. First grade students and teachers spent the early days of June taking advantage of the beautiful weather in Long Island to hold their annual carnival. The children took part in various activities, including corn hole, potato sack races, bowling, ring toss, and arts and crafts. Best of all, students were able to enjoy this time with family members and friends from other classes. A fun time was had by all thanks to the planning of our wonderful first grade teachers who made this event so special and memorable.

Kindergarten students took part in their End of Year Performance. Family members were invited into the school to see and hear their children sing, and sign songs. The students, who were dressed in red, white and blue, did an amazing job of learning, practicing and performance. We're not sure who had more fun: the adults or the students!



SCIENCE CURRICULUM AT AMPS



Spring is a wonderful time for science! In class, students are building background knowledge through the life cycle and natural science units of study:

- Kindergarten: Worm scouts
- Grade 1: A bunny's life and hatching chicks
- Grade 2: Save the bees

To enhance the curriculum, each grade level is participating in an outdoor class trip tied into our spring science curriculum. Kindergarten students went on an outing to Benner's Farm, where students learned about mammals, farm birds and had the opportunity to hold baby bunnies and chicks. First graders went to Sweet Briar Nature Center to learn about the life cycles of plants, butterflies, insects and frogs. Second grade took a trip to Hoyt Farm and Nature Center Preserve to learn about the characteristics of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish. Students also had the opportunity to see, touch and feed some of these animals!

LADDIE A DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL GIVE BACK DAY

On Friday, May 6, Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School celebrated Give Back Day, and it was a tremendous success. The school honored over 70 current service members, veterans, and members from law enforcement (firefighters, police officers, FBI agents, etc.) who were either parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles, or older siblings of our LADSBS students.

During the ceremony members of our band and orchestra performed patriotic songs, students read speeches and we expressed our gratitude for their service. Then, each grade level had an opportunity to spend time and interact with these special individuals. A sincere thank you goes out to Ms. McCann and Ms. Parcelluzzi for organizing this event and to our Service and Kindness Club members for their help.



FIRST IN MILLER PLACE: SUFFOLK COUNTY'S INAUGURAL VIRTUAL MATH OLYMPIAD

The Winter Olympics have come and gone, and there are a couple of years left until the next summer games. Fortunately, fans of friendly competition had Suffolk County's first-ever virtual Math Olympiad to enjoy, and it was all thanks to the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School!

Math Olympiad Coordinator, Evan Curran, who teaches fourth grade at LADSBS, launched the first-ever virtual Suffolk County math tournament for fourth and fifth-grade students from schools across the county. A challenging and engaging full-day competition, the virtual Math Olympiad included 30 teams comprising group and individual participants.

"I'm so happy with how the county-wide virtual math tournament turned out and I appreciate every student who was involved out of a love for math and friendly competition," said Mr. Curran.

Teams participated in the competition through Google Meet, on which students could share their ideas with their teammates or meet teams from other schools as they took on various problem-solving activities throughout the day. Students representing LADSBS were chosen based on how they performed throughout the Math Olympiad season. Those who ranked among the top five in their grade level were the first invited to participate.



Fourth grade competitors included Zoe Brown, Liam McGrath, Joey Poerio, Anna Thompson and Luke Vogt. Fifth-grade competitors included Madison Chacon, Emmanuel Dada, Kellen Davidson, Lexis Goldberg and Conrad Lindemann. The fifth-grade team representing LADSBS finished the competition in first place, with the highest overall score of all competing teams. The fourth-grade LADSBS team finished in third place. Fourth grader Zoe Brown finished in third place in the individual competition, with fellow fourth grader Liam McGrath finishing in seventh place. Fifth grader Emmanuel Dada finished the individual competition in third place, with fellow fifth graders Kellen Davidson in fourth place and Lexis Goldberg in tenth place.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL GOES TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

For students and staff at North Country Road Middle School, it has been a real pleasure to participate in well-established traditions that had been halted due to the COVID pandemic. A true sign of better times occurred this spring, as 175 grade eight students prepared to travel to our nation's capital for the returning annual visit.

This year's group began their journey on Wednesday, May 11th, with a return date of Friday, May 13th. Students prepared their belongings by gathering snacks and games to play on the bus ride and talked about some of the souvenirs that they would purchase—including the D.C. sweatshirt traditionally worn at the United States capital for the picture that is displayed in our middle school hallway. Students enjoyed the history documented through aircraft at the Udvar-Hazy Museum of Air and Space and move on to standing before the White House for a photo opportunity.



The trip also included a walking tour that contains the Vietnam Veterans memorial, the Martin Luther King memorial, as well as the Jefferson and Lincoln memorials. A gentle mist fell as students learned a great deal about the attacks of September 11th, 2001, at the Pentagon 9/11 memorial, and the highlight of the trip continues to be the tour of the Arlington Cemetery, which includes the eternal flame at former President John F. Kennedy's gravesite and the Challenger memorial. Members of our student body were selected to lay a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier on behalf of our school community. The events mentioned coupled with special memories that will last a lifetime. We are so proud to have this trip back in the rotation of special moments for our middle school.

HIGH SCHOOL

ROBOTICS TEAM FINISHES IN TOP THREE AT FIRST COMPETITION

A big “congratulations” is in order for the resourceful and talented members of Entropy, the Miller Place High School Robotics Team. The team finished in the top three of teams competing at the Regional #2 competition of the 2022 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Long Island Competition. In the Regional #1 round, Miller Place landed in the top 20 of the 39 teams competing. This is the first year the regional games, hosted by the School-Business Partnerships of Long Island at Hofstra University, were held in person since the start of the pandemic.

Entropy finished Regional #1 with six wins, five losses and one tie. They came back strong in the Regional #2 competition with seven wins and three losses. Their performance enabled the team to reach the quarterfinals of the competition.

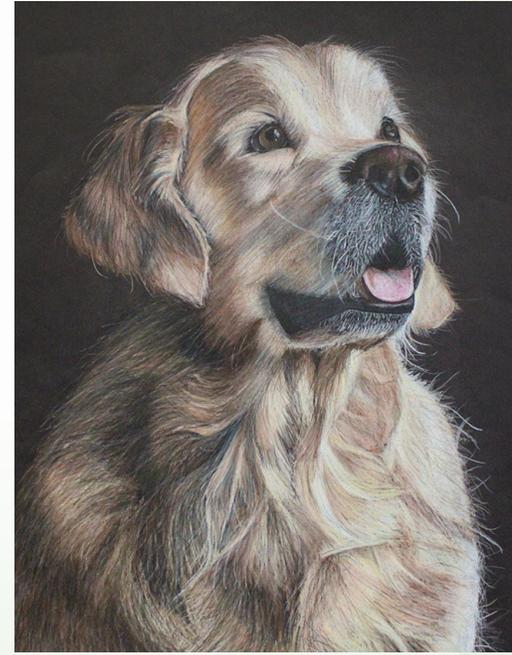
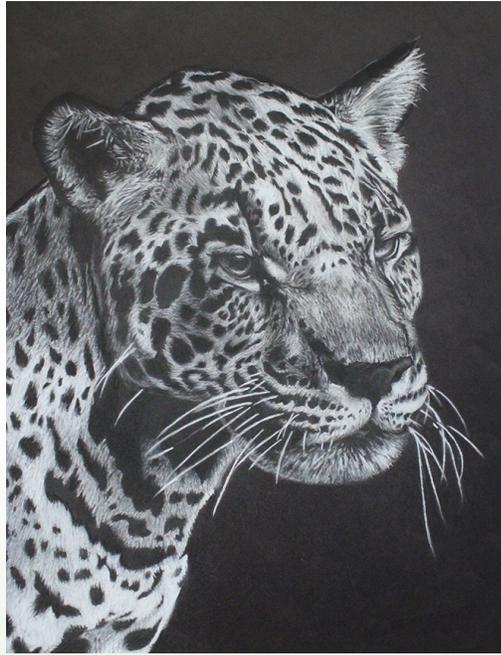


The year's regional challenge, dubbed Rapid React, tasked teams with using their robots to shoot balls into goals at assorted heights. Robots were also given 30 seconds at the end of each match to climb up a series of bars to garner additional points for their teams. Additionally, competition also provided for teams forming alliances with other schools, whom they would compete with in different challenges. In the Regional #1 competition, Miller Place formed an alliance with Center Moriches and Huntington. In the Regional #2 competition, Miller Place's Entropy team scored high enough to be named an alliance captain. In this round of the competition, Miller Place teamed up with the Wheatley School in Old Westbury and international competitors from St. Michael's School in the Dominican Republic.

MUSIC & ART NEWS

Check Out Some Amazing Student Artwork from the Parrish Museum Student Exhibition

This year, 20 students participated in the annual Parrish Museum Student Exhibition. The juried exhibition selects a small number of students to highlight. There two categories: Senior Award of Excellence and the underclassmen category Ones to Watch. Three of our students took home awards. Giovanna Kalin won a "Senior Award of Excellence," and Kate Walter and Sophie Lin both won in the "Ones to Watch" category. The students worked very hard on their assignments, and we are so proud!



In Solving Design Problem, Technology Students Create Cardboard Chairs

Students in Michael Stano's Design and Drawing for Production course are often tasked with challenging design projects. Recently, students in the course were instructed to construct a chair out of cardboard that could support at least 120 pounds and be used by a student without breaking. The catch? Students were *only* allowed to use cardboard—meaning they needed to come up with a way to construct their chairs without using tape, glue, staples, nails or any other adhesive. Students also took a deep dive into ergonomics, or the study of how someone's working environment affects their performance. One example includes research on how a chair without proper posture support could impede someone's pace or concentration. Using all that they were taught, students created various cardboard chair designs that some even used during class to sit on in front of their computers.



Miller Place High School students in Michael Stano's Design and Drawing for Production course created chairs entirely out of cardboard as part of a design challenge.

Congratulations to Our NYSCAME All-County Musicians!

(Pictured L-R) Lily Bosshard, Scott Bisiani, Lilah Lindemann, Kai Schiera, Luke Dwyer, Joseph Miletta, Diya Saini, and Greg Marino. Missing from the picture are Abigail Weiner, Brooke McCormick, Sophia Bloom

