



Miller Places Announces Longtime District Administrator Seth Lipshie as New Superintendent; Bids Farewell to Dr. Marianne Cartisano

The end of the current school year will mark a major transition in leadership at Miller Place School District. Starting on July 1, the start of the 2022-2023 school year, the Miller Place School District Deputy Superintendent, Seth Lipshie, will take on the role of Superintendent of Schools. He will succeed Dr. Marianne Cartisano, who is retiring at the end of the 2021-2022 school year after nearly 20 years working in the district. Despite the change, we want everyone to rest assured that the transition will be seamless and result in absolutely no disruption in the quality of education Miller Place families have come to expect and demand.

“Two thirds of my professional career in education have been in Miller Place,” Dr. Cartisano said. “It’s been a wonderful experience to serve in a district that values education and allows us to partner with the community to increase student achievement.”



Dr. Cartisano joined Miller Place in 2003 as Assistant Superintendent for Business, and she was appointed Superintendent in 2012. Among her proudest achievements include the implementation of a full-day kindergarten program in 2013 and pre-kindergarten, which became universally available to parents in the 2019-2020 school year.

Dr. Cartisano also spearheaded the implementation of technology in the classroom, helping Miller Place become, in 2005, one of the earliest districts to introduce Smart Board technology in the classroom. In 2020, the district completed its one-to-one learning device initiative, which ensured that every student in the district had a personal internet-connected device to augment learning.

Dr. Cartisano said other achievements she is most proud of include expanding secondary opportunities for students to pursue their interests in athletics, business, and the arts; placing Miller Place on solid financial footing; and boosting the district’s bond rating with Moody’s Investor Services to Aa2, which is among the highest a municipality can achieve.

She said she feels confident that her successor, Seth Lipshie, will maintain Miller Place’s long-term financial planning and positive Moody’s rating, build upon the positive relationships the district has developed with its bargaining units and the community, and continue the district’s initiatives focused on technology integration in the classroom.

“I want to thank the leadership teams, board trustees, union presidents and the building and district-level administrators who make it all happen in Miller Place,” Dr. Cartisano said.

In selecting Seth Lipshie as the district’s next superintendent of schools, Board President Johanna Testa noted Mr. Lipshie’s more than 30 years of experience working in Miller Place, and the fact that he has spent most of his entire career in the district. Mr. Lipshie was a social studies teacher and in 2001 became Assistant Principal at North Country Road Middle School. From 2002 to 2010 he served as Principal of Miller Place High School before being appointed as Assistant Superintendent in 2010 and Deputy Superintendent in 2014.

New Superintendent, Continued

"I pretty much knew in third grade that I wanted to be a teacher, and I've never wavered from that," Mr. Lipshie said while noting the impact of educators. "Students spend one-third of their day with teachers, and when you're an adult, and you look back at the most influential people in your life, one or two will probably be a teacher."

The appeal of working in education and Miller Place has not faded. "I'm still just as excited to come to work every day as I was 20 to 25 years ago," he said.

Going back to the earliest days of his career, Mr. Lipshie said he is proud that after launching the National Junior Honor Society at North Country Middle School and the Mock Trial Club at Miller Place High School, the two organizations still operate to this day.

"When you build a structure that can continue after you're gone, that's an achievement," he said.

Mr. Lipshie looks to continue his solid relationships with the various stakeholders in the district through discussions and negotiations with staff and union representatives, ensuring that all parties walk away having felt that their voices were heard.

"Initially, stability and continuity are things I bring to the table, and I have a good handle on," Mr. Lipshie said. "I've built collaborative cultures within the administration and among the staff, and I look forward to interacting more directly with students, parents/guardians and the community."

Looking to the future, Mr. Lipshie seeks to continue the integration of technology in the classroom and the incorporation of evidence-based research into learning. "I look forward to using data, research and feedback from both the community and staff," he said, "and to shape learning for student success."

A Message from the Board of Education

To the Miller Place Community,

I'd like to thank the community, once again, for their resolve and partnership over some difficult weeks. We know that by working together we are poised to emerge through any challenges stronger and better equipped for what lies ahead.

I'd also like to offer on behalf of the Board of Education a congratulations to longtime member of our district administration Seth Lipshie for his new role as Superintendent of the Miller Place School District. All of us are entirely confident in Mr. Lipshie's ability to spearhead our district into not only the post-COVID educational world, but through any and all challenges the future may bring. Additionally, I'd like to give our best wishes to Dr. Marianne Cartisano, who so ably guided us over the years. We wish you nothing but the best, and we will all miss you greatly.

Finally, a reminder that our upcoming school budget vote will be held on May 17. Please remember to circle the date and make your voice heard. In the upcoming weeks and months, you'll be receiving plenty of information in the form of newsletters, press releases and social media posts full of all the information on our proposed 2022-2023 budget you'll need to make an informed decision at the ballot.

Sincerely,
Johanna Testa, *Miller Place Board of Education President*

A Message from the Superintendent

In early March, New York officially ended its indoor mask mandate for schools, allowing us to begin transitioning from the challenging 2-years public schools faced all across the state. While the pandemic has certainly taught us that life can change drastically and quickly, we anticipate this announcement to signal another major step toward a truly post-pandemic world and a more traditional teaching and learning environment.

We know these last two years have been difficult for most, and as always we appreciate your patience and cooperation. Moving forward, we are hopeful that the lifting of the mask mandate and the low infection rates that seem to be holding steady are both indicative of a steady return to a traditional educational setting we can all get excited about. This is a time where together we can marvel at the incredible achievements and creative breakthroughs accomplished by our students daily at schools across Miller Place. Through it all, the students of our district--along with our staff--have held up the standard of excellence we are proud of at Miller Place.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools

DISTRICT NOTES

Update on New COVID-19 Policies at Miller Place School District

As you know, the universal mask mandate for New York State schools is no longer in effect. The end of the mandate came about in light of the CDC's recommendation for counties, such as Suffolk, that are labeled "Low Risk of Transmission."

All Miller Place School District buildings are **considered mask optional for all individuals**. Under these protocols, no person will ask another to mask in our schools, classrooms, grounds, or while utilizing our school bus transportation.

However, in accordance with newly released NYS Department of Health School guidance, there are still certain COVID-related regulations in place. In order to stem any confusion, we thought it would be appropriate to outline all current COVID-19 protocols here for reference. Please read the following carefully.

- Masking is no longer required on school buses/vans. This includes home-to-school routes, athletics, and field trips.
- Students and staff members who test positive for COVID -19 must continue to isolate for 5 days.
- Masking continues to be required upon return from isolation after COVID-19 infection during days 6 through 10 for students and staff. Students who are required to wear a mask in school upon return from isolation must also wear a mask while on school transportation.

- Families will continue to be notified by our building administrators if their child(ren) have been identified as a close contact (meaning they have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19). The newly released statewide guidance effectively ends quarantine for individuals who are exposed or potentially exposed to a positive school case. The guidance shifts toward a monitor strategy for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Unvaccinated faculty and staff are required to continue COVID-19 testing on a weekly basis.
- The District must continue to report positive student and staff COVID-19 cases daily to NYSDOH.

The health and safety of our students and staff continues to remain our highest priority. We will continue to employ mitigation strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19 in our schools. This includes regular handwashing, ventilation, enhanced cleaning protocols throughout the district, the use of hand sanitizers as needed, and offering COVID-19 home test kits to our families, staff, and faculty. Additionally, COVID-19 home test kits are available for pick-up at Central Office, Monday-Friday, 8:30am – 3:30pm. The District has approximately 4-5 test kits available for each staff member and student based on request.

Thank you for your support and patience as we implement these new changes and transition to a more traditional teaching and learning environment.

Miller Place High School Students Break the Ice



Miller Place High School student representatives of the School Improvement Team (SIT) Committee sponsored a breakfast for all newly enrolled Miller Place High School students, grades 9-12, to help them meet more of their classmates and become more comfortable with their new school environment. Approximately 30 new students have enrolled at the high school this year!

The student representatives of the SIT Committee shared their own personal experiences as a student at Miller Place High School. Student assistant counselors and support staff also developed fun ice breaker activities at the conclusion of the breakfast to ease any tension and help the students feel at ease.

Students were offered an overview of the high school's staff, athletic and extracurricular opportunities, and were also provided with tips on how to build supportive relationships with their fellow peers. This initiative successfully aided new students at each grade level to have a more seamless transition into the Miller Place school community.

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

ANDREW MULLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

On January 14, 2022, students at the Andrew Muller Primary School celebrated the 4th Annual Peace and Kindness Day in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students were involved in activities that promoted friendship, kindness and teamwork. They engaged in activities that let them know just how unique they truly are while still having so much in common with others.

During Peace and Kindness Day, students discovered small acts of kindness that they can do to make their world a nicer place. Activities included: beginning the day with a kindness pledge, creating a class mural out of individual snowflakes, and creating a schoolwide rainbow paperchain with compliments on each.



LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL



January marked the beginning of club offerings at the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School. Clubs offer students an opportunity to explore a particular interest in more detail, do something positive for their school or community, create friendships with those who have similar passions, or develop communication and leadership skills. This year, the staff and faculty at LADSBS provided a wide range of clubs for students. Students could choose from a Coding Club, Digital Journalism, Kindness Club, Science Fair Club, Paleontology, Sign Language, Yoga, Art Club, Book Club, Lego Club, and many others. There was something for everyone, with over 300 students participating. Clubs provide students with opportunities to use their skills to make a difference and follow their curiosity wherever it leads! One brand-new club we're excited about is the Fashion Design Club, led by elementary art teacher Stacey Famiglietti, for students in grades three to five. This club gives students the chance to learn firsthand what it takes to be the next best fashion designer. At the first meeting, students learned what the design process entails, from mood board to runway. Students then got to work sketching out ideas for a dream outfit for their favorite celebrity, movie or book character, or athlete. Their designs were creative, inspirational and of course, fashionable.

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

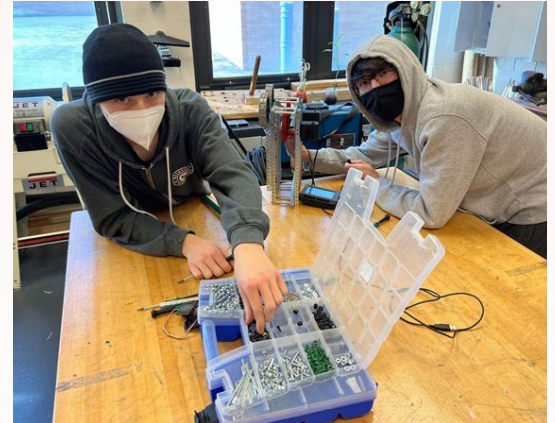
There are numerous occasions where members of our faculty, staff, and students at North Country Road Middle School engage in opportunities to provide service to our own community. The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), recently planned a food drive in cooperation with the Miller Place Parent Teacher Organization to assist with stocking our brand-new food pantry on campus. The NJHS placed boxes in each period one classroom, asking students to donate nonperishable items. The results were impressive, and the plan is to conduct additional food drives to maintain the level of support for our local community in need. Special thank you to Ms. Sanatore, Ms. Farley, and Ms. Pedersen for their work in this endeavor.



AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

Students in Mr. Stano's Engineering Design class at Miller Place High School recently participated in a project that put their coding, design and engineering skills to the test. Using a variety of tools, such as screwdrivers, drills, hammers and wrenches, as well as the coding and engineering abilities they had learned in class, students built a machine that shoots red wiffle balls into three different buckets. The buckets were spaced 5, 10, and 15 feet away using VEX components. As part of the build, the group coded all the mechanisms to perform certain actions, including controlling the speed and angle of launch. Despite numerous constraints the groups had to abide by, they successfully completed the objective of the assignment.



MUSIC & ART NEWS

Despite Challenges, North Country Road Middle School's Winter Concert was a Huge Hit

During the winter concert series, the entire school community at the North Country Road Middle School demonstrated their commitment and dedication to music education. A collaborative effort between the administration and the music department provided a plan that included moving most of the winter concerts to the NCRMS gymnasium. Despite the change in venue from prior years, the concert was amazing, full of electric performances appreciated by all. Congratulations to our student performers, as well as our music teachers Ms. Desiderio (Orchestra 6), Ms. Dimitriou (Chorus 6-8), Ms. Kirby (Band 6-8), and Mr. Matura (Orchestra 7 & 8) for their dedication to bringing back live performances! Our winter concerts were an example of perseverance during difficult times and pulling together to achieve a common goal.



The Love of Music Abounds at Miller Place!

Across the district, our talented students are taking to musical education with great enthusiasm! Take a look at some photos of music learning in process at Andrew Muller Primary School and Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School.



ATHLETICS CORNER

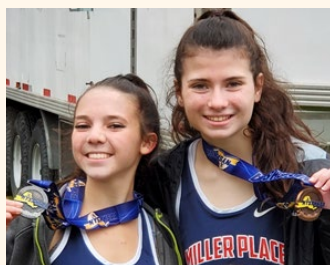
SCHOLAR ATHLETE TEAMS

Congratulations to the following for qualifying as NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams.

- All 9 fall varsity sports programs in quarter 1
- All 6 winter varsity sports teams in quarter 2
- Each team earned a 90+ GPA using 75 percent of their rosters.
- Over 70 percent of our Varsity participants earned designation as "Individual Scholar Athletes."

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

- Girls XC: runners Sierra Gray (1st) and Danielle Cirrito (5th) placed in the NYSPHSAA Class B Championships
- Playoff Qualifiers: football, field hockey and girls soccer teams all qualified for playoff competition.



WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

WRESTLING COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Miller Place varsity team took 2nd overall in both the Team Dual & Tournament Championships out of 41 teams in Division 1.
- Individually Miller Place had a total of 14 County Qualifiers
 - Justin Klein was the Suffolk Champion at 145lbs (NYS Qualifier)
 - Gavin Cirolli placed 2nd at 152lbs (NYS Qualifier)
 - Michael Giugliano placed 3rd at 126lbs (NYS Qualifier)
 - Rob Cunningham placed 3rd at 160lbs (NYS Qualifier)
 - Anthony Bartolotto placed 5th at 172lbs

BOYS SWIMMING COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Liam Preston was also crowned NYS Champion in the 200M Freestyle, and NYS Runner-up in the 500M Freestyle. He also earned the "Outstanding Swimmer" award for the meet.

BOYS & GIRLS FENCING (COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS)

- The Newfield/MP Combined Fencing Teams both won County Team Championships. Miller Place participants included: Ryan Southworth, Nick Southworth, Anders Dalberg, Meadow Dalberg, Christian Renna and Mark Lindemann.

MPHS CELEBRATES EARLY COLLEGE ATHLETIC COMMITMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2022!

Congratulations to all seniors making their college commitments.

D1 Athletic Commitments – (School/Sport)

- Amelia Angelo – Marist/Lacrosse
- Anthony Bartolotto – Cornell/Lacrosse
- Jordyn Bloom – Holy Cross/Lacrosse
- Sierra Gray – Quinnipiac/Cross-Country & Track
- Selia Lyons – LIU Post/Lacrosse
- Liam Preston – Binghamton/Swimming
- Emily Stoessel – Albany/Field Hockey
- Max Weisman – Lehigh/Lacrosse

D2 Athletic Commitments – (School/Sport)

- Owen Connolly – Assumption/Lacrosse
- Devin Duchnowski – Mercy/Lacrosse
- Tyler Hodella – Bridgeport/Baseball
- Olivia Ingenito – Saint Rose/Soccer
- Lauren Molinaro – Stonehill/Lacrosse
- Andrea Mott – Mercy/Lacrosse
- Abigail O'Connor – Pace/Lacrosse
- James Sternberg – Walsh/Lacrosse



TWO MPHS SENIORS RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to Miller Place High School seniors Julia Lent and Giovanni Cassino for their selection by the High School Physical Education Staff as recipients of the Suffolk Zone HS Leadership Awards in Physical Education for the Class of 2022.

STUDENTS TELL THE TALE OF RESCUING A SEA TURTLE



The Miller Place School District recently celebrated the official launch of a book written and illustrated by students from North Country Road Middle School about their adventures rescuing a local sea turtle. The book launch was the culmination of a year-long Science Club project in partnership with Canon USA and the New York Marine Rescue Center in Riverhead.

More than 50 students, teachers and administrators from North Country Road joined marine biologists from the New York Marine Rescue Center and executives from Canon USA—which printed the book—for the book reveal celebration on March 9. During the event, students read excerpts from the book and shared their thoughts on being authors and illustrators.

The turtle, which the students named Peachy Keen, was released back into the ocean this past summer at Tiana Beach in Hampton Bays. Since that time, students and marine biologists had been tracking Peachy Keen's progress as it made its way from Long Island down the east coast to northern Florida. The story details the student's experiences, the lessons they learned about marine mammals that inhabit local waters and the importance of keeping beaches clean. It also includes photos of Peachy Keen's rehabilitation and journey back to the ocean.

Canon USA printed 250 copies of the book, which will be sold at the New York Marine Rescue Center, the aquarium gift shop, and at the MacArthur Airport gift shop. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the rescue center.

The New York Marine Rescue Center is a rescue and rehabilitation organization that promotes marine conservation. Its mission is to preserve and protect the marine environment through conservation efforts including rescue, rehabilitation, education and research. Since its inception in 1996, the center has rescued more than 3,900 animals, including more than 119 sea turtles, 762 seals and seven cetaceans. Canon's digital imaging and webcam technology made it possible to monitor, track and tag Peachy Keen and other marine animals.

Special thanks to the Science Club Advisor Mrs. Opitz and the members of the Science Club for their efforts and commitment to the project. To continue tracking Peachy Keen, visit the New York Marine Rescue Center tracking site at <https://bit.ly/3w1HT3k>.

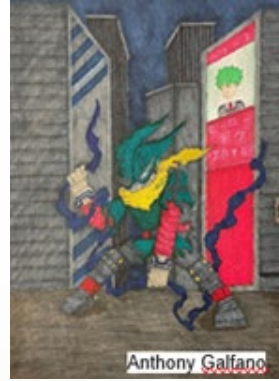
ARTS EXTRA

Miller Place Student Artists Featured at Atelier at Flowerfield Art Exhibition

Miller Place is proud to announce that four of our high school student-artists and two of our middle school student-artists were selected to have their artwork displayed as part of this year's Atelier at Flowerfield's Art Exhibition. Each year, Atelier at Flowerfield holds a juried show for middle school and high school student artists. This year, the exhibition was scheduled to coincide with Youth Art Month, which is celebrated annually in the month of March.

Congratulations to Miller Place High School senior Andrea Mott, junior Kate Walter, sophomore Sophie Lin and ninth grader Gavin Sanfilippo. North Country Road Middle School student artists selected were 8th graders Nicholas and Anthony Galfano. The Miller Place and Sound Beach communities are invited to enjoy the artwork of Andrea, Kate, Sophie, Gavin, Nicholas and Anthony at the Atelier at Flowerfield's Art Exhibition through April 10.

"The selection of six of our students to display their artwork at this year's Atelier at Flowerfield's Art Exhibition is a testament to the artistic talent of our students and the dedication and excellence of our art teachers at both North Country Road Middle School and Miller Place High School," stated Superintendent of Schools Dr. Marianne Cartisano. "It also speaks to the focus and importance we place on the arts in Miller Place. A child's love and passion for the arts doesn't just begin at the middle school or high school levels, it starts at a young age. That is why we introduce our students to the arts starting in Pre-K and continue to offer a comprehensive arts curriculum throughout a student's elementary, middle school and high school education."



Anthony Galfano



Nicholas Galfano



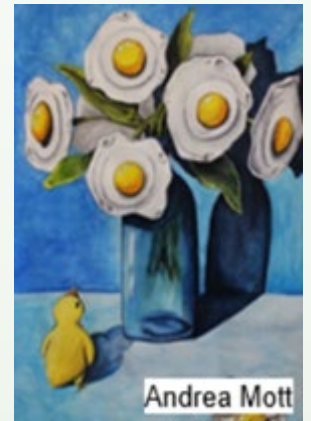
Gavin Sanfilippo



Kate Walter



Sophie Lin



Andrea Mott

High School Art Club Visits Heckscher Museum of Art

The Miller Place High School art club, and the students taking advanced level art courses, in the annual Heckscher Museum of Art fieldtrip. The talented students were granted private access to the museum, exploring the current exhibit. A museum scavenger hunt challenged them to find their favorite work and present what drew them to the work and their thoughts on about what motivated the artists. Additionally, students who participate in the Long Island's Best Young Artist Competition were able to interact with the artwork that they will be responding to in their submission for the contest. The students ended the day eating lunch al fresco in the park.

