

Miller Place

Summer 2021

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

Congratulations, Class of 2021!



*More
Grad
Photos
Inside!*

A Message from the Superintendent

Senior year for most graduating classes can be extremely stressful. But perhaps no graduating class has faced adversity like the Class of 2021. Despite the fact that this collective group of students had the latter half of their junior year and the entirety of their senior year severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Class of 2021 persevered. They didn't simply get through this difficult time, they thrived—in the classroom, on stage, and on the fields. I will forever be impressed with their incredible achievements. So please do not forget the past year, or state how hard it was, or not worth it, because it taught you so much: patience, willpower, grit and perseverance.

With the world opening up more and more every day, and the first glimpse of a post-COVID world now fully in view, my hope for Miller Place families is this summer: You are able get out and go have some fun. You've earned it. Take trips to the park or the beach, read together, watch movies, go for walks, travel and enjoy all that our beautiful community, county, and country has to offer. We've all been so caught up in our collective efforts to beat this pandemic, we need to make sure we take a moment to relax, unwind and focus on being happy. And when school is back in session in the September, we'll all be ready to continue learning and achieving—together.

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools

A Message from the Board of Education

Congratulations to the Class of 2021! As Dr. Cartisano put it, the challenges you've all overcome these past 18 months is nothing short of remarkable. We are all so incredibly proud of you and your accomplishments. The accomplishments you'll read about in this newsletter, on our website and on our social media channels make clear one thing: There is simply no limit as to what Miller Place students can achieve, no matter what the circumstances.

As the weeks go by until the start of the 2021-2022 school year, I want to encourage each of you to stay in touch with your school district and stay engaged in learning. Education never has been, and never will be, limited to a classroom or a computer; learning is available simply everywhere we go. Biology lessons abound in the park; history is alive in every downtown on Long Island. Take it all in, and you will never stop learning. Also, please pay a visit to our website every now and then to stay up to date on all district news, particularly as we approach the fall. Have a wonderful summer, Miller Place. See you soon.

Johanna Testa
Board of Education President

The Miller Place School District Sends its Well Wishes to this Year's Retiring Staff Members

As we bid farewell to our Class of 2021 Miller Place High School graduates, we'll also be wishing *bon voyage* to eight staff members who have served the MPSD and will be retiring and moving on to the next step of their journeys. The retirees, who were honored at a recent Board of Education meeting, include teachers and clerical staff members, who collectively totaled 174 years of service to our District. Congratulations are in order for special education teacher Donna Doherty, social studies teacher Thomas Moran, elementary teacher Eva Marie Pere, teacher aide Debra Fiore, teacher aide Jo-Ann Hegeman, clerical staff Nancy Lepre, teacher assistant Joanne Parrella, and central office clerical staff Linda Lee.



Congratulations to our Class of 2021

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN!

Valedictorian Kyla Bruno



Kyla has achieved so much during her time at Miller Place. She has consistently achieved High Honor Roll and is enrolled in the maximum number of AP/honors courses. She is the recipient of many academic awards and distinctions, including Advanced Placement Scholar with Honors, and the Performing Arts Teeny Award for Outstanding Instrumentalist, as well as having been recognized by the College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program. Kyla has received Special Recognition of Excellence in language arts, geometry, Spanish, orchestra, and was named an All-State Musician. While at Miller Place, Kyla was vice president and founding member of the Tri M Honor Society; an active member of the National Honor Society, Service Club, and the Foreign Language Honor Society; and a Scholar Athlete in tennis and track. As a tennis player, she was recognized as All-League and All-County. Kyla plans to attend Northwestern University and Major in Mathematics with a Minor or Double Major in Music.

Additional accolades include: 100 score on all Regents exams • AP Scholar with Honors • 19 AP and Honors courses • Scholar Athlete • NYSSMA Festival – Viola • NYSCAME Festival - Viola • SCMEA – Principal Viola • LIFSA – Violist • MPPP Pit Band • Yale Young Global Scholars • Brookhaven National Lab Research – Structural Biology • STEM Electrical Engineering workshops through Stony Brook University • Girls International Tech Day • National Honor Society • Tri-M Honor Society – Vice President & founding member • Foreign Language National Honor Society • Mathletes • Service Club • Varsity Tennis – All County • Varsity Track

Salutatorian Jason Cirrito



Like Kyla, Jason also had a tremendous career as a student in Miller Place. He achieved High Honor Roll for every marking period since freshman year, and has received multiple academic awards, including Advanced Placement Scholar with Honors, and the Geometry Honors Award. In addition, Jason was awarded the Outstanding Acts of Kindness Award for helping others in need without expecting any reciprocation. Jason was a member of the National Honor Society, Service Club, Foreign Language Honor Society, and the Mathletes. In addition, Jason volunteered to help coordinate events at the Port Jefferson Library and was an assistant coach for the Miller Place Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) basketball team. Jason was as a member of the cross country, soccer, PTO basketball, and winter and spring track teams. Jason will be attending Vassar College in the fall and plans to Major in Math Education and become a secondary math teacher.

Additional accolades include: AP Scholar with Honors • 17 AP and Honors courses • Scholar Athlete • National Honor Society • Foreign Language National Honor Society • Mathletes • Service Club • Varsity Fall Track – Team Captain • Varsity Winter Track – Team Captain • Varsity Cross Country – Team Captain



CLASS OF 2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Andrew McMorris Foundation Scholarship

Dejah-Symphony Fenelon,
Patrick Serrentino

Arlette Conklin Memorial Scholarship

Lauren Barnes, Patrick Serrentino

Athletes Helping Athletes Leadership Scholarship

Vincent Maronski

Brookhaven Superintendent Association Scholarship

Gionna Altebrando, Blake Doyen,
Vincent Maronski, Grace Polak,
Nicholas Sandt

Calace Family Foundation Award

Ashley Bonitch, Lauren Barnes,
Jason Cirrito

Class of 2020

Nicholas Follo, Michael Luo

Craig Araujo Student of the Year Scholarship

Patrick O'Connor

Denise Butzgy Memorial Scholarship

Jodi Cui, Kylie Mistretta

Gail McNulty Business Leaders Scholarship

Vincent Maronski

James and Matthew McNulty Scholarship

Nicholas Belvedere

James Rakowski Memorial Scholarship

Marianna Kalin

Jason Ruppenstein Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Shelton

Joe Keany Memorial Scholarship

Blake Buscemi, Paulina Gasparis,
Patrick O'Connor

John Douglas Memorial Scholar- Athlete Scholarship

Jason Cirrito, Kylie Mistretta

John Mahoney Memorial Scholarship

Noah Nieves

Joshua Faithfull Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Kearns

Judy Stamatis-Kopelman Spirit of Competition Scholarship

Noah Bila, Bridget Nielsen, Madison
Zicchinelli

Lauralee Bokos Memorial Scholarship

Cory Gardner

Long Island Teacher's Benevolent Fund Scholarship

Zöe Bussewitz, Rebekah Fieldman,
Angelina Harris, Kylie Mistretta

Miller Place Athletic Association Ideal Athlete Scholarship

Jessica Lavarone, Matthew LoNigro

Miller Place Civic Association Scholarship

Hope Mari

Miller Place Clerical Memorial Scholarship

Ryan Dickinson, Jared LoPiano



Miller Place Friends of the Arts~ Art Scholarship

Kaila Donohue, Emily Steele

Miller Place Friends of the Arts~Craig Von Bargen Music Scholarship

Andrew Bova, William Dunlop

Miller Place Friends of the Arts Drama Scholarship

Andrew Bova, Grace Sottilo

Miller Place Friends of the Arts~Music Scholarship

Max Amundsen, Kyla Bruno,
Jodie Cui, Aidan Wightman

Miller Place High School Drama Scholarship

Sean Rowburrey

Miller Place High School National Honor Society Scholarship

Lauren Barnes, Zöe Bussewitz

Miller Place High School Scholarship for Excellence/Munistat Services, Inc.

Kyla Bruno, Jason Cirrito

Miller Place Homemaker's Scholarship

Chloe Anthony

NYSCAME Scholarship

Zöe Bussewitz

Outstanding School Dedication Scholarship

Marena Capocci



Pamela Waltz Memorial Scholarship

Chloe Anthony, Jared LoPiano

Panther Pride Scholarship

Devin Becker

**Patricia Latham
Memorial Scholarship**

Jillian Chamberlin

The Pendergast Family Scholarship

Hailey Koppelman

**Port Jefferson Dental
Group Scholarship**

Oliravan Eswaramoorthy

**Raymond V. Santora Jr.
Memorial Scholarship**

Rebecca Piccora, Sean Rowburrey

Regina Meier Scholarship

Isabella Bierdzinski

**Richard W. Sanders Journalism
Scholarship**

James McCarthy

Rose Tufaro Memorial Scholarship

Blair McGuire

School Leadership Scholarship

Marena Capocci, Bryanna DeAngelis,
Vincent Maronski, Matthew LoNigro

SCMEA

Patrick Serrentino

SCOPE Superintendent Scholarship

Matthew LoNigro

Sean King Memorial Scholarship

Ivy Newman

**Sharon & Margaux Brown Memorial
Scholarship**

Steven Panico

**Suffolk Association of School
Business Officials**

Abby Rock, Nicholas Sandt

**Suffolk County School
Superintendent**

Zoe Bussewitz

**Terry Pierkarski Memorial
Scholarship**

Mei Frawley

**Tony Kowalski Memorial
Scholarship**

Katie Marino

Vicky Lopez Memorial Scholarship

Leif Dalberg

**Walter P. McCoyd Outstanding
Senior Athlete Scholarship**

Alexa Corbin, Vincent Maronski

THE NEXT STEP: WHERE OUR GRADUTES ARE HEADED

- Adelphi University
- Appalachian State University
- Arizona State University-Tempe
- Binghamton University
- California University of Pennsylvania
- Coastal Carolina University
- Cornell University
- Emerson College
- Fairfield University
- Farmingdale State College
- Fashion Institute of Technology SUNY
- Florida State University
- High Point University
- Hofstra University
- James Madison University
- Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
- Long Island University
- Loyola University Maryland
- Manhattan College
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- Miami University-Oxford
- Mohawk Valley Community College
- New Mexico State University-Alamogordo
- New York Institute of Technology
- New York University
- North Carolina State University at Raleigh
- Northeastern University
- Northwestern University
- Pace University
- Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Sacred Heart University
- Saint Leo University
- Smith College
- St. John's University
- St. Joseph's College
- State University of New York at New Paltz
- Stevenson University
- Stony Brook University
- Suffolk County Community College
- SUNY at Albany
- SUNY Buffalo State
- SUNY College at Geneseo
- SUNY College at Old Westbury
- SUNY College at Oswego
- SUNY College at Plattsburgh
- SUNY Cortland
- SUNY Maritime College
- SUNY Oneonta
- Sweet Briar College
- Syracuse University
- The College of Saint Rose
- The Juilliard School
- The University of Alabama
- Union College
- University at Buffalo
- University of Central Florida
- University of Connecticut
- University of Georgia
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rhode Island
- University of South Florida
- University of Virginia
- Vassar College
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Western Connecticut State University
- Yale

ART NEWS

Miller Place High School Hosts Annual Senior Art Show

The talented student artists at Miller Place High School recently had the spotlight shine brightly on them during the high school's annual Senior Art Show. It was a well-deserved showcase for some incredibly talented young artists. Various photography, ink, charcoal, pencil, painting, and sculptural displays showcased the students' creative work and displayed different artistic techniques. The projects on display exhibited a wide variety of concepts and themes, demonstrating the extraordinary talent of MPHS artists. The event even featured jazz music performed by the high school's own student musicians.



ATHLETICS CORNER

Lady Panthers are Champs!

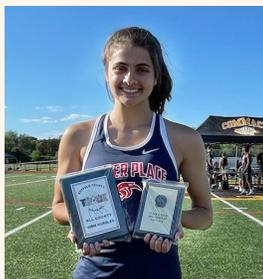


The incredible softball team at Miller Place High School is officially the best team in the county, as the Lady Panthers captured the county crown with a decisive victory over Bayport in mid-June in the Class A softball championship game. Thanks to clutch hits by Madison Power and Jessica Lavarone, as well as a key walk by Julia Lent, the Lady Panthers cruised to a 7 to 1 victory. Congratulations to our championship team, and a special shout out to Coach Timmons!

Miller Place Track Athletes Shine at the Girls' Suffolk Track Championships



Angie Guevara achieves All-County honors and 3rd place in Girls Pentathlon!



Paulina Gasparis takes 2nd Place in the All-County 400 Hurdles!



Kiera Agic takes 4th in All-County Long Jump!



Sierra Gray came in 2nd in the All-County 1500m Run!

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, NY 11764

Board of Education: Johanna Testa, *President* • Richard Panico, *Vice President*

Noelle Dunlop, *Trustee* • Keith Frank, *Trustee* • Lisa Reitan, *Trustee* • Marena Capocci, *Student Representative*

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano