

Miller Place

Winter 2021

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.millerplace.k12.ny.us



WORKING OUR WAY BACK, TOGETHER

Thank you to our school community for doing everything we can to keep our families, friends and neighbors safe. Now, with vaccines being distributed, there is reason for hope on the horizon that we can return in the future to a more normal lifestyle.

Our school district has worked hard to restore a more typical school day and learning environment. Most secondary students have now returned to their school buildings five days per week, most clubs are running, our libraries are circulating books again, and drama productions and athletics have resumed.

Thank you all for your continued support through these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools



CAPSTONE DIPLOMA PROGRAM FOR MILLER PLACE STUDENTS STARTING IN FALL 2021

The AP Capstone initiative will enhance District course offerings by providing access to challenging coursework. This will also allow our students to stand out to colleges in the application process, develop key academic skills they'll use in college and beyond, and become self-confident, independent thinkers and problem solvers, all while earning college credit.

- Dr. Marianne Cartisano, Superintendent of Schools

The Miller Place School District recently announced it will be implementing the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diploma program—an initiative through College Board that focuses on college-level research, collaboration, and presentation skills crucial for college and career success—beginning in fall 2021. Miller Place will become one of only 2,000 schools in the world to implement this program. To qualify for the AP Capstone Diploma, students must score a 3 or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research, and four additional AP exams of their choice.

A Message from the Board of Education

Returning to a full-time, five-days-per-week school week is a remarkable achievement for the Miller Place School District, one that was made possible only by the resolve and hard work of the entire Miller Place community. The continued fortitude displayed by our staff, teachers, administration, and, particularly, our students and families, has paid off. We anticipate that the return to full schooling will have innumerable benefits to our students' social and emotional health, and provide a sense of normalcy that has been lacking for over a year. We continue to need the help of the community, however, to ensure that we can remain open full time for the rest of the school year. Please remain vigilant in encouraging your children to wear masks when going to school and please continue to keep your children home if they are experiencing any COVID or flu-like symptoms.

We have come so far together, and now, for perhaps the first time, there is real light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you for all that you have done so far and thank you for all you will do moving forward.

Miller Place Proud and Miller Place Strong

Sincerely,

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

How the Pandemic Has Impacted the District's School Counseling Initiatives

As the Miller Place School District navigates the impact of pandemic, our counseling department has been very pro-active this year, providing support to students in numerous ways. Many counseling processes and functions that occur each school year have required significant modifications based on limitations imposed by COVID-19. Both Miller Place High School and North Country Road Middle School counseling departments focus a significant amount of attention on individual student counseling to provide support to students in areas ranging from social and emotional support to post-high school planning. A challenge for counselors this school year included the integration and use of Zoom and other virtual meeting platforms to connect with their students. The counselors actively reached out to their students and continue to provide support to students on a daily basis. Beyond providing ongoing student support, high school counselors have adapted processes to continue offering services to students. Most are completely virtual, including using a virtual form for schedule change requests during the summer, submission of college application processing forms, virtual parent meetings for post-high school planning, and student course selection for next school year and sophomore meetings. The counselors have also provided grade-level counseling via Google classrooms for students with specific counseling-based needs.

The North Country Road Middle School counselors are particularly proud of the student groups they are running throughout the year. The 6th grade students participated in an in-class activity with their school counselor on "self-advocacy, stress management and goal setting". The school counselors will meet with 6th grade students again in the spring and provide an opportunity for reflection on their 6th grade school year. They will also talk about maintaining a positive mindset and their goals for 7th grade. Counselors also met with 7th grade students in January and discussed how to cope with the stress and anxiety associated with the pandemic. Counselors discussed ways to build resilience during difficult times. They also discussed the power of positivity and how having the right mindset can lead to success! The school counselors will meet with the 7th grade students again in the spring in small groups to provide an opportunity for reflection on their 7th grade school year and goals for 8th grade and beyond! The 8th grade student groups met in March 2021 to review their course selections for 9th grade and talk about preparing for the high school. In May, the school counselors will address the middle school to high school transition maintaining a positive mindset, and the importance of self-support as they prepare for high school.

Setting the Standard

How Miller Place Students are Growing,
Achieving and Succeeding in an Unprecedented Year



MPHS INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

For a high school student, selection into the National Honor Society is a reflection of extraordinary academic achievement, and the Miller Place School District couldn't be more thrilled to report that, this past January, we inducted



123 incredible students into our chapter of The National Honor Society. The selection not only speaks to these students' academic successes, but also speaks to their leadership qualities and commitment to community. In addition to these inducted students, this year's class also included MPHS English teacher Mr. Vallone who was nominated as an honorary member for his authenticity in the classroom and his work ethic.

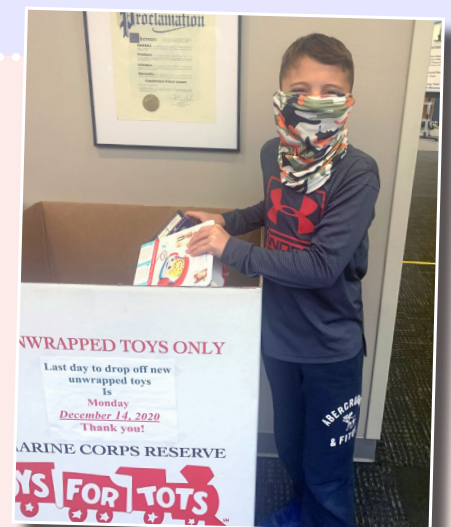
This year's inductees are Brett Adams, Ava Alamia, Olivia Almodovar, Amelia Angelo, Ava Angelo, Anthony Bartolotto, Abigail Beers, Noah Bila, Scott Bisiani, Jordyn Bloom, Liliana Bosshard, Lucas Braun, Jake Canino, Bree Cantone, Hannah Cantone, Celia Caputo, Giovanni Cassino, Kalyna Chase, Danielle Cirrito, Madeline Cohen, Alexis Colvin, Meghan Connolly, Kellyanne Crovello, Sarah Cucinello, Nicholas Daleo, Jack Davis, Ryan Davis, Emma Delaney, Amelia DeRosa, Kate Doyle, James Duffy, Kaylie Elliot, Kirstin Elliot, Mia Eovino, Makenzie Fallon, Paige Faulknor, Skyla Fernandez, Justine Finnegan, Brooke Fisher, Anthony Gagliardi, Brooke Geiser,

Taylor Giugliano, Jonas Goldberg, Sierra Gray, Madison Guiseppone, Alyssa Hawkins, Alanna Hopkins, Michael Ierna Petrie, Olivia Ingenito, Matthew Jacovelli, Giovanna Kalin, Natalie Kappeler, Connor Kirchner, Justin Klotz, Derek Knee, Charlize

Kolasinski, Lindsey Kreyling, Emma LaMountain, Max Law, Maria Lazarinis, Luke Leahy, Brooke Ledda, Kenneth Leen, Julia Lent, Amy Luglio, Selia Lyons, Michael Manolis, Cadence Masino, Ann Marie McNulty, Walter Michalski, Mark Milano, Joseph Miletto, Faith Miller, Anthony Modica, Lauren Molinaro, Jack Moloney, Delaney Moore, Andrea Mott, Brendan Muller, Sean Muller, Lauren Neri, Matthew Niemczyk, Noah Nieves, Lacey Noto, Sean O'Connor, Brendon Paduano, Daniel Paesano, Jake Pepe, Michael Perrino, Angelena Polito, Thomas Pranzo, Liam Preston, Matthew Reilly, Bradley Riegel, Madigan Roach, Diya Saini, Nicholas Savino, Ryan Schafer, Mallory Schuster, Alex Schwartzberg, Caileigh Sexton, Zoe Skarupski, Jack Soldano, Jackson Starr, Leora Stieglitz, Emily Stoessel, Jason Strickland, Christopher Sun, Nikolas Szumowski, Dominic Testa, Deirdre Thomson, Riley Torres, Evelyn Trelfa, Thomas Tumminello, Michael Vallary, Miles Vaska, Victoria, Waldemar, Michael Warren, Abigail Weiner, Maxwell Weisman, Noah Wenig, Sarah Winter, and Makayla Witherell.

ALL IT TAKES IS ONE STUDENT

In December, the students in Mrs. O'Connor's and Ms. Parcelluzzi class at the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School had a group discussion about charity and donations. This struck a chord with fourth grader Christian Kimmy, who wrote a beautiful letter to his classmates encouraging them to donate toys to those less fortunate. Inspired by this display of kindness and generosity, his classmates helped organize a Toys for Tots program in their class! While this heartfelt story is indeed an example of the holiday spirit, this type of generosity is hardly exclusive to December at LADSBS. All year our students display a desire to help and leave a lasting effect on their community and the world around them.

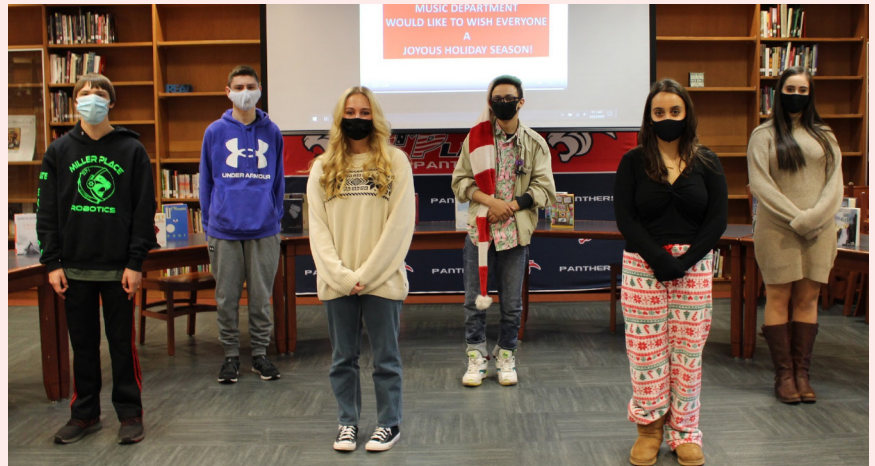


OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC SUCCESS—AND OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF KINDNESS—RECOGNIZED AT MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

Not much is familiar in regards to the 2020-2021 school year, but one thing that hasn't changed is the incredible academic talent and character of Miller Place students. In January, Miller Place High School hosted its 20th Annual Outstanding Acts of Kindness (OAK) and Outstanding Academic Recognition (OAR) breakfast, at which 12 amazing high school students were acknowledged for their selfless actions or their stellar academic performances.

OAK award recipients—students who have helped someone in need without expecting any reciprocation—demonstrate the sense of spirit that the Miller Place School District aims to achieve throughout the school community. These students serve as role models to all of us in the Miller Place community—students and teachers alike. Recipients of the OAK award this year include Denis Amaya, Chloe Anthony, Sophia Bloom, Justin Klotz, Shaun Mooney, Sean O'Connor, Grace Polak and Avery Purrier.

OAR award recipients—students who've distinguished themselves as academic inspirations and have successfully risen to the educational challenges presented to them—either met long-term goals or exhibit commendable improvement. This year's recipients include Caroline Bark, Ava Marcario, Christopher Scott, Matthew Shelton, Carly Shurbet and Grace Stone.



Pictured L-R: Sean Mooney, Shaun O'Connor, Grace Polak, Ava Marcario, Christopher Scott, and Carly Shurbet. Absent: Avery Purrier, Grace Stone and Matthew Shelton



Pictured L to R: Caroline Bark, Justin Klotz, Karole Kalin, Sophia Bloom, Denis Amaya and Chloe Anthony

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FIRST VIRTUAL STEAM NIGHT

Miller Place Union Free School District's STEAM Week 2021 was held virtually due to COVID-19, but this did not slow us down. Just the opposite, in fact; 2021 STEAM Week was expanded to include over 20 new vendors, with contributions from well-known national and international STEAM companies such as NASA, Lockheed Martin, Cradle of Aviation, National Geographic and many more. Additionally, STEAM Week had eight student contributions, which covered topics such as escape rooms, cryptography, Mario Paint Music, gymnastics, nucleation, math tips and tricks, tuning a cello, and the Rubik's Cube. Students participating included Lilah Lindemann, Brandy Moeller, Hailey Koppelman, Sean Rowburrey, Ivy Newman, Erin Matthews, Hanna Cantone, Angelena Polito, Mia Eovino, Jonas Goldberg, and members Tri-M Music Honor Society. We are encouraged with the expansion of STEAM Week, and we look forward to building on science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics for years to come.

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

ANDREW MULLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

This winter at **Andrew Muller Primary School (AMPS)**, students and staff celebrated Peace and Kindness Day. This day was held in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. This special day included activities in reading, writing, social studies and science that supported the concepts of equity. Children were engaged in team building activities, exchanged positive affirmations with peers and created a school wide paper chain of kindness. A highlight of the school year, Peace and Kindness Day is one of the District's many initiatives to foster a positive school culture by creating an inclusive environment.



LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL



Recently this winter, **Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School** held its first-ever virtual concert, featuring a performance by musician Jared Campbell. The talented singer and guitar player had our students up and dancing in their classrooms—getting much needed exercise and movement during the difficult winter days. The concert wasn't just for fun, however. Jared sang songs about compassion, understanding, and being kind to one another, important messages for all students all year long. After the concert, LADSBS held its winter spirit week, which saw our students wearing holiday sweaters, winter flannels, Panther pride colors and a pajama day. It was great to see so much holiday cheer filling the halls and classrooms.

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Art students in Mrs. Wood's eighth grade art classes are leaving their marks—and beautifying the hallways of **North Country Road Middle School**. The students painted murals of positive messages along the walls for their peers to enjoy while heading to classes. A special thank you to Mrs. Wood for inspiring this initiative and for giving our students an opportunity to leave their mark in such a special way!



MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL



Miller Place High School senior William Dunlop was recently awarded first place in the High School Instrumental Division of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra Concerto and Vocal Competition. An extremely talented oboist, William competed against some of the finest musicians in our area in the Vocal Competition, which was held in early February via Zoom. During his time in Miller Place, William has earned County and State recognition for his outstanding playing and musicianship. In the fall, William will be continuing his musical studies majoring in music performance.

ART & MUSIC NEWS

Miller Place's Andrew Bova to Perform in National Music Ensemble

Miller Place High School senior Andrew Bova was selected among 552 student musicians in the United States to perform in the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) 2020 All-National Honor Ensembles (ANHE) Virtual Event, which was held in January of this year. Each ensemble will create a final, recorded performance that will be premiered online during the NAfME Music in Our Schools Month in March. During his time in the District, Andrew has participated in numerous All-County music festivals, was chosen to participate in the 2019 New York All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and has starred in several MPHS musical theatre productions. Upon graduation this year, Andrew intends on studying acting/musical theater while attending college next fall.

Andrew, who was chosen through an audition process, will be rehearsing a challenging repertoire in preparation for performing under the direction of six of the most prominent conductors in the United States. The concert band and symphony orchestra will each have 120 instrumentalists, the jazz ensemble 13 instrumentalists, the mixed choir 241 vocalists, the guitar ensemble 45 instrumentalists, and the modern band 13 performers.



WINTER ATHLETICS CORNER



MPHS Student-Athletes Vinny Maronski and Chloe Anthony Recognized for Outstanding Leadership in Physical Education

Miller Place High School seniors Chloe Anthony and Vinny Maronski have been selected for the Outstanding Leadership in Physical Education honor by the Suffolk Zone Chapter of the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance.

Each year, physical education teachers from each school district in Suffolk County nominate their best physical education students, one female and one male, for this distinction. The selected students not only possess stellar athletic ability but also embody the values of teamwork, leadership, and integrity. Congratulations Chloe and Vinny!

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, NY 11764

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

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Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano