

Miller Place

Fall 2019

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

TEACHING AND LEARNING IN CLOUD-BASED COLLABORATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

"Research shows that inclusive, student-centered classrooms lead to overall learner success, and technology can help. With powerful Microsoft technology like Office 365 Education Learning Tools and Teams, educators can give every student equitable access and a voice in the classroom that helps them build confidence and 21st-century skills."

— Microsoft.com

This year, the District is piloting a cloud-based collaborative learning platform called Microsoft Office 365. Teacher volunteers participating in the pilot have the ability to create learning environments that empower students to be independent and creative learners; build reading, language and STEM skills; and prepare for their futures.

Microsoft Office 365 offers a space where users can access information anytime, anywhere, using any device. Pilot team teachers and their students are able to:

- Use Microsoft OneDrive to store and access files (with increased storage amounts);
- Use Microsoft OneNote Class Notebook, the teacher's all-in-one notebook, which provides a platform to prepare instructional materials and collaborate with colleagues and/or with students in an organized manner;



- Use Microsoft Teams, a centralized online space for teachers and students online that provides live engagement and content work;
- Use Microsoft Office 365, including access to Microsoft Word, Excel, etc., (not including Outlook).

"The Cloud-Based Learning Environment creates a virtual online connection between teachers and students that expands our District's capabilities," said Dr. Cartisano. "Students and teachers can continue to work together on assignments beyond the walls of the classroom, which enhances classroom teaching and learning experiences."

The District is always exploring emerging technologies and solutions to enhance the educational process for both students and educators throughout the District.

Back to School



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



It has been an amazing fall at the Miller Place School District, and it's hard to believe we are approaching the winter recess. We have much to be proud of so far. The District has announced National Merit Scholars, AP Scholars, and All-State selectees; held Spirit Week; facilitated social and

emotional learning initiatives; and much more. Although over half of the school year remains, it is incumbent upon all students in the District to keep up the pace to achieve their 2019-2020 goals. The year will fly by, as it always does, and every child will succeed through unrelenting effort and the help of our dedicated educators.

The District also does its best to encourage and offer opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom. When students are exposed to a diverse set of experiences, they are able to grow to their fullest potential and be better prepared for life's challenges. Take for example, NCRMS student Jake Knoth. You'll read in this newsletter his story of a trip to Africa over the summer with his family to help those in need. Jake and students like him not only learn from these experiences, but they come back to the classroom to offer their new perspectives to their classmates. Whether it's a trip to a museum or a trip abroad, explorations outside of the classroom are an essential complement to a well-rounded education.

Let's continue to work hard, aspire to greater heights and make our school community Miller Place Proud. I invite you to read about all of the exciting happenings in our District in this newsletter, and I wish you and your family an enjoyable holiday season.

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

I hope everyone is enjoying the 2019-2020 school year so far. We are only three months in, yet the list of achievements from the District's students is long. I am inspired on a daily basis by the talent of our students and the unwavering dedication of our teachers. It's true when they say the success of one person is the result of the efforts of many, and every single Panther works together to achieve greatness.

I am also inspired when the District administration tries new methods to improve classroom learning, especially the implementation of new technologies. As you've read on page one, the new cloud-based collaborative learning program will help streamline digital processes and make it easier for students and teachers to stay connected. Students have even had the freedom to work on certain assignments from anywhere they can get an internet connection. Not only does a cloud-based system help teachers and students with classwork, it exposes students to emerging technologies that will help them build necessary digital literacy skills.

Although it may seem early, we must start to think about the 2020-2021 school budget as a community. We have already begun the process as a District, and I invite all residents to stay up-to-date on announcements and attend workshops over the winter. Our annual budget funds the wonderful programming and resources every year with input and guidance from the community. Thank you for your support!

On behalf of the Board of Education, I look forward to what's to come this year, and I invite every member of our community to be involved in our school community. Enjoy the holidays!

Always Panther Pride & Miller Place Proud!

Johanna Testa
Board of Education President

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED SCHOLARS

A special congratulations is in order for the MPHS students who have achieved the distinction of National Merit Commended Scholar. The Commended Scholars are (pictured left to right) Alexander Wang, Olivia Shamberger, Oliver Pitts, Skyler Goldberg, and Joseph Bisiani. The group of students earned this designation through their high scores on the PSAT/NMSQT examinations. To become a National Merit Commended Scholar, high school juniors must score in the top 3-4 percent of all students who take the examinations in the nation for that particular year. This is an exceptional honor, and the District is extremely proud of these students.



MILLER PLACE AP SCHOLARS



Congratulations to 33 outstanding Miller Place students who were recognized by the CollegeBoard as AP Scholars. To earn the designation, students must score a three or higher on three or more AP examinations. This year's Miller Place AP Scholars are (front row left to right) Deirdre Doherty, Amanda Piccora, Julianne Cerato, Alexa Zicchinelli, Hannah Anderson, Dimitra Miloulis, Nicole Cordes, Jane Murphy, Madalyn Hymowitz, (middle row left to right) John Mari, Danelle Rose, Skyler Goldberg, Olivia Shamberger, Oliver Pitts, Grace Patterson, Julianna Campo, Dana Moss, Larry Davis, (back row left to right) Henry Shemet, Nicholas Leone, Wade Tucker, Ty Young, Andrew Friedman,

Thomas Cirrito, Timothy Hirdt, Colin Brennan, Jack Schiefer, Joseph Bisiani, Alexander Wang, Adam Tarsia, and Lucas Stahlmann. (Not pictured): Rachel Dreilinger and Jack Follo.

NEW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Congratulations to Andrew Friedman for being selected this year's Board of Education Student Representative. Andrew is a senior at Miller Place High School and an active member of Student Government, Band, and the Virtual Enterprise class. Outside of the classroom, Andrew is a member of the MPHS Varsity Boys Badminton Team, acts in his spare time, plays the piano and baritone horn, and sings, supports his peers at student events and activities, and of course, attends Board of Education meetings. Andrew is an enthusiastic student and energetic person who enjoys talking to people. Throughout his time in the Miller Place District, Andrews has achieved many of the goals he set for himself. He ranks among the top 10 percent of his class, was elected student class president, elected student representative on the Board of Education, helped reestablish senior class trip to Six Flags, won the job of CEO of Amplify Audio in Virtual Enterprise, received the Earth Science Academic Award, received the Foreign Language National Honors Society Achievement Award, represented the school in the Long Island Music Festival (band, baritone horn), he's the school's county representative for Varsity Badminton, and won the Positivity Award in freshmen year. Both the District and Miller Place community are excited to have Andrew work with the Board of Education this year.



AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

ANDREW MULLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spirit Week is an opportunity for all of the District's schools to show their pride and spirit for the Miller Place and Sound Beach communities, and most important, to have fun! Across all schools, students put their creativity to the test to participate in Pajama Day, Wacky Wednesday, Tropical Thursday and Spirit Day.

On Spirit Day, the **Andrew Muller Primary School (AMPS)** celebrated in a big way. Local heroes paid a visit to AMPS to share their expertise. Local firefighters and emergency medical technicians came with a grand display of vehicles—bringing a tower and ladder truck, two engine trucks, two ambulances and a fire police vehicle. Students had the chance to explore, go inside the vehicles and learn about the equipment used by emergency personnel in the event of an emergency.

While students practice fire safety drills on a regular basis, Spirit Day offered an opportunity to learn about fire prevention at home, how to get help in the case of a fire, and who can help in emergency situations. Thank you to the Miller Place and Sound Beach Fire Departments for an informative and exciting day!



LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL



Students and faculty hit the ground running this fall at **Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School (LADSBS)**. To say the last few months have been exciting would be an understatement.

Preparation for the school year always starts during the summer vacation. Over the summer, a major renovation project saw the school's hallway lighting and ceiling tiles replaced, creating a brighter and more inviting space. It's important to make everyone feel welcome, especially the 28 new families joining the LADSBS community this year. They were welcomed to the building by school assistance counselors, who held a special lunch for them to meet and ask questions.

Once school started, the fall schedule has been packed with assemblies and character education programs. The Miller Place and Sound Beach Fire departments visited LADSBS for Fire Safety Week. Students learned valuable fire prevention and safety tips and spent time with local heroes. One of LADSBS's most memorable traditions, International Peace Day, brought together the entire school community. This year's theme was, "What is it like to walk in someone else's shoes?" After lessons centered around empathy, students each decorated a sneaker with inspirational messages and phrases, and the shoes were strung together



to hang around the school. The week concluded with 5th grade students coming together to form a peace symbol. This powerful display of unity sets the tone of respect and kindness for the entire school year.

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Learning beyond the classroom offers numerous opportunities for growth. Students are offered fresh perspectives and the ability to participate in an activity that could be unique to a certain place or institution. When students do this, their horizons are broadened, and they are more well-rounded when they return to the classroom.

North Country Road Middle School seventh graders recently spent time at Cedar Beach and Sadderly Landing to take samples of the water quality to evaluate the health of our local ecosystem. They will use the information collected back in the classroom to continue a conversation about what can be done to protect the wetlands and maintain a proactive approach to conservation.

Outside of the classroom sometimes means traveling! 199 eighth graders visited the nation's capital in October, a tradition that



is considered one of the highlights of the eighth grade experience. The trip continues to provide an educational approach to the spectacular sites and history behind each monument, memorial, and museum that is included in the ambitious three-day agenda.

The trip beyond the classroom that stands out this year—and was certainly the farthest—was taken by Jake Knoth (grade eight), who went to Kenya and Tanzania with members of his family. The trip was part of the Wilderness Medical program, a mission that empowers individuals to help those in need. Jake went on a number of safaris while in Africa and kept a journal of his adventure. There is so much to learn beyond the classroom through life experiences, and these lessons can all be brought back to the classroom to be shared with peers.

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

Members of the **Miller Place High School** football team recently thanked staff members who have had an impact on them in some way. The players gave their jerseys to a teacher or staff member to wear for the day. At the end of the day, the selected faculty members and football players took a photo together.

Exchanging jerseys is nothing new for football players. During Spirit Week and other events, football players will sometimes let a friend or member of another team wear their jersey. Seeing the team of teachers wearing jerseys was a sight to behold as it truly personified the numerous role models all students have in the District. At all points of the day, students like the football athletes are learning life lessons from an inspiring group of educators.



Scenes from Homecoming



ART & MUSIC NEWS



All-State selectees (front row from left to right): Andrew Bova, All-State, Vocal Jazz; Emma Davis, alternate, Instrumental Jazz; John Mari, alternate, Band; Jodie Cui, alternate, Orchestra; Marianna Kalin, alternate, Band; Larry Davis, All-State, Symphonic Band; (back row from left to right) Patrick Serrentino, alternate, Instrumental Jazz; Jack Schiefer alternate, Instrumental Jazz and Band; Wade Tucker, alternate, Band; Will Dunlop, All-State, Symphonic Orchestra



General Music students performing in an exercise.



Larry Davis has been awarded the Long Island Scholar Artist Award of Merit for Music and recognized as one of the "Best of the Best" for the class of 2019-2020. He is a trumpet player in the MPHS Instrumental Jazz Ensemble as well as a horn player in the Symphonic Band.

Pep Band Drumline at Homecoming.



Nineteen MPHS students traveled to six European countries to tour and perform concerts as part of the America Music Abroad program this past summer.



North Country Road Middle School Orchestra students rehearsing and refining their skills.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 23 – January 3

Winter Recess:
Schools Closed

January 20

Martin Luther King Jr.
Day: Schools Closed

January 29

Board of Education
Meeting: 8:00 p.m.
at MPHS

February 17 – 21

Mid-Winter Recess:
Schools Closed

February 26

Board of Education
Meeting: 8:00 p.m.
at MPHS and Budget
Workshop

March 25

Board of Education
Meeting: 8:00 p.m.
at MPHS
BOE Budget Adoption

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* • Andrew Friedman, *Student Representative*

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano