

# Miller Place

Summer 2017

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

[www.millerplace.k12.ny.us](http://www.millerplace.k12.ny.us)



*Congratulations,*  
**MILLER PLACE GRADUATES!**





## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



The graduating Class of 2017—as well as all Miller Place students—deserves to be commended on another school year. On behalf of the Board of Education, District administration, faculty and staff: Congratulations on your high school graduation! Your time as part of the Miller Place School District, along with everything you have learned from family and friends, is the foundation for

what's ahead. While this chapter comes to a close, your next steps as young adults are about to begin.

From the first days at Andrew Muller Primary School through the final minutes at Miller Place High School, our schools provide an education designed to empower all students to challenge themselves. Many of you have had opportunities to discover your individual passions and pursue new interests. Your hard work and involvement every day for years led you to this significant moment—earning your diplomas. Along with your parents, families, friends, neighbors and teachers, I have seen first-hand your achievements in academics, athletics and the arts. All of you should be proud of your accomplishments.

Ninety-two percent of our Class of 2017 will be attending college this fall. These college-bound seniors have earned more than an estimated \$4.5 million in scholarships, and 3 of our graduates will enter military service. Of Miller Place High School's 240 graduates, 50 percent earned Advanced Regents diplomas. These statistics are indicative of our students' hard work and perseverance.

I would like to thank the Miller Place community for supporting our District and its programs, staff and students. Also deserving recognition for their hard work and commitment to our students this past year include the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), the Robotics Booster Club, Friends of the Arts, Friends of Miller Place Sports and the Athletic Booster Club.

To our graduating Class of 2017: Take time this summer to reflect upon what you've learned. Remember back to your summers after moving up from AMPS to LADSBS, LADSBS to NCRMS and NCRMS to MPHS. The challenges ahead resemble the challenges you have already overcome. Think back to those moments when you learned something special, not only from your teachers in class but from each other every day. Your education is your foundation for the future. Use it and build upon it; every day is another chance to learn. You have all earned a place in our community. I couldn't be more proud.

I look forward to seeing all of our returning students in September.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Congratulations to the Miller Place Class of 2017! You graduates, along with every student across the District, deserve commendation for successfully completing another school year filled with achievement. The graduation and moving-up ceremonies this June were significant milestones for your education, and they are occasions you'll remember for the many years to come.

Your time as students in the Miller Place School District has prepared you for your futures. Your next steps, whether in college or the start of a career, will be significant. They are the first steps on the path forward that represents the rest of your lives. Remember your education, the experiences throughout Miller Place's schools and community that have shaped the young adults you have become. Don't measure your successes in likes or views, but rather in the connections you make with people, and your efforts to bring about positive change in our world. All of us look forward to hearing about the achievements that lay ahead for you.

As we take a moment to reflect on the past school year, I can't help but think about how resilient this community is. Miller Place has been through some difficult losses this year and we have faced many challenges. But I am truly inspired to see so many of us come together to support each other and help this community move forward stronger than ever.

I would like to thank our educators, administrators and staff for helping our students achieve their best at anything they set their mind to. I would also like to thank all members of the community for continued support of our District. You have allowed us to continue to enhance our classroom and extracurricular programs, and I am very grateful for your ongoing input, feedback and confidence.

I, along with the entire Board of Education and school community, look forward to seeing our students return in September for the start of another school year. Enjoy your summer!

Miller Place Proud!

Johanna Testa  
*Board of Education President*

# AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS



## CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. WILLIAM SUSSMAN!

*William has been named  
MPHS' Valedictorian.*

William Sussman is the Miller Place High School Class of 2017 valedictorian. William graduated with a weighted GPA of 101.40 and is a member of the National Honor Society and Foreign Language National Honor Society. He is also an AP Scholar with Honor and a National Merit Scholar. William was FBLA CEO and President, as well as mathletes team captain and 4-H president. He will attend Yale University to study electrical engineering.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. DAVID ARGENTO!

*David has been named  
MPHS' Salutatorian.*

David Argento is the Miller Place High School Class of 2017 salutatorian. David graduated with a weighted GPA of 99.1 and is a National Honor Society parliamentarian. He is also a Boy Scout of America Eagle Scout. David was an All-League member of the varsity tennis team in addition to membership in the mathletes and jazz combo musical group. He will attend Providence College to study finance.

## THE CLASS OF 2017'S NEXT STEPS



Adelphi University  
Arizona State University  
Assumption College  
Becker College  
Bellarmine University  
Bethel College  
Bloomsburg University  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Coker College  
College of Charleston  
College of Mount St. Vincent  
Cornell University  
CUNY Baruch  
CUNY City College  
CUNY Hunter  
CUNY John Jay College of  
Criminal Justice  
CUNY Macaulay Honors College  
Drexel University  
East Carolina University  
Fairfield University

Fairleigh Dickinson  
Farmingdale State University  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Five Towns College  
Fordham University  
Friedrich-Schiller University Jena  
George Washington University  
Hamilton College  
Hobart & William Smith Colleges  
Hofstra University  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Ithaca College  
James Madison University  
Johnson & Wales University  
La Salle University  
Lehigh University  
Liberty University  
Long Island University, Brooklyn  
Long Island University, Post  
Marist College  
Marywood University  
McGill University  
Mercy College  
Monmouth University  
Mount St. Mary College  
Niagara University  
Pace University, NYC  
Pennsylvania State University  
Providence College  
Quinnipiac University  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rosemont College  
Sacred Heart University  
School of Visual Arts

Siena College  
St. John's University  
St. Joseph's College  
Stony Brook University  
Suffolk County Community College  
SUNY Albany  
SUNY Binghamton  
SUNY Buffalo  
SUNY Cortland  
SUNY Farmingdale  
SUNY Fredonia  
SUNY Geneseo  
SUNY Maritime College  
SUNY New Paltz  
SUNY Oneonta  
SUNY Oswego  
SUNY Plattsburgh  
SUNY Potsdam  
SUNY Stony Brook  
Syracuse University  
The Culinary Institute of America  
The University of Tampa  
University of Delaware  
University of Lethbridge  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rhode Island  
University of South Florida, Tampa  
University of St. Andrews  
Utica College  
Villanova University  
Yale University  
York College of Pennsylvania



# Class of 2017 Scholarships



**Arlette Conklin Memorial Scholarship:**

Julianna Dolinski  
Steven Gaudio

**Athletes Helping Athletes  
Leadership Scholarship:**

Anthony Gianfortone

**Calace Family Foundation Award:**

David Argento  
Brienne Ledda  
William Sussman

**Class of 2005 Alumni Scholarship:**

Michael Cirrito  
Kelsey Lane

**Class of 2008 Alumni Scholarship:**

Jaclyn Barreca  
Daniel Sexton

**Class of 2011 Alumni Scholarship:**

Michael Mertx  
Julia Ruzek

**Denise Butzgy Memorial Scholarship:**

Rebecca Lauria  
Aditya Mehra

**Gail McNulty Business Leaders  
Scholarship:**

Valeria Gomez

**Jacob Engel Memorial Scholarship:**

Danielle Plunkett

**Jim Rakowski Scholarship:**

Charles Burgner  
Rocco Giordano

**Joe Keany Memorial Scholarship:**

Michael Cirrito  
Kelly Holownia

**John Douglas Memorial Scholar-Athlete  
Scholarship:**

Stephen Anglim  
Brienne Ledda

**Judy Stamatis Spirit of  
Competition Scholarship:**

Kelsey Lane  
Matthew Leen

**Lauralee Bokus Memorial Scholarship:**

Maddison Aretz

**Lauren Cummins Memorial Scholarship:**

Germaine Harbaugh  
Cassandra Sperl

**Librizzi Family Scholarship:**

Elizabeth Corbin  
Matthew Leen  
Christian Loretta  
Eftihea Politis  
Shane White

**Long Island Blood Services Scholarship:**

Brienne Ledda

**LIRTC/In Memory of Thomas Jay Riker:**

Taylor Sommers

**Long Island Teacher's  
Benevolent Fund Scholarship:**

Maria Campo  
Brienne Ledda

**Michael Sallee Memorial Scholarship:**

Nicole Barreca  
Jacqueline Shields-Figueroa

**Miller Place Athletic Association  
Ideal Athlete Scholarship:**

Julia Burns  
Joseph Filippetti

**Miller Place Civic  
Association Scholarship:**

Amanda Stead

**Miller Place Clerical Memorial  
Scholarship:**

Kyle Dromerhauser  
Elizabeth Winter

**Miller Place Fire Department  
Memorial Scholarship:**

Brienne Ledda

**Miller Place Friends of the Arts~  
Art Scholarship:**

Geraldine Luglio





**Miller Place Friends of the Arts~Craig Von Barga Music Scholarship:**

Tyler Ross  
Emily Sammartino

**Miller Place Friends of the Arts Drama Scholarship:**

Robert Godberson

**Miller Place High School Drama/Theatre Scholarship:**

Nicole Johnson  
Alexandra Kastamonitis

**Miller Place High School Music Scholarship/Sound Beach Music:**

Mackenzie Albee  
Kiera Nesbitt

**Miller Place High School National Honor Society Scholarship:**

Maria Campo  
Brianne Ledda

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

David Argento  
William Sussman

**Miller Place Homemaker's Scholarship:**

Christopher Ging  
Michael Ging

**Miller Place Panther Players Scholarship:**

Charles Burgner

**Miller Place Parent-Teachers' Organization Scholarship:**

Michael Cirrito  
Jessica LaFontaine  
Brianne Ledda  
Treicy Wan

**Nicholas Lastorka Memorial Scholarship:**

Kristen Nappi

**Nico Signore Memorial Scholarship:**

Joseph Filippetti  
Gavin Kelly

**NYSCAME Scholarship:**

Maria Campo

**Pamela Waltz Memorial Scholarship:**

Emily Contrelli  
Matthew Kelly  
Christopher Ferrari

**Panther Scholarship Excellence in Business:**

Joseph Filippetti  
Alexander Zarou Naimo  
Ryan Sultan

**Port Jefferson Dental Group Scholarship:**

Arthur Sarkissyan

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

Alexandra Leichter  
Raymond Lombardi

**Richard W. Sanders Journalism Scholarship:**

Brianne Ledda

**Rocky Point Lion's Club Scholarship:**

Elizabeth Winter

**Rocky Point Rotary/Bruce Giles Scholarship:**

Brianne Ledda

**School Leadership Scholarship:**

Stephen Anglim  
Julianna Dolinski  
Robert Godberson  
Nicole Johnson

**SCMEA:**

Jonathan Beers

**SCOPE Superintendent Scholarship:**

Maria Campo

**Sharon & Margaux Brown Memorial Scholarship:**

Maximilian Braun  
Emily Sammartino

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

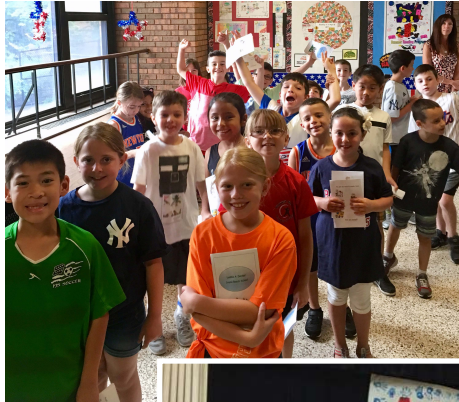
Joseph Bartolotto III  
Arianna Esposito  
Amanda Stead



# AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

## ANDREW MULLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

As the 2016-2017 school year comes to a close, Andrew Muller Primary School students and faculty are involved in a variety of celebrations. Kindergartners performed a bevy of songs with important themes instilled in their early education, including songs about friendship, patriotism, and moving-up to their next grade. First-grade students held an Outdoor Carnival, an exciting day as the first graders get ready to become the oldest students at AMPS, just one year away from moving-up to Laddie A. Decker. As for Moving-Up Day, second graders celebrated their time at AMPS with a day of kickball, relay races, a DJ and a t-shirt signing. Students also performed three songs for their families: “The Andrew Muller Song,” “You Can Count On Me” and a version of “Movin’ on Up... to the LADSBS.” Principal Laura Gewurz wished the students a formal goodbye and reminded them to continue to stay connected to the AMPS Motto: *Be Safe, Be Happy and Learn A Lot*. The second grade was then welcomed into LADSBS by Principal Catherine Honeyman.



## LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL

The Laddie A. Decker Fifth Grade Moving-Up Ceremony was celebrated on Friday, June 16, 2017 at 1 p.m. at the North Country Road Middle School—the next destination for this year’s graduates! The fifth grade was welcomed to their new building by Principal Matt Clark, who spoke at the celebration ceremony. This was the first afternoon Moving-Up Ceremony at LADSBS—in past years there was always a morning ceremony. Each class, along with their teacher, chose character words with significant meanings to their school year. It is always uplifting to see the creative, original flair of each class presentation. Each class participated in an art poster contest, where individualized awards were presented to the winners. The fifth-grade song was “Home” by Philip Philips, and we were fortunate to have the National Anthem performed by LADSBS Police Smart Officer George Lynagh. Mr. Seth Lipshie, Deputy Superintendent, provided his first fifth-grade Moving-Up speech to all the honored guests, parents, and students. The administration, faculty, and staff here at Laddie A. Decker, wish the Miller Place High School Class of 2024 much success as they move on to middle school at NCRMS!





## NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

As the weather gets warmer and thoughts turn to finishing a strong academic year—and eventually summer vacation—NCRMS Student Government springs into action to prepare for the eighth-grade celebrations that marks the completion of middle school. On Friday, June 9, our Moving-Up Dance took place in the cafeteria transformed by our parent committee into the annual student-chosen theme. This year was “The Roaring 20s,” a theme that provided images of a speakeasy, the age of flappers, and the big band sound. Our parents did not disappoint, as students walked in to members of our High School Band playing songs by Glen Miller, and the décor made our students feel like they were back in time! Students enjoyed the music and danced the night away, enjoying some treats in the dining area as well. It was truly a night to remember!



On Wednesday, June 21, eighth-grade students participated in their last celebration of the year, our Moving-Up Ceremony. Students and members of their family gathered in the gymnasium decorated for the occasion, which included a balloon arch that marked the beginning of the student procession to their seats. Every student was given a certificate of promotion and a folder with awards from each instructional department. Dr. Cartisano provided words of inspiration during the Superintendent’s address, and members of the faculty presented a series of special awards. Student government President Blair McGuire and National Junior Honor Society President Max Amundsen delivered speeches that reflected on their years in the middle school and spoke of moving to Miller Place High School. This event signifies the end of middle school and the excitement of beginning the journey high school. On behalf of the faculty and staff of NCRMS, I wish the Miller Place High School Class of 2021 the very best of luck in the future!

## MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

Friends, family, and community members were present to celebrate the Class of 2017 during the recent commencement ceremony for Miller Place High School. The audience proudly looked on as the new graduates walked across the stage to receive diplomas in their caps and gowns—many specially decorated for the occasion. The ceremony included motivational and reflective speeches from valedictorian William Sussman, salutatorian David Argento,



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Marianne Cartisano and Principal Kevin Slavin. Graduates were commended for their hard work and achievements as they now look forward to moving on to college and careers. “The Miller Place School District is proud of the Class of 2017 and honored by its many academic, athletic, and civic accomplishments,” said Dr. Cartisano. “This year’s graduating class builds on the trajectory of success and academic excellence for which the District is known.”



# Music News



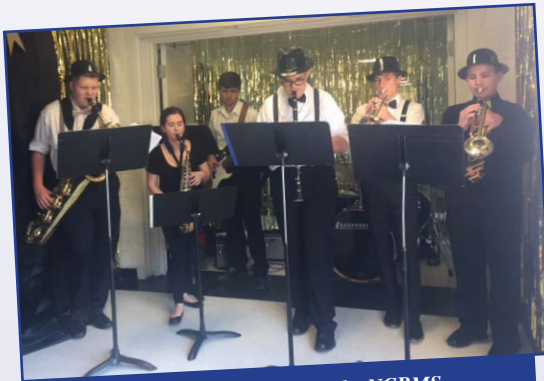
*The Laddie A. Decker Fifth Grade Band's third annual performance at the Long Island Ducks stadium—Bethpage Ballpark—on May 27, 2017.*



*Guest clinician Al Massaro worked with Miller Place High School percussionists this school year.*



*NCRMS Vocal Jazz on their way to earn a superior rating at the Long Island Music Festival on June 3.*



*MPHS Jazz Combo playing for the NCRMS 8th grade dance.*



*Miller Place High School Panther players celebrating at their end of the year dinner!*

## ATHLETIC NEWS

- Miller Place High School was honored as a **SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE** by NYSPHSAA with 22/23 teams qualifying as Scholar-Athlete Teams.
- 17/23 teams qualified for post-season play.
- Five Teams earned League/Division Championships
  - Football – Big Four Champions
  - Girls' Winter Track – League Champions
- Wrestling – League Dual-Meet & Tournament Champions
- Boys' Spring Track – League Champions
- Girls' Spring Track – League Champions
- Field Hockey & Boys' Cross Country won County Championships
- Jordan Ceccarini (12th Grade) set a new Suffolk County record in the Vault and earned All-County & All-State placement as an individual competitor in Gymnastics.
- Angelina Harris (8th Grade) earned All-County honors in three events and was All-State in the 200m IM & 100m Breast Stroke.
- 36 Senior Student-Athletes are continuing their athletic participation at the collegiate level
  - 16 students @ D-III level
  - 8 students @ D-II level
  - 12 students @ D-I level

## 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* • Julianna Dolinski, *Student Representative*

**Superintendent of Schools:** Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano