



The Panther Press

Summer 2023

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

In June, the Miller Place School District community gathered to celebrate the Miller Place High School class of 2023, a distinguished group of young scholars, accomplished artists, and talented athletes. They will be missed by all who had the pleasure of getting to know them.



A Message from Superintendent Seth Lipshie

On behalf of the Miller Place Administration and staff, I would like to congratulate the Class of 2023 on their recent high school graduation. It was my privilege to have the opportunity to address the Class of 2023. My message to the graduates was that success is more dependent on their behavior than on their background or pedigree. I also passed on some thoughts to both the 8th graders at their Moving Up ceremony and the Class of 2023 from "Life's Little Instruction Book" Take care of your reputation, it's your most valuable asset; Be kinder than necessary; Become the most positive and enthusiastic person you know; Never underestimate the power of a kind word or deed. At graduation it was exciting to hear the many accomplishments of our seniors and as they leave Miller Place, I look forward to their future success.

Over the summer we will prepare for the opening of schools as we hire new staff to provide strong instruction and support for our students. The District will continue Bond construction work that includes the start of the new Andrew Muller Primary School gymnasium. We will continue developing our Strategic Plan and look to finalize the plan this fall. The plan will serve as a guide for the District that can be used as an accountability metric to help guide the district moving forward. Regarding classroom instruction, this summer the administration will participate in Professional Development on Differentiated Instruction as an emphasis for the 2023-24 School year. This will build on the 2022-23 academic initiative, using Essential Questions.

I look forward to working with students, parents, guardians and staff to continue to improve our student success and continue to make Miller Place the best possible District. I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer.

Sincerely,

Seth Lipshie, *Superintendent of Schools*

A Message from the Board of Education

With the arrival of summer, the warm embrace of the summer sun it invites us to pause and reflect upon the school year that has passed. I am filled with immense pride as I reflect on the incredible achievements of our Miller Place students.

I extend the warmest of congratulations to our graduating Class of 2023. Your perseverance, hard work and accomplishments are truly amazing. The knowledge, skills, and experiences you have gained throughout your time at Miller Place will undoubtedly serve as a strong foundation for your future endeavors. As you step into this next chapter of your lives, embrace the opportunities that lie ahead to make a positive impact on the world. I look forward to hearing about your continued successes!

Congratulations to all of our students who are advancing to their next grade level or transitioning to a new school. It is always inspiring to witness the growth and achievements of our elementary, middle, and high school students each year. Use the time over the summer to have fun, pursue hobbies, read your favorite authors, play sports, or indulge in your creative sides.

Additionally, I would like to thank our staff members, teachers, and administrators who have made this year a success. Their dedication to our children does not go unnoticed. I hope that you all have a restful summer break and that it will provide the time to spend with loved ones, pursue your interests, and give renewed energy for our next school year.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to our Miller Place community for your support, working together and your relentless pursuit of excellence. You have helped make this year a resounding success! We look forward to continued collaboration and accomplishments. On behalf of the entire Board of Education, we hope you all have a safe summer filled with joy, laughter and unforgettable memories.

Have a great summer,

Lisa Reitan, *Miller Place Board of Education President*

Miller Place's 49th Commencement Honors Class of 2023

A sea of navy blue and white caps and gowns filled the Miller Place High School gymnasium during the school's annual commencement ceremony. Graduating seniors were called up one by one to receive their diplomas as their proud families and friends watched on. It was a night to remember.

Parents and family members, we appreciate your ongoing support and your guidance that has contributed to your child's ability to excel and receive this honor tonight. Thank you for entrusting your children to us and allowing us the opportunity to assist with their developing into the young adults they are today.

- Superintendent of Schools Seth Lipshie's first commencement address to the District.

The class of 2023 will be one we will always remember, one who's story is unlike any others. Over the past 13 years this class has proven time and time again to be a group of students that can handle any adversity with maturity and grace. You are a united class, united with your classmates and well beyond.

- Miller Place High School Principal Kevin Slavin.



Where to Next?

In addition to entering the workforce or starting terms of service, the graduates of Miller Place High School's Class of 2023 are heading to some of the best colleges and universities in the country. See below the full list.

Adelphi University
 Arizona State Univ.-Tempe
 Clemson University
 Coastal Carolina University
 Coker University
 Cornell University
 CUNY Baruch
 Dominican University
 East Carolina University
 Eastern Kentucky University
 Fairfield University
 Fairleigh Dickinson University
 Farmingale State College
 Fashion Institute of Technology
 Fordham University
 Georgia Inst of Tech
 Herkimer Community College
 Hofstra University
 Hunter Business School

Le Moyne College
 Long Island University
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Mercy College
 Molloy University
 New York Institute of Tech
 New York University
 Northeastern University
 Northern Michigan University
 Pennsylvania State University
 Purdue University
 Sacred Heart University
 Southeast Missouri State Univ
 Southern Methodist University
 St. Joseph's University
 Suffolk County Community College
 SUNY Albany

SUNY Binghamton
 SUNY Buffalo State College
 SUNY Cobleskill
 SUNY Cortland
 SUNY Delhi
 SUNY Farmingdale
 SUNY Geneseo
 SUNY Maritime
 SUNY Oneonta
 SUNY Oswego
 SUNY Plattsburgh
 SUNY Purchase
 SUNY Stony Brook
 The George Washington University
 The University of Findlay
 Towson University
 University at Buffalo
 University of Delaware

University of Florida
 University of Georgia
 University of Hartford
 University of Illinois at Urbana
 University of Kentucky
 University of Lynchburg
 University of Miami
 University of New Haven
 University of Rhode Island
 University of Scranton
 University of South Carolina
 University of Tampa
 University of Vermont
 University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Utica University
 Vermont State University
 Wagner College

SCHOLARSHIPS

Andrew McMorris Foundation Scholarship

Kyle Fehling
Matthew Ierna Petrie
Maximilian Malawista
Ryan Suarez

Arlette Conklin Memorial Scholarship

Landon Agic
Erin Maloney

Athletes Helping Athletes Leadership Scholarship

Ryan Michalski

Brookhaven Superintendent Association Scholarship

Leo Lin
Maura Luby
Ryan Michalski
Chloe Sabini
Louis Seales

Calace Family Foundation Award

Lilah Lindemann
Brooke McCormick
Ashley Synan

Catherine Danowski Service Scholarship

Danielle Lucero

Comeback Kid Scholarship

Evelyn Enriquez

Computer Technology Scholarship

Lilah Lindemann

Craig Araujo Student of the Year Scholarship

Andrew Zarbhanelian

Crosscut Woodworks Scholarship

Ava Lotito

Denise Butzgy Memorial Scholarship

Emma Balamoti
Zander Klaric

Gail McNulty Business Leaders Scholarship

Evelyn Enriquez

Grace Brindley Memorial Scholarship

Caden Stubba

James and Matthew McNulty Scholarship

Tristan Stapleton

James Rakowski Memorial Scholarship

Maura Luby

Jason Ruppenstein Memorial Scholarship

AnthonyMichael Bayer

Joe Keany Memorial Scholarship

Ryan Michalski
Christian Tarsia

John Douglas Memorial Scholar-Athlete Scholarship

Ashley Synan
Christian Tarsia

John Mahoney Memorial Scholarship

Nolan Goddard

Joshua Faithful Memorial Scholarship

Abigail Specht

Judy Stamatis Spirit of Competition Scholarship

Evelyn Enriquez
Nicholas Oliva

Lauralee Bokos Memorial Scholarship

Robert Rohm

“Miss Margie” Marchand Memorial Scholarship

Julianne Donohue
Autumn Stahlmann

Mary DiLonardo Memorial Scholarship

Emmy Shattes

Miller Place Athletic Association Ideal Athlete Scholarship

Natalia Altebrando
Jack Kiernan

Miller Place Civic Association Scholarship

Nicholas Marcario

Miller Place Clerical Memorial Scholarship

Erin Maloney

Miller Place Fire Department Memorial Scholarship

Nicole Menechella

Miller Place Friends of the Arts-Art Scholarship

Nicholas Ficarola
Madison Frizalone

Miller Place Friends of the Arts-Craig Von Barga Music Scholarship

Kyle Fehling

Miller Place Friends of the Arts Drama Scholarship

Gregory Marino
Carly Shurbet

Miller Place Friends of the Arts-Music Scholarship

Eileen Duffy
Carly Shurbet
Ryan Suarez

Miller Place High School Drama Scholarship

Julianne Donohue

Miller Place High School National Honor Society Scholarship

Emma Balamoti
Brandy Moeller

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

Lilah Lindemann
Brooke McCormick

Miller Place Homemaker’s Scholarship

Martin Doherty

NYSCAME Scholarship

Gregory Marino

Outstanding School Dedication Scholarship

Eileen Duffy

Pamela Waltz Memorial Scholarship

Edward Haeffer
Renee Stocken

Panther Pride Scholarship

Christian Tarsia

Patricia Latham Memorial Scholarship

Jane Chamberlin

The Pendergast Family Scholarship

Emma Hart

Port Jefferson Dental Group Scholarship

Ashley Synan

Raymond V. Santora Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Landon Agic
Colleen Murphy

Regina Meier Scholarship

Edward Trelfa

Richard W. Sanders Journalism Scholarship

Onjali Gomez

Rose Tufaro Memorial Scholarship

Gabriella Russo

School Leadership Scholarship

Alexandra DeAmario
Eileen Duffy
Lucas McGuire
Brandon Zou

SCMEA

Lilah Lindemann

SCOPE Superintendent Scholarship

Eileen Duffy

Sean King Memorial Scholarship

Christian Tarsia

Sharon and Margaux Brown Memorial Scholarship

Ryan Michalski

Suffolk Association of School Business Officials Scholarship

Alexia Becker
Jordan Luise

Terry Pierkarski Memorial Scholarship

Joshua Koppelman

Tony Kowalski Memorial Scholarship

Nathaly Garcia

Triple “A” Scholarship

Carly Shurbet

Vicky Lopez Memorial Scholarship

Brandy Moeller

Walter P. McCoyd Outstanding Senior Athlete Scholarship

Robert Cunningham
Kathryn Doherty
Joe’l Spagnuolo

MUSIC & ART NEWS

Miller Place Thespians Well Represented at Teeny Awards

In June at Longwood High School in Yaphank, East End Arts held its 21st annual Teeny Awards, celebrating the best of high school theater in Suffolk County. And to the surprise of no one who saw Miller Place High School's productions of the musical *Anastasia* and the play *You Can't Take It With You*, our young theater students were well represented at the awards ceremony.

Carly Shurbet won the Teeny Award in the category of lead role in a musical, drama or jukebox/revue for her portrayal of Anya Anastasia in *Anastasia*. Julianne Donohue took home a Teeny Award in the category of a supporting role in a musical, drama or jukebox/revue for her portrayal of Lilly Malevsky-Malevitch, also in *Anastasia*. Many other Miller Place students also received nominations in both the performance and technical categories.



Sculpture Students Find Inspiration in Unusual Place

Sculpture students in Ms. Stasi's class certainly ended their year in creative fashion. Students studied Momofuku Ando, a Japanese Taiwan-born inventor who created the instant ramen noodles. As part of their studies, the students created functional—and beautiful—ceramic sets. They even brought in their own ramen noodles to eat out of their hand-built vessels! It was a fitting end to the year; one that fully displayed the incredible creativity that the students had been exhibiting all year.



ATHLETICS NEWS

Several Panthers to Continue Athletic Careers in College

The Miller Place Athletics Department recently held its National Letter of Intent signing in honor of 13 student athletes who will continue their amateur athletic careers after graduation. Clearly excited in anticipation of their next chapters, students wore sweatshirts and other apparel featuring their future colleges' team names and logos. The committed graduates included:

- Jack Kiernan and Dominic Falino, both members of the Miller Place High School boys' baseball team, will be continuing their careers at SUNY Cortland and Fairleigh-Dickinson University, respectively.
- Lacrosse players Natalia Altebrando and Caden Stubba will be representing Stony Brook University and St. Joseph's University, respectively.
- Football players Edward Haeffer and Nick Oliva will once again be teammates, this time for Utica University; Edward will also join the track team.
- Ella Neyland will join the equestrian team at Lynchburg College.
- Two Panthers will be heading to SUNY Oneota, with Kylie Hoffmann playing field hockey and Katie Doherty joining the soccer team.
- Zander Klaric will swim for Le Moyne College.
- Shanna Wolfe will be joining the cheerleading team at Long Island University.
- Dominic Cahill will play golf for Coker University.
- Robert Cunningham will join the wrestling team at SUNY Cortland.



North Country Road Middle School Celebrates Moving Up

The seniors at Miller Place High School were not the only ones celebrating a milestone this spring. Our eighth graders at North Country Road Middle School marked the end of their middle school careers with a moving-up dance and ceremony. Congratulations to all our successful young students; we can't wait to see what you accomplish in your high school careers.



MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, NY 11764

Board of Education: Lisa Reitan, *President* • Bryan Makarius, *Vice President* • John Galligan, *Trustee*
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