



The Panther Press

SUMMER 2025

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Celebrating the Class of 2025

Miller Place High School proudly celebrated the class of 2025 with a memorable commencement ceremony filled with joy, excitement, and Panther Pride. Families, friends, faculty, and staff gathered to honor the accomplishments, growth, and resilience of this remarkable cohort of students. These photos capture a few of the many special moments from graduation day.

[Click here to see the full graduation video and photos.](#)



A Message from Superintendent Seth Lipshie

On behalf of the Miller Place School District Administration and staff, I would like to congratulate the class of 2025 on their recent high school graduation. It was my privilege to have the opportunity to address the class of 2025.

My message to the graduates was a quote attributed to F. Scott Fitzgerald. *“For what it’s worth... it’s never too late, or in my case too early, to be whoever you want to be. There’s no time limit. Start whenever you want. You can change or stay the same. There are no rules to this thing. We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you’ve never felt before. I hope you meet people who have a different point of view. I hope you live a life you’re proud of, and if you’re not, I hope you have the courage to start over again.”*

It was exciting to hear about the many accomplishments of our seniors during graduation, including four million dollars in potential scholarships. As our graduates leave Miller Place, I look forward to hearing about all they will achieve in the future. Throughout this newsletter, you will see the impressive academic achievements and scholarships awarded to many students of the class of 2025.

During the summer months, we will prepare our buildings and orient new staff for the opening of schools. For our students, we are excited to welcome our newest students, the class of 2039 to Andrew Muller Primary School and begin to celebrate the journey of the senior class of 2026 as they prepare for their final year in Miller Place. The District will continue Bond construction work this summer that includes air conditioning in classrooms at North Country Road Middle School and Miller Place High School, resurfacing of the Miller Place High School parking lot, refurbishing Art rooms at Miller Place High School and Andrew Muller Primary School, new fencing installed at Andrew Muller Primary School and at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School and new signage displaying Panther Pride throughout the District which is all part of the Miller Place UFSD Five-Year Strategic Plan, Pillar 4 facility improvements. Please go to the website and to view the Strategic Plan progress across all Pillars ([click here](#)) and our student performance results ([click here](#)). We are extremely proud of our students and staff in making great strides.

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. Forever Miller Place proud.

Sincerely,

Seth Lipshie
Superintendent of Schools



A Message from the Board of Education

As summer begins and our school year comes to a close, I want to take a moment—on behalf of the entire Board of Education—to reflect on the incredible growth, accomplishments, and progress we’ve seen throughout the 2024–2025 school year.

Our district has experienced meaningful improvements across many areas, especially in academics. From rising test scores to increased student engagement, we are proud of the strides being made in classrooms at every level. But our students didn’t stop there—they also shined on stage, on the field, and in the community, embodying the very best of what Miller Place represents.

To the class of 2025: You’ve reached an exciting turning point in your lives, and we celebrate all you’ve done to get here. Your hard work and perseverance have paid off, and we know great things are ahead. Wherever your journey takes you, remember—you will always be part of the Miller Place story.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our teachers, students, and parents and guardians for the vital roles you play in our school community. Teachers, your dedication and hard work shape the future every day. Students, your curiosity and determination bring energy and purpose to our classrooms. And to our parents and guardians, your support and partnership are essential to our shared success. We are truly grateful for all that you do.

As we look ahead, we’re energized by the momentum we’ve built this year. With continued collaboration and commitment, we’re confident that even more progress is on the horizon.

Summer offers the perfect time to pause, reflect, and reconnect. Whether you’re traveling, relaxing at home, or exploring something new, I hope the weeks ahead bring rest and renewal.

Wishing you a safe, happy, and fulfilling summer. We are—and always will be—Forever Miller Place Proud.

Sincerely,

Lisa Reitan
President, Board of Education



Where the Class of 2025 Heads to Next

The Miller Place School District proudly recognizes the remarkable achievements of the members of the class of 2025 as they prepare for the next chapter of their academic journeys. This year's graduates will be attending an impressive range of colleges and universities across the country, reflecting their hard work, ambition, and dedication. We are confident they will continue to make us proud, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Adelphi University
Alfred State College
Binghamton University
Bryant University
Carnegie Mellon University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Cornell University
Daemen University
East Carolina University
Farmingdale State College
Fashion Institute of Technology
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Franklin Pierce University
High Point University
Hofstra University
Iona University
Ithaca College
Long Island University - Post
Louisiana State University
Mercy University
Molloy University
Nassau Community College
New York Institute of Technology
Northeastern University
Nova Southeastern University
Ohio State University
Pace University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Quinnipiac University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University–New Brunswick

Sacred Heart University
Saint Michael's College
Siena College
Southern Connecticut State University
St. John Fisher University
St. John's University
St. Joseph's University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stony Brook University
Suffolk County Community College
SUNY College at Oswego
SUNY College at Plattsburgh
SUNY College of Technology at Delhi
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Fredonia
SUNY Morrisville
SUNY Oneonta
Syracuse University
Temple University
The University of Alabama
Towson University
United States Military Academy
University at Albany, SUNY
University at Buffalo
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Hartford
University of New Hampshire–Main Campus
University of Oklahoma–Norman Campus
University of Pittsburgh–Pittsburgh Campus
University of Scranton
University of Virginia–Main Campus
Villanova University
Webb Institute
West Virginia University

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

SECOND GRADERS AT AMPS BRING AMERICAN HEROES TO LIFE WITH BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

Grade 2 students at Andrew Muller Primary School recently completed an engaging and educational biography project that combined reading, research, writing, presenting, and creativity. The project began with students creating personal timelines to understand how to identify key life events—an important skill for writing biographies.

As a class, they read about Helen Keller and learned how to write a biography report through teacher modeling. Students then selected a famous American to research using library books and safe online sources. With the help of their families, they created imaginative soda bottle models of their chosen figures. Using graphic organizers to guide their writing, students composed reports and proudly presented them to classmates, showcasing their knowledge and hard work.



SPRING BRINGS CELEBRATION, COMMUNITY, AND GROWTH AT LADSBS

Spring was a season of learning, leadership, and lasting memories at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School. On May 19, students and staff honored local heroes during “Give Back Day,” with musical performances, a student speech contest, and Service Club-led activities connecting students with veterans and first responders.

In June, third graders proudly welcomed incoming second graders, sharing their experiences and showcasing their growth. The spring season also featured exciting events including Grades 3–4 Field Day, the Fifth Grade Spring Concert (June 4), and Laddie Day (June 9). Fifth graders wrapped up their time at LADSBS with a Yearbook Breakfast, Moving-Up Ceremony (June 16), a celebratory trip to “Bowlero”, and a transition tour of North Country Road Middle School.



MPHS BUSINESS STUDENTS TEACH FINANCIAL LITERACY TO LADSBS THIRD GRADERS



Miller Place High School business students recently visited Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School to lead an engaging financial literacy lesson for third grade students. The high schoolers did an outstanding job introducing important money management concepts in a fun and age-appropriate way. Through interactive activities and peer-led instruction, younger students learned the basics of saving, spending, and budgeting. The collaboration highlighted the value of mentorship and real-world learning across grade levels within the District.

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

NCRMS 8TH GRADERS EXPLORE WASHINGTON, D.C.

This spring, eighth-grade students from North Country Road Middle School embarked on a memorable trip to Washington, D.C. The exciting—and educational—itinerary included visits to the White House, the U.S. Capitol Building, and several of the nation's most iconic monuments and memorials, including those honoring Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Thomas Jefferson. Students also explored the Smithsonian Museums and participated in a deeply moving visit to the Holocaust Museum. The journey concluded with a reflective



stop at Arlington National Cemetery, where four students had the special honor of participating in the Tomb Wreath Ceremony. This unforgettable trip provided students with a deeper appreciation for history, government, and the power of civic engagement.

SEAL OF BILITERACY HONORS MULTILINGUAL EXCELLENCE AT MILLER PLACE

The New York State Seal of Biliteracy proudly returned to Miller Place for the 2024–2025 school year, offering senior students in Level V world language classes the opportunity to earn this prestigious distinction. Through rigorous assessments, coursework, and culminating projects, eight students successfully demonstrated high proficiency in English and another language. Congratulations to Nailah Rahman, Julianna Skoblicki, Mia Amundsen, Jason Miletti, Nicholas Vallary, Lucas Aparicio, Sean Pepe, and Bradford Mulvey (not pictured) on this exceptional achievement. Their accomplishment will be recognized on both their diplomas and transcripts, enhancing their post-secondary and career opportunities.



Special thanks to the Seal of Biliteracy Committee and dedicated advisors—Brandon Rios, Aaron Zeltmann, Josephine Fiumano, Matthew Nicoletti, and Riccardo Mancuso—for their outstanding support and leadership throughout the process.

AP BIOLOGY STUDENTS DIVE INTO LEARNING WITH SHARK DISSECTION AT AQUARIUM



AP Biology students recently took their studies to the next level with a hands-on shark dissection at the Riverhead Aquarium. This immersive experience gave students a unique opportunity to explore marine biology up close, reinforcing key classroom concepts such as evolution, energetics, and biological systems. By examining the anatomy and adaptations of sharks, students connected textbook knowledge to real-world science, gaining a deeper understanding of how living organisms function and evolve.

MUSIC AND ARTS NEWS

A Masterpiece of Talent: Miller Place Celebrates Student Art

The Miller Place community came together this spring for the annual high school and middle school art shows, vibrant celebrations of creativity and talent held in May and June. The exhibits drew a crowd of students, families, educators, and neighbors—all eager to support and admire the incredible artwork by our young artists. Hundreds of pieces were showcased, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, digital creations, and mixed media. The shows highlighted both technical skill and personal expression, underscoring the vital role of arts education in building confidence and creativity.



The District also honored its senior artists celebrating their growth and achievements through deeply personal and compelling work. Finally, congratulations to Nina Wood, North Country Road's art teacher, for having her stunning work featured in the "Between Artist, Artwork and Audience" exhibit at Mills Pond Gallery.

Miller Place Named One of the Best Communities for Music Education—Again!

For the seventh consecutive year, Miller Place has been recognized as one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation for 2025. This prestigious designation honors school districts that demonstrate outstanding commitment to music education and ensure broad access for students. The award highlights the collaborative efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community members who help make music a vital part of a well-rounded education in Miller Place.



PANTHER PRIDE: MPHS STARS WIN STATE TITLES, RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS HONORS

MPHS Student Brendan Lake Honored with Inspirational Wrestler Award

Miller Place High School student Brendan Lake was recently awarded the prestigious Rohan Murphy Inspirational Wrestler of the Year Award by the Suffolk County Wrestling Coaches Association. Nominated by his coaches and teachers, Brendan was honored at the 52nd Annual All County Awards Dinner for his resilience, heart, and perseverance.

“Brendan exemplifies the spirit of this award,” said Superintendent Seth Lipshie. “He inspires everyone around him.”

Named after Paralympian and motivational speaker Rohan Murphy, the award recognizes student-athletes who overcome obstacles through dedication and determination—qualities Brendan has displayed both on and off the mat.



MPHS Athletes Capture State Titles and Major Honors

The MPHS varsity softball team wrapped up a season for the ages, earning the title of 2024–2025 NY State Class-A Champions. The team dominated in the postseason, defeating Maine-Endwell 4–0 in the state semifinals and Williamsville-South 3–0 in the championship game. Along the way, they secured back-to-back Suffolk County and Long Island Championships, cementing their place as one of the top programs in New York State. Star pitcher Ava Zicchinelli was named Class-A “Player of the Year” for her outstanding performance throughout the season.



Meanwhile, Jillian Scully continued her record-breaking run in Track & Field. At the Spring State Championships in Middletown, NY, she claimed three more titles:

- NYSPHSAA Class-B Champion in Girls Shot Put
- NYSPHSAA Class-B Champion in Girls Discus
- NYS Federation Champion in Girls Discus

Over her high school career, Jillian has earned an incredible six NYSPHSAA Championships and five Federation Championships in both shot put and discus events, indoor and outdoor. She was recently recognized with *Newsday's* Track and Field Athlete of the Year on Long Island award and has been named the Gatorade New York State Track and Field Athlete of the Year.



MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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