



The Panther Press

SUMMER 2026

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Empowering excellence today, developing tomorrow's achievers, forever Miller Place proud."

www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

Celebrating the Class of 2026

As another remarkable school year came to a close, we proudly celebrate the accomplishments of the Miller Place High School Class of 2026. Commencement was a joyful reminder that dedication, perseverance, and Panther Pride have prepared our graduates for the exciting journey ahead. We congratulate the Class of 2026 and look forward to seeing the many ways they will make a positive impact on their communities and the world. Forever Panther Proud!



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 2026 on their recent high school graduation. It was my privilege to have the opportunity to address the Class of 2026. I have participated in 35 Miller Place graduations, and each one is memorable, but this one is unique and personal for me because this was my final address to a graduating class. After 36 years, I am retiring from Miller Place.

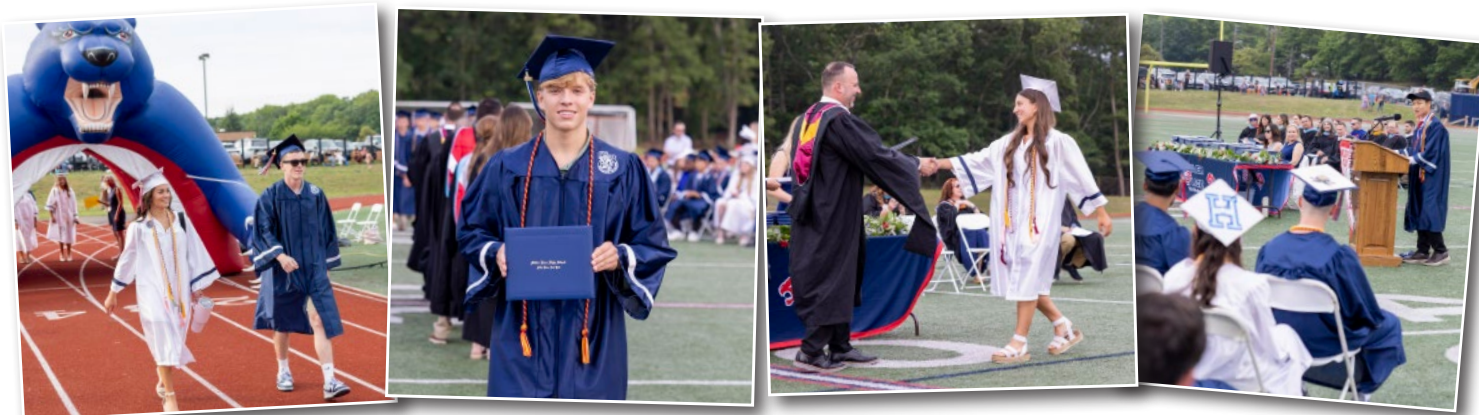
The advice I offered to the graduates is what I tried to embody during my tenure in Miller Place.

1. **“Life is a crooked line!”** Embrace the zigzags, learn from the bumps, and trust that things are usually not as bad as they first appear. Don’t let obstacles stop you—let them shape you. The challenges that test you today often become the experiences that strengthen you tomorrow.
2. **“Don’t judge a book by its cover.”** Writer Manny Scott came to Miller Place in 2017, and his presentation had a profound impact on me. His message was to suspend judgment. Many situations reveal more than first impressions suggest. He challenged us to pause, remain curious, and consider what might be possible if we enter a room open to being pleasantly surprised.
3. **“Don’t let anyone out-work you.”** During my first interview at Miller Place in 1990, I was asked if I had anything else to add. My answer was simple: “No one will out-work me.” It wasn’t a promise to be the smartest person; it was a promise to give my best every single day. Years later, those words were quoted back to me. As you begin your next chapter, remember this: hard work is a mindset open to all who take the challenge. It can level the playing field.
4. **“If you make a mistake, own it.”** Experience is knowledge gained by making mistakes, recognizing them and correcting them. This approach allows you to move forward without regrets. You will not be measured by the mistakes you make... You will be measured by the courage, character, and resilience you show in responding to them.
5. **“Thank you.”** Two words that can make all the difference in the world. When I coached basketball here at Miller Place, I made sure every player and coach thanked the bus driver after every away game, win or lose. It was a reminder that small acts of gratitude matter. Never underestimate the power of saying thank you. It is the small gestures that are often what people remember most.

It has been an honor and privilege to work in Miller Place for the past 36 years. I will miss the opportunity working with the students, staff, parents, and guardians of this great District. I wish you all the best as you continue to make Miller Place the best possible District.

I am and always will be Forever Miller Place Proud!

Seth Lipshie
Superintendent of Schools



A Message From the Board of Education

As another successful school year comes to a close, the Board of Education would like to thank our students, staff, families, and community members for their continued support, dedication, and partnership. Together, we have much to celebrate, and we are grateful for all that makes Miller Place such a special place to learn, grow, and thrive.

To the Class of 2026, congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone. Your hard work, perseverance, and accomplishments have brought you to this moment, and we could not be prouder. We also celebrate the parents, families, teachers, coaches, mentors, and friends who have supported, encouraged, and believed in you throughout your journey. Your success is a reflection of not only your dedication, but also the strong community that has stood beside you every step of the way.

As you begin your next chapter, remember: *“This is only the beginning.”* Whether your path leads you to college, the workforce, military service, or new adventures, carry with you the lessons, friendships, and memories you have made in Miller Place. We wish you success, happiness, and the confidence to pursue your dreams wherever life takes you. No matter where the future leads, you will always be part of the Miller Place family, and we hope you will always remain Miller Place Proud.

This year also marks the retirement of our Superintendent, Mr. Seth Lipshie. While we celebrate this well-earned next chapter, we also recognize the extraordinary impact Mr. Lipshie has had on the Miller Place School District and community for more than three decades.

Mr. Lipshie’s story is truly a Miller Place story. Since joining the District in 1990 as a Social Studies teacher, he has dedicated his career to serving our students, families, and staff. Throughout the years, he has not only been an educator and administrator, but also a coach, mentor, and role model to countless students and colleagues. From teacher, to Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, and ultimately Superintendent, Mr. Lipshie has led with integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to doing what is best for children. His willingness to guide, support, and encourage others has helped shape generations of students and inspired many educators throughout their own professional journeys.

What many will remember most about Mr. Lipshie is not simply the positions he held, but the relationships he built along the way. Generations of students, parents, and colleagues have benefited from his steady leadership, thoughtful guidance, and genuine care for the Miller Place community. His deep understanding of our schools, traditions, and values helped guide Miller Place through both challenges and successes while always keeping students at the center of every decision.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the entire Miller Place community, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Lipshie for his years of dedicated service. His contributions have left a lasting mark on our District, and his legacy will continue to be felt for years to come. We wish Mr. Lipshie and his family much happiness, good health, and many wonderful adventures in retirement.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of this school year and look ahead to the next, we are reminded that the strength of Miller Place lies in its people. Thank you to our students, staff, families, and community members for your continued commitment to our schools and to one another.

We wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy summer filled with relaxation, laughter, and time with loved ones. Enjoy the season, make lasting memories, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another year of learning, growth, and success.

Lisa Reitan
Miller Place Board of Education President

CLASS OF 2026:

Headed Toward Bright Futures

Our graduating scholars are preparing to take the next big step in their educational journeys. Members of the Class of 2026 have been accepted to some of the most respected colleges and universities across the country. This list reflects their hard work, dedication, and ambition. We wish them continued success in all that lies ahead.

- Adelphi University
- Alfred State College
- Bryant University
- Clemson University
- Colby College
- College of Charleston
- Duke University
- Dutchess Community College
- Eastern CT State University
- Elon University
- Endicott College
- Fairfield University
- Farmingdale State College
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Fordham University
- Hartwick College
- Hillsdale College
- Hofstra University
- Illinois State University
- Iona University
- James Madison University
- Kansas State University
- Kean University
- Liberty University
- Marist University
- Mercy University
- Missouri State University
- Nassau County Community College
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- PA College of Technology
- Pace University
- Prep School
- Princeton University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Roger Williams University
- Sacred Heart University
- Springfield College
- St. John's University
- St. Joseph's University
- St. Mary's University - Twickenham
- Suffolk County Community College
- SUNY Albany
- SUNY Binghamton
- SUNY Buffalo State University
- SUNY Cortland
- SUNY Fredonia
- SUNY Geneseo
- SUNY New Paltz
- SUNY Oneonta
- SUNY Oswego
- SUNY Plattsburgh
- SUNY Polytechnic Institute
- SUNY Stony Brook
- SUNY University at Buffalo
- Temple University
- Troy University
- United States Military Academy
- University of CT
- University of Delaware
- University of Illinois
- University of Kentucky
- University of Maryland
- University of Miami
- University of Mississippi
- University of New Haven
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Scranton
- University of South Carolina - Columbia
- University of Tampa
- University of Vermont
- US Naval Academy Prep School
- Utica University
- Villanova University
- West Virginia University



AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

ANDREW MULLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lemonade Stand Fundraiser

Second-grade students, staff, and families at AMPS demonstrated the power of compassion by raising \$2,662.71 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Inspired by the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, the three-day fundraiser provided students with an opportunity to put their Social Studies learning into action through active citizenship. Throughout the event, students embodied the District's core values of kindness, responsibility, and compassion while supporting children and families affected by pediatric cancer. The initiative was made even more successful through the generous support of the Andrew Muller Primary School Parent Teacher Organization and the entire school community.



LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL



Field Day

As the school year came to a close, students and staff at LADSBS celebrated with the annual Field Day, enjoying a full day of fun, teamwork, and school spirit. Students participated in a variety of exciting activities, including the parachute toss, tug of war, and obstacle course, demonstrating cooperation, perseverance, and enthusiasm throughout the day. Several fifth-grade students also had the opportunity to serve as Field Day helpers at AMPS, where they enjoyed mentoring and supporting their younger peers. A special thank you to our parents, family members, and the MPHS Athletes Helping Athletes volunteers, whose time, energy, and support helped make this memorable day a tremendous success for all.

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Computer Literacy

NCRMS welcomed the Mobile Museum of Tolerance for an engaging educational experience with seventh-grade Social Studies classes and eighth-grade Computer Literacy students. Through interactive lessons on the Civil Rights Movement and another about Combating Digital Hate, students explored the importance of empathy, compassion, and respectful decision-making in today's world. Meaningful discussions encouraged students to reflect on how their words and actions can help build a more inclusive, peaceful, and tolerant community.



AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

Love on a Leash

The MPHS Social Studies Department recently welcomed volunteers and certified therapy dogs from Love on a Leash for a special visit to psychology classes. Through hands-on interaction with therapy dogs, students explored the psychological benefits of animal-assisted support, including stress reduction, improved emotional well-being, and the importance of positive coping strategies. The experience provided a powerful connection between course content and real-world applications of mental health and wellness concepts while creating a warm, engaging atmosphere for students.



Criminal Justice Y.E.S. Tour

Criminal Justice students recently participated in an engaging Youth Enlightenment Seminar (Y.E.S.) tour hosted by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office at the Yaphank Correctional Facility. During the visit, students toured the facility and learned about the roles and responsibilities of correction officers. This authentic experience connected classroom concepts to real-world applications, providing students with a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system, while encouraging reflection on accountability, decision-making, and public safety.



A Trip to New York City

The MPHS Foreign Language Honor Society participated in an unforgettable cultural excursion to New York City. The trip connected classroom learning with real-world experiences as students visited the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and Little Italy, exploring the rich history of immigration and Italian-American culture. Highlights included a ferry ride to Liberty Island, a visit to the National Museum of Immigration at Ellis Island, and time to experience the sights, architecture, and cuisine of Little Italy. This immersive experience deepened students' appreciation for the connections among language, culture, history, and identity while creating lasting memories beyond the classroom.



ARTS & MUSIC NEWS

ARTS ACHIEVEMENTS

Students at North Country Road Middle School came together to create a meaningful community tapestry using finger-crochet chains, transforming a simple art activity into a powerful symbol of unity, support, and remembrance. Throughout the school day and during art classes, each student contributed a handcrafted chain, with blue yarn chosen to honor the memory of student Andrew Salgado. As the tapestry continues to grow, it serves as a lasting reminder of the strength of the Miller Place community and the importance of compassion, connection, and supporting one another.



The celebration of creativity also extended to Miller Place High School, where student artists showcased their talents through a variety of outstanding achievements. Nine graduating seniors displayed their artwork in the annual senior art show, while five seniors were selected to exhibit their work at the Parrish Art Museum, an exceptional honor recognizing their artistic accomplishments. Together, these experiences reflect the creativity, dedication, and lasting impact of Miller Place's student artists, both in the classroom and throughout the community.

INSPIRING FUTURE MUSICIANS

Families and students gathered for Meet the Instruments Night, an interactive event that introduced young learners to the many opportunities available through the LADSBS music program. With guidance from music teachers, members of the MPHS Tri-M Music Honor Society, and high school instrumentalists, students explored a variety of instruments through hands-on demonstrations and activities. Through the support of the MPHS and LADSBS Music Department, Sound Beach Music, and the Miller Place Friends of the Arts, the evening provided an engaging and welcoming experience for aspiring musicians. Events like this spark curiosity, build confidence, and inspire the next generation of Panther musicians to discover the joy of making music.

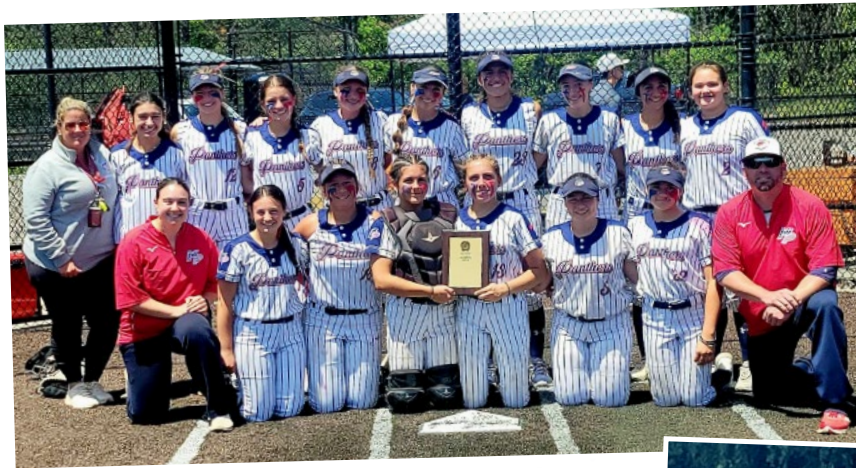


ATHLETICS NEWS

Panthers Had a Strong Spring Season

Badminton

Varsity Badminton Girls Doubles team of Angela Chen and Zoe Blake followed up an undefeated 16-0 regular season with a Suffolk County Doubles Championship. They were also recognized as 1st Team All-Long Island for their accomplishments.



Softball

Varsity Softball claimed their third consecutive Section XI Class-A Championship defeating Kings Park on back-to-back days. This is the team's fourth county title over the past six seasons.

Track & Field

Shayna Selnick was the overall Suffolk County Champion in the pole vault and placed second in Class B at the NYSPHSAA Championships. She set an MPHS pole vault record of 11'6" at the NYS Championships. The Boys 4x800 Relay Team (Nico Gasparis, Nicholas DiCaprio, Noah Felice, and Dylan Iannello) were crowned Suffolk County Class B Champions, and placed third at the Class B NYSPHSAA Championships. The 4x800 Relay Team also set an MPHS record of 7:56. Nicholas DiCaprio placed sixth at the NYSPHSAA Class B Championships in the 1600M run while setting an MPHS record in the event of 4:15.23. Additionally, Vincent Martino took first place in the Suffolk Class B Championships in the triple jump.



MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, NY 11764

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