School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

**Academic Excellence**
- 1:1 iPad initiative grades 5, 6 and 7 fosters creativity and access to materials, apps, web based activities and various multimedia
- Leverage instructional technology to provide personalized learning paths for students according to their individual learning needs
- Dual Language classes for 5th, 6th and 7th grade students
- Integrated Humanities Curriculum affords students an opportunity to synthesize their knowledge of content through skills-based AKAs (Application of Knowledge Assessments) and choice creative challenge projects in each unit

**2018-2019 SCHOOL STATISTICS**
- Designated in 2019
- Re-Designated in
  - Community Size - Suburban
  - School Enrollment - 676
  - Grade Levels - 5, 6 & 7
  - School Calendar - Traditional
  - Free & Reduced Lunch - 33.14%
  - English Learners - 10.9%
  - Students with Disabilities - 12.3%

**2018-2019 School Demographics**
- African American - 3.6%
- Asian - 12.7%
- Caucasian - 55.3%
- Filipino - 0%
- Hispanic - 25.7%
- Native American - 0.1%
- Pacific Islander - 0%
- Other - 0%
- Two or More - 2.6%
- Students complete a minimum of four Coding Projects per year on the kidOYO platform in their major academic subjects, earning badges as micro credentials for successfully completing a challenge
- Exploratory Rotation includes project-based electives promoting Design Thinking in FabLab, coding, research, performance and communication
- Hands-on science lab section is offered as a rotation, similar to art & music, with a science curriculum aligned to Next Generation Standards through Knowing Science
- Master schedule designed on a 6-day rotating cycle with a 3 period block of ELA or Math, every other day, thus allowing for academic interventions and enrichment experiences for students without being pulled out of the classroom
- Universal participation of 7th grade students in National History Day
- Research/ Library Initiative Program promotes student choice
- Students create meaningful goals through the use of digital applications that benchmark & demonstrate growth
- ENL (English as a New Language) students are given support services commensurate with their level
- NWEA administered multiple times per year to identify student achievement levels against grade level normed averages and personal growth performance
- Common formative & summative assessments developed and aligned to NYS Standards
- Across all content areas, student’s work is critically analyzed according to well established and clearly communicated rubrics

**Developmental Responsiveness**

- Growth Mindset Initiative reframes student thinking when approaching challenges
- Mineola PRIDE Program embraces character education and encourages students to continue to be active members of society with a commitment to lifelong learning
- Instructional Support Team (IST) progress monitors students through Branching Minds platform using goal attainment scales
- All students participate in enrichment, elective and/or performing music groups and fine arts
- Beautiful Me initiative facilitated by guidance counselors for young women with parallel curriculum developed by Health teachers for young men
- Peer mentoring program, facilitated by the school Social Worker, trains students to engage in conflict resolution and to serve as buddies for students in our Life Skills program
- Building Positive Support Team (school psychologist, social worker, guidance, and building administration) provides emotional support for at-risk students
- Partnership with local law enforcement to discuss cyber safety in alignment with digital citizenship curriculum
- Trips to local universities run by guidance counselors
- Diverse offering of over 25 clubs and extracurricular activities
- Students contribute positively to the community through service initiatives
- Beautification Projects include student designed murals in collaboration with local artists and sponsored by the PTA
- Support services offered to families of special education students

**Social Equity**

- Support network for students and families includes a school psychologist, social worker, nurse, guidance counselors and a variety of special education support personnel
- Teachers hold Lunch Lab as an opportunity for students to receive additional personalized
academic support during their lunch periods
- Common Sense curriculum for digital citizenship
- "Meet and Greet" for all incoming 5th graders where students are introduced to the 5th grade teachers and current students conduct tours of the building
- Targeted Extra Help Sessions before and after school
- 7th Grade students apply and admitted into National Junior Honors Society
- 7th Grade Awards for moving up selected by teacher teams according to diversified criteria
- Annual District MultiCultural Night celebrating our diverse community
- Workshops hosted for bilingual families
- Parent Orientation for incoming parents prior to the start of the school year
- Parent Academy Workshops

**Organizational Support**
- Apple Distinguished School (2013-present)
- Member of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools
- Common Sense school certified in Digital Citizenship
- Shared vision driven by the district goals
- The Mission Statement is reviewed and understood by all stakeholders
- District Instructional Leaders (ILs) provide Professional Development and curriculum supports
- Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings facilitated by Teacher Leaders, Instructional Leaders and Building Administration
- "New Teacher Workshop" facilitated by district level Instructional Leaders
- Host domestic and international school districts sharing best practice
- New teachers assigned to mentor
- Administrative participation on Nassau BOCES panels
- Teachers attend conferences and pursue outside opportunities for continued learning