

PRESS RELEASE
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Breakfast for Legislators Held at Mill Neck Manor School

On a recent Friday morning, Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf hosted a breakfast for New York State Legislators at the school's Deaf Education Center (DEC). In her opening remarks, Mill Neck Manor's Superintendent Francine Bogdanoff, welcomed the attendees to "See What Makes Us Successful."

During Bogdanoff's short presentation, she outlined the various programs and services that have made Mill Neck Manor successful in helping Deaf children unlock their potential. Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, established in 1951, is one of eleven 4201 Schools located throughout New York State. For over 200 years, this unique group of schools has been relied upon to provide educational services to children who are Deaf, blind or physically disabled.

Bogdanoff also presented an overview of two additional Mill Neck organizations serving special needs populations. One, the Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center (ECC), provides education and services for 3 and 4-year old hearing children with a range of special communication needs, and the other, Mill Neck Services, assists Deaf, Hard of Hearing and developmentally disabled adults with the same access to employment and community services as their non-disabled peers.

Before their tour of the DEC, the state representatives were able to chat with former Mill Neck Manor student Kelsey Gallagher, an Oyster Bay resident, who is currently a senior at Rochester Institute of Technology majoring in Business Administration. Gallagher, who is back at Mill Neck this semester as an intern, provided visitors with a personal perspective on the education she received at Mill Neck.

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During their visit to several of the DEC's classrooms, the attendees were also able meet some of the children and get a "first-hand" look at Mill Neck programs in action. Bogdanoff is certain that this enabled the Legislative group to "come away with a much better picture of what we do. We are able to show why we exist and why we are successful and hopefully, they will help us continue to be here," she said.

Mill Neck Manor greatly appreciates the NYS representatives who attended the breakfast, including, Greg Atherton, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci; Tara Butler-Sahai, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Charles Lavine; Assemblyman Michael Montesano; Assemblyman Ed Ra; Ellen Savino, counsel to NYS Senator Carl Marcellino and Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages. Thank you to the members of the Mill Neck Manor Board of Trustees who participated, President Rudy Auslander; Vice President Kurt Lundquist and Alan Bianco, as well as DEC Principal Katie Kerzner; ECC Principal Suellyn Giserman; Loretta Murray, Executive Director of Mill Neck Services and Chris Oddo, Associate Director of Mill Neck Services.

A state-supported private school, Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf is located in northern Nassau County. It is open to youngsters, from infancy to age 21, who are legal residents of New York State, including Long Island and the New York metropolitan area. Referrals are initiated by parents, clinics, physicians or school districts. Students benefit from specialized communication techniques, up-to-date curriculum and technology resources. For more information about any of its programs, please call 516-922-4100 or visit www.millneck.org.

Photo Caption:

1. Assemblyman Michael Montesano with Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf Superintendent Francine Bogdanoff.
2. Loretta Murray, Executive Director of Mill Neck Services, with Ellen Savino, counsel to NYS Senator Carl Marcellino, Kelsey Gallagher, former Mill Neck Manor student and Greg Atherton, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci.
3. Two Mill Neck Manor high school students, enrolled in the Culinary Arts Program, assisted at the Breakfast for Legislators.
4. During their tour of the Deaf Education Center, the Legislators visited several classrooms and met some of the children, among them, this class of preschoolers.



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