SOUNDLINE

SCHOOL · MILLER PLACE, NY

Two hours of practice. Four hours of making. Every adult knows your kid.

Soundline is a school on the Sound for grades six through eight, opening September 2027 in Miller Place — and it adds a grade a year through twelfth.

Practice

8:30 · two hours · math, reading, writing

Making

Four hours, to 3:00 · seminar, lab, studio, the quest

Extended Day

3:00 to 5:30, if you need it

Depth with direction.

WHY SOUNDLINE

Every child has a soundline.

Middle school is three years. They go fast. Your child might be doing fine on paper and quietly checked out. Or bored, waiting for everyone else. Or working hard, and nobody's noticed.

Before sonar, sailors dropped a sounding line over the side: a rope marked in fathoms, weighted with lead. It told them how deep the water was, and a dab of tallow in the weight brought up a piece of the bottom, so they knew what was underneath, too. Only then did they set a course.

That's where we start with your child. Not only where they are, skill by skill, but what sparks them and how deep it runs. Then we set a direction together: the next skill, the next project, the next thing worth showing their town. Nobody moves on until they've got it, and nobody waits once they have.

Depth with direction.

Ten to twelve in a grade. Nobody's stuck in it.

Students work by skill across the school, and on Fridays the whole school builds one thing together. Small enough there's nowhere to hide, big enough for a real seminar.

One advisor, three years.
Every student has the same guide as their advisor from the day they start, in a group of ten to twelve.

Grouped by skill, not age.
A sixth grader and an eighth grader can work the same skill at the same table. Each moves on when it's mastered.

Three grades, one building.
And a grade added every year through twelfth, starting with ninth. The older students are out in town on apprenticeships.

A DAY HERE

Students do real work, finish it, and show it to someone.

Mornings are practice.
Math, reading, and writing at each student's own pace, with a guide in the room. Nobody waits for the class to catch up, and nobody gets left behind it. Two hours, done well, and done.

Afternoons are for making.
History, literature, and science are taught by a person with a book, never by an app. Studio runs in six-week projects with a real audience: a video game, a robot, a sculpture, a short documentary, a zine the school press publishes, a song the ensemble performs.

Big work gets defended out loud.
No slides, no screen. A student, their work, and good questions.

A WEEK AT SOUNDLINE

Same rhythm every week, so the work can be different.

MONDAY	**Launch**	8:45. One question, one goal, one plan for the week.
TUESDAY	**Lab, then studio**	Ninety minutes, hands on, written up before studio. Then everyone makes something: a video game, a robot, a portrait, a sculpture, a song for the ensemble.
WEDNESDAY	**Seminar**	A novel, a question, a paragraph. Every seminar ends in writing.
THURSDAY	**Apprenticeships**	Grades 7 and 8 work alongside someone who does it for a living. Younger students build their quest.
FRIDAY	**All In, then Showcase**	The whole school takes on one thing together. A song, a mural, a project for someone in town. At 2:00, someone presents and something is performed. Usually loud. Families welcome.

A TUESDAY

One seventh grader. One day. Hour by hour.

September, the first six-week cycle. The Tuesday we'll run, followed through one student's day. No name, because it isn't any one child's day yet.

8:30
ARRIVAL

The door.
The same face every morning. Bag on the hook, phone in the box, a word about the weekend.

8:45
LAUNCH

Advisory, fifteen minutes.
Ten to twelve students, one guide for three years. Today's goal: clear the proportions gate, draft the lab question.

9:00
PRACTICE · 50 MIN

Math, at their own gate.
The gate opens when they can show it to a guide, not when the unit ends. Across the table, a sixth grader is on a gate this student cleared in week one; beside them, an eighth grader is on one they'll reach by winter.

9:50
PRACTICE · 40 MIN

Reading and writing.
Today's text: how ice carved the Sound, because the lab needs it. Two paragraphs, one an argument.

10:30
SEMINAR · 30 MIN

Math seminar.
The whole school, problems out loud. Someone proves why the shortcut works; this student finds the case where it doesn't. The fourth try lands.

11:00
OUTSIDE · 40 MIN

Lunch and the walk.
Outside, every day, whatever the weather. Most of what a guide learns about a student, they learn here.

11:40
LAB · 95 MIN

The sounder.
A sensor on a line that reads the depth of a tank: the sounding line, rebuilt. Today is calibration, and the graph bends where it shouldn't. Defended Friday.

1:15
STUDIO · 60 MIN

The Quest.
Week three of six. The client is the children's librarian: an exhibit on how sound travels through water. The group has a plan, forty dollars, and a speaker that won't stay sealed. A guide is in the room and does not fix it. From the second cycle, Tuesday afternoons are apprenticeships for grades 7 and 8.

2:15
ENSEMBLE · 45 MIN

The ensemble.
Everyone plays something; nobody has to be good yet. The bass part is this student's.

3:00
EXTENDED DAY

Home, or not yet.
A lesson at 3:15, then the homework desk until 5:30. Or the carline. The quest stays at school.

Imagined. Our first students arrive in September 2027.

OUR VISION

By eighth grade, a student who can:

01
Learn something hard.
And prove it.

02
Make something new.
For a client in town, on a deadline.

03
Think it through.
In writing, first.

04
Say it out loud.
And defend it, no screen.

05
Show up for their town.
One project a year is for the town.

06
Know where they're headed.
And how they got there.

New York just decided a diploma should mean six things, not a set of test scores. We built the school on those six.

Every six weeks, your child adds to a folder of proof: made, defended, grown. By eighth grade it's a portfolio.

HOW YOU'LL KNOW IT'S WORKING

We measure growth three times a year and publish it.
NWEA MAP, three times a year. We publish whole-school growth, counting everyone. No child's score is public; yours comes home.

You'll see the work.
The robot, the performance, your child explaining it.

AI is a subject here.
Taught on purpose. Never a shortcut in seminar, lab, or the defense.

We answer to New York.
We register with the state, the district reviews our program, and accreditation starts once we're open.

WHY IT WORKS

None of this is new. Putting it in one building is.

MORNINGS

You don't move on until you've got it.

Mastery before moving on beats the calendar, in over a hundred studies. Struggling students gain most.

AFTERNOONS

Real projects raise real scores.

In randomized trials, long projects beat the usual way on state tests.

SEMINAR

Writing it down is how it sticks.

Writing about it, and saying it out loud, is how it sticks.

ADVISORY

Being known changes how hard a student works.

One close teacher relationship is among the strongest predictors of effort, more so with age. Hence one advisor for three years.

The studies, with sources: soundlineschool.com/research.html

TWO WAYS IN

THE SCHOOL · FIVE DAYS

For families ready to make the move.

Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 3:00, with Extended Day until 5:30. Enroll, and that's it. No homeschool paperwork.

THE COLLABORATIVE · THREE DAYS

For homeschooling families.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Same guides, same rooms, same studio. You keep your homeschool plan, and we hand you the course descriptions and hours logs to go with it.

ABOUT US

Who's building it.

Ten to twelve in a grade, one advisor for three years, and four people who will know your child by name.

FOUNDER

Nicole Galante

An educator who has spent over twenty years helping teachers and schools get better. She led the statewide team that wrote New York's framework and handbook for virtual schools.

LEAD GUIDE

Adam King

A musician and teacher. He designs and runs music and STEAM programs for libraries across Long Island (escape rooms, instrument labs, world percussion) and teaches private lessons. He'll know your child by Wednesday.

OPERATIONS

Gina Dimichino

For more than thirty-five years she has taught dance to North Shore kids, many of them right at this age, and she has run businesses here her whole life, including her own salon. She makes sure every family feels seen, and handles every detail in between.

ACADEMIC SYSTEMS

Izzy Galante

Designs how the school teaches: the sequence, the mastery gates, and how we know it worked. Co-wrote New York's framework and handbook for virtual schools. Teaches a live seminar every week.

QUESTIONS FAMILIES ASK

The ones that come up first.

How many students will there be?

Ten to twelve in a grade — and nobody's stuck in their grade. Students work by skill across the school, and on Fridays the whole school builds one thing together. Small enough there's nowhere to hide, big enough for a real seminar.

Isn't that too small?

It's three grades in one building, and it adds a grade every year through twelfth. Your child's working group changes by subject, the whole school is together on Fridays, and the older students are out in town on apprenticeships. And every adult in the building knows your child by name.

What does it cost?

We publish tuition on Thursday, November 12, the morning after the information night, and founding enrollment opens with it. It's paid monthly over twelve months, and founding families get a rate that holds through twelfth grade — not just through eighth. The current figures are always at soundlineschool.com/cost.html.

What about high school?

We add ninth grade in our second year, then a grade every year through twelfth. New York has moved to a diploma built on evidence of six things a graduate can do, and every one of them is something your child makes, defends, or shows here, every six weeks. That folder of work goes with them wherever they go next.

Is Soundline approved by New York?

New York doesn't license private schools. You register with the state, and the district reviews that what you teach is equivalent. We do all of it, then start accreditation once we're open.

We homeschool. Can we join?

Yes. The Collaborative is three days a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with the same guides, rooms, and studio. You keep your homeschool plan, and we hand you the course descriptions and hours logs to go with it.

Will our district bus my child?

Most likely. New York districts provide transportation to private schools up to fifteen miles away. You request it from your own district by April 1, and we'll send you the request already filled in.

My child has an IEP. What happens to services?

Your child can still receive services from the public school district. You request them from the district where the school is located by June 1, and we'll help you do it.

Can my child still play school sports?

New York requires students to be enrolled in the district to play on district teams, so town and club teams are the way to go — and they're where most students this age already play. We have PE in the day, and Extended Day runs until 5:30.

How much screen time is there?

Less than you'd think. Morning practice is hands-on, at a table with a guide; the only screen in the morning belongs to the guide. Seminar, lab, and the defense happen without screens. AI is taught as a subject, never used as a shortcut.

Where will the school be?

In Miller Place. We announce the building the day the lease is signed.

Something we didn't answer? Write to hello@soundlineschool.com. If we don't know, we'll find out and tell you.

JOIN

Be one of our Founding Families.

Three grades under one roof, grouped by skill, not age — and we're taking founding families now. A rate that holds through twelfth grade. A seat on the Family Council. A say in what Soundline becomes.

INFORMATION NIGHT · FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

Wednesday, November 11 · 7:00 pm

Port Jefferson Free Library, 100 Thompson Street. Hear what Soundline is, see a day, meet the people building it, and ask anything. Tuition is published the next morning, and founding enrollment opens with it.

RSVP: soundlineschool.com/survey

1

Take the survey.

A few minutes. Your answers shape the school, and you hear from us first. **soundlineschool.com/survey**

2

Come hear about it.

Meet the guides, see a day, ask anything.

NOV 11	Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Port Jefferson Free Library
DEC 12	Details to follow
JAN 14	Details to follow

3

Reserve a founding seat.

Founding enrollment opens Thursday, November 12. $500 reserves a seat — held in escrow by an independent agent, not by us, and refundable in full until we sign a lease.

Prefer to talk? Write to hello@soundlineschool.com and we'll find a time.