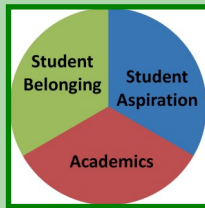




New Milford Public Schools
 50 East Street
 New Milford, CT 06776
 860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School

860-350-6647

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
Ms. Linda Scoralick, Asst. Principal
Mr. Eric Williams, Asst. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School

860-354-2204

Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Delaney, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School

860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Asst. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School

860-354-5430

Mrs. Patricia Corvello, Interim Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal



Northville Elementary School

860-355-3713

Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 9, Issue 3

September 2018

David Syzdek Named New Milford Public Schools Teacher of the Year



High School Band Director David Syzdek has been named as New Milford Public Schools Teacher of the Year for 2018-19. The district honored Mr. Syzdek at its opening convocation on August 27, 2018. "My message to teachers is simple and the same as it is to my students," said Mr. Syzdek. "What you do in the classroom each and every single day matters. Don't ever think that what you do is not important."

Mr. Syzdek has taught Music at New Milford High School since 2010. He is the conductor of the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band and Orchestra as well as the director of the Jazz Band and Marching Band. The concert ensembles from New Milford High School have performed at some of the most prestigious venues in the country including Carnegie Hall in New York City, Washington D.C. and Symphony Hall in Boston. The Marching Band has competed and performed around the country including in the USBands National Championships at Met Life Stadium in New Jersey, Walt Disney World in Florida, the New York City Veterans Day Parade and the Hollywood Christmas Parade in California.



Mr. Syzdek received both his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and his Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from the University of Connecticut in 2003. He graduated from the University of Connecticut in May of 2006 with his Master of Music degree in Conducting. In graduate school, David studied with Dr. Jeffrey Renshaw and Dr. David Mills while conducting the University of Connecticut Symphonic Band. David was also a Graduate Assistant for the University of Connecticut

Bands where he worked directly with the Marching Band and was a Pep Band Director for basketball.

In speaking about his teaching style, Mr. Syzdek said, “One of the greatest lessons I learned from my mentor in music, the Director of Bands at the University of Connecticut Dr. David Mills, is that each and every single student is important, matters, and plays a crucial role in determining the success of the ensemble. I have truly taken this lesson to heart and do my very best to pass this on to my own students. In a large group, a hundred or more students as in my band, it is all too easy for the individual to think that what they do or don't do will make a difference to the overall performance. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The success of the group is totally dependent upon each person performing at their very best each time there is an opportunity to perform.”



Nominations for Mr. Syzdek speak to his dedication and rapport with students:

“Mr. Syzdek’s teaching philosophy is that no show is ever perfect, and that goes for him as well as for the kids. He says they will always finish even their finest, winning performance knowing one small thing they could improve upon. Yet, somehow, in teaching them to strive for that elusive perfection, he teaches them to value themselves and to be proud each time they give their very best. He strikes the perfect balance for teenagers who are still developing their fragile egos, as performers, and as young men and women.”

“Mr. Syzdek motivates his students by believing in them. He sets the bar quite high. He is able to strike a balance between being a friend and mentor to his students, one who takes an interest in their personal lives, and remaining an upstanding role model who expects them to conduct themselves honorably and perform at their best. You can’t spend as many hours with high school kids, as he does, without also providing them with a shoulder to lean on and an occasional nudge in the right direction, something he does so well.”



Of his work with the different student ensembles, Mr. Syzdek talked about the development of his students, “There is something special about a group of high school students coming together, united in one goal of performing music at the highest level and learning how to work together as a group. While we concentrate on the specifics of performing music, the lessons learned along the way carry over to many aspects of life. Hard work, time management and working with others are key experiences my students have that lead to many different opportunities in the years to come.”

Parents, students and fellow staff members are invited to nominate a teacher for selection as New Milford’s Teacher of the Year in May of each year. The nominee must have taught in the district for five or more years and have demonstrated continued excellence of performance during his/her tenure. Nomination forms will go out in the spring.

A Message from Dr. Stephen Tracy, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Board of Education and the many parents and staff members who have gone out of their way to welcome me back to New Milford over the past month. As some of you know, it was my privilege to serve as New Milford's Superintendent of Schools for several years back in the 1980's and 1990's. My family and I made our home here for some eighteen years – so my three sons consider this to be their “home town”. It has been a real treat to reacquaint myself with some of the educators who served with me during those earlier days and to meet the many dedicated men and women who have joined the faculty in the intervening years.



One of our most significant obligations as a school system is to encourage children and young people to think about their futures and to take positive steps toward the lives that they hope to build for themselves. In that regard, I have found the work of the late William Glasser to be particularly useful. Dr. Glasser is the creator of a psychological model known as *Choice Theory*. An important aspect of *Choice Theory* is a counseling technique that involves four simple but profound questions. I share them with you here with the thought that you may find them useful in helping your children to deal with the challenges that they face as they grow and learn:

1. What do you want?

As simple as this question appears, it can have profound implications. What do you want for yourself with respect to your education? What do you want out of this school? What do you want out of a relationship that is important to you? What do you want for your career, for your future?

2. What are you doing to get what you want?

This question reflects Dr. Glasser's belief that the only person who can truly direct and control someone's behavior is that individual themselves. It is a powerful message of individual power and responsibility.

3. How is it going?

Are the things that you are choosing to do moving you closer to the people, the experiences and the things that you want out of life? Are you happy with the way things are going for you?

4. Are you prepared to change your behavior in order to get closer to what you want?

If you would like to be a happier, more successful, more powerful person, are you prepared to change your behavior in order to do so? The answer to this question is both liberating and challenging. Liberating in the sense that we experience the freedom that comes with knowing that we have the capability of setting our own course in life. Challenging in that it is always up to us to do so.

Please extend to your children my best wishes for every success as they continue their education here in New Milford. Make it a great year!



Please join us in welcoming the following new staff to NMPS:



Mr. David Backer

Special Education teacher, New Milford High School

Mr. Backer has substitute taught in the New Milford Public Schools and worked for EdAdvance in Danbury for three years as a special education teacher. He earned his BS in Exceptional Student Education at Florida College.

Mrs. Nancy Benvenuti

Secretary to Assistant Principal, New Milford High School

Mrs. Benvenuti has worked as a paraeducator for New Milford Public Schools for the past four years. She has experience in private industry as an executive secretary, administrative assistant and events planner.



Ms. Jamie Boroczky

Mathematics teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

A 2017 graduate, Ms. Boroczky has a BA in Mathematics from CCSU and her MS in Mathematics Education from the University of Bridgeport. She worked as a long term mathematics substitute in Tomlinson in the spring of 2018.

Mrs. Michelle Bouchard

School Psychologist, New Milford High School

Mrs. Bouchard worked for the Bethel schools for eight years, at both the middle and high school level. She has a BA from LaSalle University in Psychology and French, and an MS and 6th year degree in School Psychology from the University of Hartford.



Ms. Keeley Cronin

Special Education paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Cronin has worked as a long term substitute in schools in Maine and Connecticut. She earned her BA in Elementary Education from the University of Maine Farmington and is currently working on her Masters degree.



Mrs. Lisa Dablain

Math Interventionist, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Dablain received her BS in Computer Information Systems from Castleton State College and her MA in Secondary Mathematics from Sacred Heart University. She previously worked six years at GE Aerospace and GE Capital as a software developer and for the Monroe schools as a math intervention tutor for three years.

Mrs. Olivia DaRocha

Kindergarten teacher, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Mrs. DaRocha previously taught in Danbury, for seven years in the Head Start program, and for five years total in preschool and kindergarten levels at St. Peter's School. She earned her BA in Psychology at WCSU and her MA in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport.



Mrs. Yanisha Geller

Speech Language Pathologist, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Mrs. Geller attended SUNY New Paltz where she earned her BA in Communications Disorders and her MS in Speech Language Pathology. She previously worked for two years in the Danbury schools at the elementary level.

Mrs. Maura Kaschube

Special Education paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Kaschube retired from IBM after 33 years as a marketing rep, operations manager and contract professional. She has substituted for New Milford Public Schools both as a paraeducator and as a secretary.



Mrs. Ashley Kivela

Social Studies teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Kivela previously worked for New Milford Public Schools as a long term Social Studies substitute and as an instructional tutor. She also held a long term substitute position for Region 12. She attended Quinnipiac University where she earned her BA in History and MA in Education.

Ms. Marley Koschel

EXCEL teacher, Northville Elementary School

Ms. Koschel received a BS in Early Childhood Education from ECSU and an MS in Elementary and Special Education from Wheelock College. Her teaching experience includes work in the ECSU resource center, at a non-public childcare center, as an inclusion teacher at a public charter school, and as a teacher at Technology Childcare Centers at MIT's Lincoln Lab.





Ms. Mallory Lee

Special Education teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Lee is a familiar face to many, having worked previously for New Milford Public Schools as a paraeducator, long term substitute, and special education tutor. She holds a BS in Elementary and Special Education from Salve Regina and an MS in Education from WCSU.

Mrs. Danielle Livingston

Secretary to Assistant Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Livingston is a graduate of New Milford High School. She has a BA in Communications from WCSU. She has worked previously as a coordinator for a scholarship foundation and as a secretary/billing specialist.



Mrs. Barbara Matson

Library Clerk, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Matson worked for many years at GE Capital. She has a BA in Communications from WCSU. She has served as both a teacher and secretary substitute for New Milford Public Schools.

Ms. Ann O'Leary

Special Education teacher, Northville Elementary School

Ms. O'Leary has over 20 years teaching experience, including time in Waterbury, Stamford, Stratford, Region 12 and Torrington schools. She earned her BS in Special Education from SCSU and an MED in Special Education from UConn.

NO
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AVAILABLE



Ms. Gabrielle Passerelli

Kindergarten teacher, Northville Elementary School

Ms. Passerelli attended New Milford High School and is a recent college graduate, having earned her BS in Elementary Education from WCSU and her MS in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport. She has previously worked as a long term substitute for New Milford Public Schools.

Mrs. Rebecca Passero

Paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Passero has worked locally as the recording secretary for the New Milford Zoning Commission and as Director of Christian Education for First Congregational Church. She earned an MPA in Public Service from Seton Hall.





Mrs. Sandra Robair

Science teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Robair completed the Alternate Route to Certification for teaching. She has a BA in Biology from CCSU and an MS in Biomolecular Science from WCSU. She has worked as a lab research assistant, an ESL tutor and as a substitute teacher. She also taught five years as a tutor in Bristol.

Ms. Rubi Roman-Espinal

Secretary to Assistant Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School

Ms. Roman-Espinal previously worked for the Hartford schools in various positions including receptionist, family resource aide, administrative specialist and client service specialist.



Mrs. Christine Santorella

Special Education teacher, New Milford High School

Mrs. Santorella previously taught in Stamford for eleven years and in Stratford for over two years. She earned her BA in General Special Education from Rivier College and her MED in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia College.

Ms. Elizabeth Stewart

Instructional Coach, Schaghticoke Middle School

Ms. Stewart comes to New Milford from the Cheshire Public Schools where she worked for thirteen years. She attended SCSU where she earned a BA in English and Elementary Education, an MS in Special Education, and her 6th year degree in Educational Leadership.



Mrs. Megan Sylvester

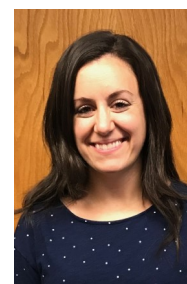
Literacy Coach, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Sylvester's educational background includes a BA from UConn in Theater Studies, an MA from Columbia University in the Literacy Specialist Program, and an MSED from CUNY Hunter College in Early Childhood Education. She has taught in private preschools in New York and Maryland and for the NYC and Darien public schools.

Ms. Christine Taylor

Science teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Taylor taught English for two years in Litchfield before pursuing a biology degree. She worked as a lab technician and research assistant while at UConn and taught Biology for five years at Wolcott High School. She attended UConn where she earned a BA in English, a BS in Biology and an MA in Curriculum and Instruction.





Ms. Karen Vaughn

French teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School/New Milford High School

Ms. Vaughn taught previously in New Fairfield for nineteen years. She also served nine years in the U.S. Army Reserves as a French and Spanish linguist. She earned her BS in Spanish and Secondary Education from WCSU.

Mr. Bob Wieggers

Computer Tech I, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mr. Wieggers has worked in the information technology field for over thirty years. He has been a program analyst, project manager, consultant and contractor. He has completed course work at WCSU and Norwalk Technical College as well as private company software training.



Mrs. Ashley Wyka

Special Education teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Wyka attended WCSU where she earned a BS in Secondary Education History and an MS in Special Education. She has taught in the Danbury schools and at private schools in Tennessee.

Best wishes to all the new staff members. Welcome to New Milford!

Nominations for NMPS Stars of the Month are NOW OPEN!



Visit the district website and [complete a short online form](#) to nominate a NMPS staff member of your choice. You are welcome to make a nomination at any time and for as many deserving staff members as you wish. From all the forms submitted, six honorees will be selected each month, one from each school and one non-school specific honoree. All honorees will be invited to attend the Board of Education monthly meeting for public congratulations where they will receive a star lapel pin as a small symbol in recognition of their “star” qualities.

In addition, thanks to our continuing partnership with Ingersoll Automotive of Danbury, one lucky honoree each month will be gifted at random with a courtesy car to drive for the following month.

Congratulations to this year’s first Star of the Month, Teacher of the Year David Syzdek!





New Milford Public Schools

50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406

Dr. Stephen Tracy
Interim Superintendent

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Human Resources Director

Mr. Kevin Munrett
Facilities Director

Mr. Anthony Giovannone
Fiscal Services & Operations
Director

Mrs. Laura Olson
Pupil Personnel &
Special Services Director

Ms. Roberta Pratt
Technology Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

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Assistant Secretary

Mr. Bill Dahl

Mr. Joseph Failla

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. J.T. Schemm

CT Grown for CT Kids Week is Coming!

The Food and Nutrition Services Department will be celebrating *CT Grown for CT Kids Week* in all New Milford cafeterias from October 1 – 4. Connecticut grown and manufactured items will be served all week long.

Daily Alternates	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole Wheat Bagel/ Yogurt Plate, Cereal/Yogurt Plate, Chef Salad, Sunbutter & Jelly or Hummus Yosi Kitchen, Windsor Served with Fresh Vegetables & Pita Bread	Hamburger or Cheeseburger on Wheat Roll Roasted Summer Squash from Kimberly Farm, New Milford Fresh Apple Cider from Rogers Orchards, Southington Rainbow Fruit & Vegetable Tray Fat Free or 1% Milk	French Toast Sticks Fresh Yogurt from Arethusa Farm, Bantam Baked Potato Puffs 100% Fruit Juice from Ardmore Farm, Ellington Rainbow Fruit & Vegetable Tray Fat Free or 1% Milk	Baked Chicken Nuggets Roasted Butternut Squash from Kimberly Farm, New Milford Whole Wheat Dinner Roll Rainbow Fruit & Vegetable Tray Fat Free or 1% Milk	Pizza Bread from Brian's Fabulous, Torrington Marinara Sauce from Ragozzino Foods, Meriden Shredded Cheese Mesclun Mix Salad Rainbow Fruit & Vegetable Tray Fat Free or 1% Milk	No School
Fresh Macoun Apples, Gala Apples and Bartlett Pears are available as part of the Rainbow Fruit Tray all week from Rogers Orchard in Southington Connecticut.					
<p>October 1-5 is CT Grown for CT Kids Week</p> <p>Enjoy a selection of Locally Grown & Manufactured items!</p> <p>Kimberly Farm – New Milford, CT Arethusa Farm – Bantam, CT Rogers Orchards – Southington, CT Brian's Fabulous – Torrington, CT Yosi Kitchen – Windsor, CT Ardmore Farm – Ellington, CT Ragozzino Foods – Meriden, CT</p>					
*** Menus subject to change Breakfast Price: \$1.40 – Lunch Price: \$2.35 – Milk Price: \$.50 This institution is an equal opportunity provider.					

Our own Kimberly Farm here in New Milford will be supplying summer and butternut squash as well as their private label salsa.

The Food Services department will also be serving Gala and Macoun Apples, Apple Cider and Bartlett Pears from Roger's Orchards in Southington.

Other featured items will be Arethusa Yogurt from Litchfield, Yosi Hummus from Bloomfield, and Brian's Fabulous Pizza Bread from Torrington served with Ragozzino Tomato Sauce from Meriden.

We're hungry just thinking about it!!!

All school menus can be [viewed on the district website](#).

The mission of the New Milford Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family and community, is to prepare each and every student to compete and excel in an ever-changing world, embrace challenges with vigor, respect and appreciate the worth of every human being, and contribute to society by providing effective instruction and dynamic curriculum, offering a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

September means