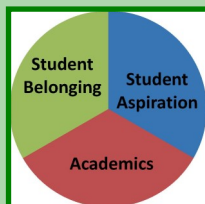




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
Ms. Linda Scoralick, Asst. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204
Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal
Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, 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 Meyers, Asst. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School
860-354-5430
Mr. Eric Williams, Principal
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal



Northville Elementary School
860-355-3713
Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Principal
Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 10, Issue 1

July 2019

Summer Learning

With summer vacation halfway over (already!) we hope our NMPS students have spent time relaxing and having fun with family and friends. Summer's down time is important because it allows students to recharge for the fall. At the same time, summer is also a time when learning loss can occur. The so-called "summer slide" can cut in to hard-earned school year learning and create the need to catch back up when school restarts in August. Engaging in educational activities during the summer months can help prevent this slide.

Each year, NMPS students participate in the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. This year's theme is "A Universe of Stories". Students are encouraged to keep a journal cataloguing the books they read over the summer. In August, books are tallied and small in-school rewards presented. As always, the [New Milford Public Library](#) is a valuable resource for reading suggestions and programming.

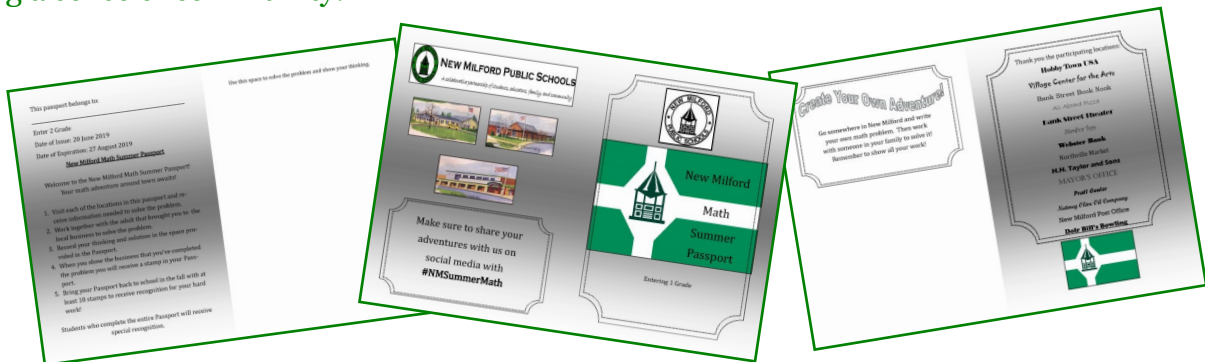


New this year, SMS Project Lead the Way classes created "Lending Libraries" to be placed out in the community, one at Lynn Deming Park and one at the John Pettibone Community Center near the playground. Students looking for additional reading material can visit these community "Libraries" to pick up a book, donated through a book drive sponsored by local business Compass Property Inspections. Even better, students are encouraged to bring a book they've enjoyed to leave in return.

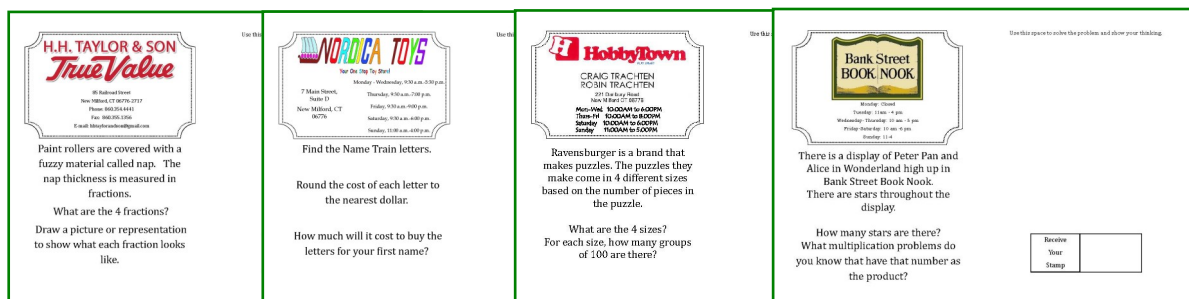
Schaghticoke Middle School students don't have to look far for their first summer reading book. Each grade will be reading the same book, provided courtesy of the SMS PTO, to be discussed in the fall when students return.

NMHS students select their summer reading from [a list of several book titles](#). Per Assistant Principal Linda Scoralick, "This list was created by staff members and is based upon student feedback, circulation statistics, a fiction vs. non-fiction balance, various book reviews, and recommended book lists for teens. The difficulty level of the books provides a range, in order to differentiate for all students."

Reading isn't the only area that is subject to the "summer slide" and this year for the first time, NMPS is offering a summer math program as well. Per district Math Coach Cortni Muir, "The Summer Math Passport program is designed to work with community partners to provide students with engaging options for math in the summer that won't feel like a punishment, but rather a way to enjoy their time doing math in the real world and building a sense of community."



Students incoming to grades 1-5 received a grade level booklet before they left for the summer to bring to local businesses around New Milford. Once on site, students will attempt to solve a math problem associated with the business and have their "passport" stamped.



Students who complete at least 10 of 14 stamps will receive a certificate when they return to school. Mrs. Muir and fellow Math Coach Carrie Allen will be sharing updates on Twitter under the hashtag #NMSummerMath. They encourage families to do the same.



#NMSummerMath

Our first stop for the Summer Math Passport, Dolbills bowling! Bowled with @kidsbowlfree and completed our #NMSummerMath!



For more ideas, check out the [US Department of Education's blog post](#) where they break down five simple ways to slow the #SummerSlide and encourage #SummerLearning.

A Message from Superintendent Kerry Parker



Greetings New Milford! I hope you are all enjoying your summer. There are many exciting things happening with NMPS even when schools are closed. Since my first day on July 1st, I have been in a learning mode.

You may have received the invitation to complete the Superintendent's Survey. This survey represents one of the first items on my Entry Plan agenda. The purpose of the Entry Plan is to deepen my understanding of New Milford and the supportive community. The Plan is serving as my guide for gathering information to inform my understanding of the current state of our schools including strengths and successes, as well as areas for growth and improvement. After listening and learning, I will create a synthesis and analysis of key findings from the Entry Plan and will share this information with the Board of Education at the end of September 2019.



The key outcomes from my Entry Plan will be used to inform district goals, so I hope you will take time to share your opinions via the survey. I look forward to meeting you and am grateful for this opportunity to serve the community of New Milford.

The Survey will remain open
until August 30.

[Click here](#) to add your responses.

Administrative Appointments

At the July 16, 2019 Board of Education meeting, NMPS Superintendent Dr. Kerry Parker recommended, and the Board approved, the following administrative appointments:



Mr. Kevin Best was named Assistant Principal at New Milford High School. Mr. Best has been the Mathematics Department Chair at NMHS for the past three years, during which time he also taught AP Statistics. Additionally, he has served as the Evaluator for the Adult Education program for the past two years. Prior to coming to New Milford, Mr. Best worked in the Danbury Public Schools for 18 years.

Mr. Best's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics from UConn; a Master of Science degree in Secondary Education from the University of Bridgeport; and 6th year certification from UConn. He holds an 092 certification in Educational Administration and Supervision.

Continued next page

Administrative Appointments



Mrs. Catherine Calabrese was named Assistant Principal for New Milford Public Schools. She will divide her time between Northville Elementary School and Schaghticoke Middle School. Mrs. Calabrese is a seasoned elementary level teacher, having taught previously in Watertown, Southbury and New Britain.

Mrs. Calabrese attended Central CT State University where she earned a degree in Mathematics-Science-Geography with a concentration in Elementary Education, and a Master of Science and 6th year degree in Educational Leadership. She holds an 092 certification as an Intermediate Administrator/Supervisor.

Mrs. Deborah Clark was named Special Education Supervisor PK-5. Mrs. Clark is a very familiar face in the district, having worked for NMPS since 2001. During that time, she served as a district-wide special education teacher coordinating the inclusive special education preschool program as well as serving as the liaison for the Birth to Three programs. She has been the Department Chair of Special Education at Sarah Noble Intermediate School since 2015.



Mrs. Clark attended Southern CT State University where she earned her BS in Special Education and MS in Early Childhood Special Education, as well as her 6th year degree in Educational Leadership. She holds her 092 certification as an Intermediate Administrator/Supervisor.



Mr. Brandon Rush was named Director of Technology for the district. Mr. Rush comes to New Milford from the New Canaan Public Schools where he served as a Network Manager and, most recently, as Manager of Network Systems. Prior to joining the New Canaan district, Mr. Rush worked at Post University as a Systems Technician.

Mr. Rush earned a BA from Pace University and is currently completing coursework towards an MS in Information Technology Management. He has technical certifications in CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+, and Cisco CCNA Routing and Switching.

*Please join us in
congratulating these administrators
on their new assignments.*

**Mark your Calendars
for the 2019-20 School Year**



**Open Houses/Walkthroughs
Monday, August 26, 2019**

Grades K-2	HPS/NES	12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Grades 3-5	SNIS	1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Grades 6-8	SMS	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.



**First Day for Students
Tuesday, August 27, 2019**

**HPS, NES, and SNIS:
8:50 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.**

**SMS and NMHS:
7:35 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.**

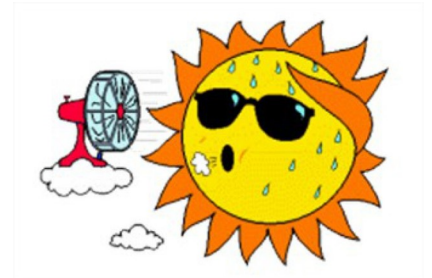


Curriculum Nights

Grades K-2	HPS/NES	Sept. 18	5:30 p.m.
Grades 3-4	SNIS	Sept. 19	6:00 p.m.
Grade 5	SNIS	Sept. 23	7:00 p.m.
Grades 6-8	SMS	Sept. 11	6:00 p.m.
Grades 9-12	NMHS	Sept. 12	7:00 p.m.

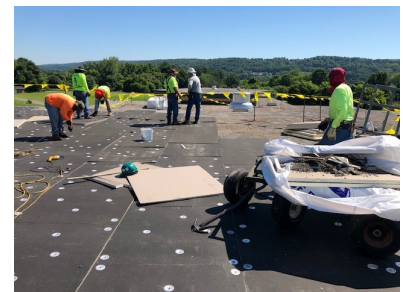
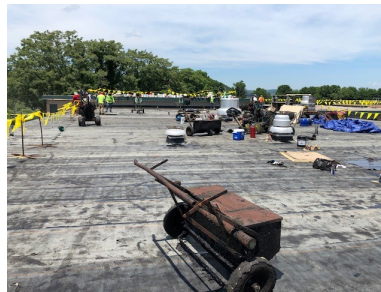
Summer's No Vacation for NMPS Facilities Department

Summer is prime time for the district's Facilities Department personnel who take advantage of the schools being relatively empty of students and staff to work their way through all the cleaning and disinfecting, scrubbing, painting, annual inspections and work order processing needed to keep our buildings' thousands of square feet maintained.



In addition, summer is the time for annual servicing of septic tanks, kitchen hood cleaning, boiler maintenance and other miscellaneous projects.

Facilities Director Kevin Munrett says this summer included moving age appropriate furniture and equipment to NMHS to accommodate the summer programs usually held at SNIS, where the roof is being replaced. He is happy to report that the SNIS roof project is well underway, with several sections of the roof already made watertight.



Other Facilities related summer projects include: updating school based servers and cameras to ensure that all our schools continue to have a fully functioning security system; asbestos abatement of the HPS cafeteria floor; a new fire alarm panel and devices for HPS; the installation of a new serving line in the SNIS cafeteria; and rehabilitation of the rear stage area in the Lillis Building basement to provide for more use.

Finally, summer wouldn't be summer without yard work, and our grounds provide plenty of it. Special appreciation to our maintenance crews who are out in the summer heat!





New Milford Public Schools

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

Dr. Kerry Parker
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

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

Board of Education

Mr. David A. Lawson
Chairperson

Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Angela C. Chastain
Secretary

Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Bill Dahl

Mr. Joseph Failla

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. J.T. Schemm

International Day of Friendship

[From the United Nations website:](#) Held annually on July 30, the International Day of Friendship was [proclaimed](#) in 2011 by the United Nations General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities. The resolution particularly emphasizes involving young people, as future leaders, in community activities that include different cultures and promote international understanding and respect for diversity. The website www.wikihow.com suggests taking a trip to the library to learn more about other cultures:

- ♦ **Check out a travel book.** Reading through travel books and travel journals gives you great ideas about local and international destinations and begins to expose you to new cultures. You can check out a guide to your chosen culture, or read travel journals by people who have spent time in that culture. Look for guides that cover information about etiquette, gender roles, festivals, and religion.
- ♦ **Read books written by people from other cultures.** You can read fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or anything written by a person from the culture you want to learn about. Reading books by people from other cultures gives you a glimpse into the mind and life of the people from that culture that would be difficult to obtain otherwise.
- ♦ **Read a history book about the culture.** It is important to know information on subjects such as major conflicts, holidays, and customs. If the culture has a different language than your native language, search for translations of books in your language.
- ♦ **Check out films from other cultures.** Ask the librarian if any foreign films are available. Look for videos that offer translations or subtitles. Films from other cultures offer a view of what that culture values as entertainment. Also, look for documentaries about other cultures.
- ♦ **Search for a language guide.** Most libraries will have books that either give a basic overview of a language, or serve as a textbook. Learning the language of the culture you want to know more about is one of the best ways to get to know the culture. Look for a book specifically for beginners if you are new to the language.

Make it a family affair, and ***add a recipe book to the mix.*** Celebrate with a family dinner featuring dishes from your chosen culture. What better way to learn than through eating!

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.

July
birthday