



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
Mrs. 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 Chmielewski, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal
Dr. Len Tomasello, Transition Admin.



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
Mrs. Emily Gervasio, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Asst. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School
860-354-5430

Mrs. Paula Kelleher, 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

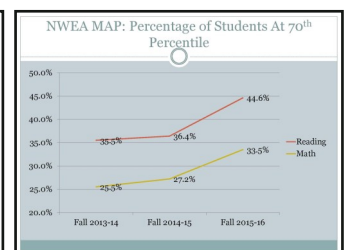
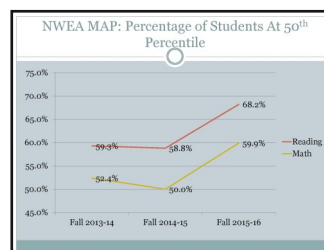
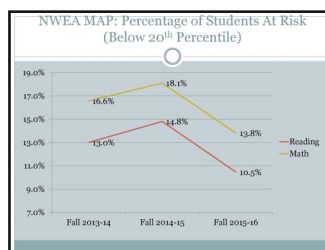
Volume 7, Issue 4

October 2016

Student Progress Shown in District Assessment Results

At a meeting of the Committee On Learning held on September 20th, Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo and Data Coach Michael Clyne presented the 2016 assessment results for district students. They include the multi-grade Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessment; Smarter Balanced (SBAC) testing in grades 3-8 which measure Reading and Mathematics; the CT Mastery Test (CMT) and CT Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science assessment results for grades 5, 8, and 10; and Advanced Placement (AP) testing results and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) results from our high school students. As you can imagine, there was a great deal of information presented. We'd like to share some of the major points below to illustrate our students' results.

The district's benchmark assessment, NWEA, is given three times per year in grades 1-9 and twice in Kindergarten. This adaptive assessment measures individual student growth over time. It provides teachers with a snapshot of student growth that helps tailor instruction to meet individual student needs. NWEA also provides an additional data point that helps to assist the district in predicting how students will perform over time against the state assessments and gauges how aligned our internal assessments are to the standards. The charts below show our students' progress.



NWEA results measure individual student growth over time.

In regards to state assessments, highlights from the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) testing include a higher number of students reaching the goal range in Mathematics, with subgroup performance increasing in Mathematics as well. Ms. DiCorpo said "The results are very encouraging to see, and I think can be largely tied to the implementation

of the new math curriculum.” On the reading portion of the test, students demonstrated a slight increase, with cohorts (groups of the same students moving up in grade) improving overall in grades 5 and 7.

CMT / CAPT Science Summary

- Exceeded state averages on at all 3 grade levels assessed.
- 2 perfect scores (1- grade 5, 1- grade 10)
- Number of exceeds (level 5) students in grade 5 increased by 62% from 37 last year to 60 this year.
- Grade 5 had the highest goal rate since 2012, and outpaced the state average.
- Over 33% of the 10th graders exceeded (level 5).
- As a district we had 234 students exceed (level 5) between the 3 grade levels.

On the CT Mastery Test (CMT) and CT Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science assessments, New Milford students exceeded the state level averages for all grade levels assessed. In addition, as a district, New Milford had 234 students exceed at the highest level 5 among the three grade levels assessed; two students even received perfect scores.

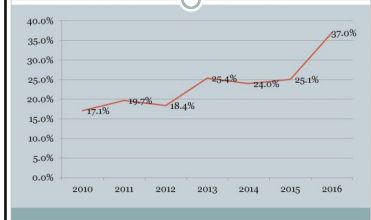
As for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), Ms. DiCorpo says “This was the first year of the newly designed exam and also it was the first year that the SAT was given to all students across the state in grade 11 so there is no historical trend data available.” With that said, our students outperformed the state averages in both Mathematics and English Language Arts on the assessment, with 50% of our students surpassing the 50th percentile.

SAT Summary

- First year of the current version, not a trend
- Students overall averaged a 1077, with about 50% of the students above the 50th percentile.
- Outperformed state averages in both reading and math.
- Ranked in the 58th percentile state wide for a composite score.
- Of the 61 students who scored at a 1200 or higher, 50 (82%) took AP courses.
- Of the 127 students who scored from a 1190-1000 only 30 (24%) took AP courses.

Additionally, our Advanced Placement (AP) results were encouraging. Many more students took AP classes and AP exams than in the past and more students passed (81%) than ever before. In fact, our participation rose by 19% when the state’s participation rate averaged only a 2% increase. New Milford High School sophomores and juniors hit new highs in test participation and last year’s seniors had higher participation rates and scores than any other previous graduating class.

AP Participation by Graduating Class



Advanced Placement Enrollment, Participation, and Passing



Advanced Placement Summary

- Statewide participation rate rose by 2%, in New Milford it rose by 19%. Over the past 5 years, Connecticut participation has risen by 19% and New Milford has risen by 72%.
- We had our highest participation rate to date and the highest number of exams passed.
- We continued to attain an 81% passing rate, even as the number of exams taken increased from 401 to 504 and number of students participating increased from 233 to 267.
- The sophomore and junior classes had new highs in test participation and last year’s seniors had higher participation and pass rates than any previous graduating class.

So what does the district do with all these results?

Superintendent Joshua Smith says “The results are used two-fold: to help identify holes in individual student learning and to inform curriculum and instruction.” Ms. DiCorpo concurs saying, “Analysis of individual student data helps teachers better understand and plan for individual student support so that students can experience enrichment opportunities or receive additional instruction as needed. All of our results inform our ability to make decisions about the district’s curriculum to ensure it is properly aligned with state standards.”

If you would like to see more information regarding this and other district assessments, visit our website under the [Curriculum and Instruction](#) tab.

Get Up and Go: Attendance is Key*

Now that we've all had a chance to settle into the school year routine, we want to remind parents and students of the importance of regular school attendance. Good attendance is essential to ensure that our students are on track to learn and succeed.

Nationwide, as many as 1 out of 10 students are chronically absent, meaning they miss 10% or more school days; averaging 2 days a month or about 18 days a year, which adds up to almost a month out of the school year! Absenteeism rates are surprisingly high in the early grades – 1 in 10 kindergarteners and 1st grade students nationally miss 10% of school days.



Who is affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10 low-income kids miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



2.5 in 10 homeless kids are chronically absent.²



4 in 10 transient kids miss too much school when families move.²



Why it matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



64%

of kids with good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)



43%

of kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)



41%

of kids chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 18 or more days one year)



17%

of kids chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)

By 6th grade, chronic absenteeism becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out in high school. In 9th grade, it's a stronger indicator of dropout than 8th grade test scores. It can also affect students who are present. If too many students are chronically absent, it slows down instruction for other students, who must wait while the teacher brings absentee students up to speed. This makes it harder for students to learn and teachers to teach.

Here in New Milford, our chronic absenteeism rate is at about 6%. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom. Once too many absences

have occurred, they can affect learning, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused, sporadic or consecutive.

Some absences are unavoidable. Occasionally children get sick and need to stay home. What is important is getting children to school as often as possible. Try to avoid unnecessary absences. Too often, we don't realize how quickly absences add up. Missing just 2 days every month can cause a child to fall behind.

Good attendance matters for school success, starting as early as pre-kindergarten and throughout elementary school. Remember, by middle and high school, poor attendance is a leading indicator of dropout. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating. Ultimately, developing the habit of good attendance prepares students for success in college, on the job, and in life.



What can you do to help?

In the early grades:

- ◆ Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- ◆ Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- ◆ Don't let your child stay home unless he/she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be signs of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- ◆ If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make him/her more comfortable and excited about learning.
- ◆ Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- ◆ Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

In the later grades:

- ◆ Talk about the importance of showing up for school every day; make that the expectation. Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- ◆ Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- ◆ Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated. Encourage meaningful after school activities, such as sports and clubs.
- ◆ Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers if necessary. Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on in school. Make sure teachers know how best to contact you.

**All information for this article taken from the website attendanceworks.org.*

From Athlete to Coach: NMHS Coaches Then and Now

The New Milford High School athletic program of today encompasses 27 different programs, each one having a head coach and various assistants to offer support and guidance. Seven of those programs have the added distinction of being coached by a graduate of the New Milford High School athletic program. We caught up with these head coaches for a look back at their time as a student athlete and their thoughts on what motivates them to coach today.

Evan Cassells – Boys' Lacrosse

I graduated NMHS in 2009. I played varsity football, basketball and lacrosse in high school. I was number 33 in football, 12 in basketball and 19 in lacrosse. My football coaches were Chuck Lynch, Travis Swim, and Jamie Reed. My basketball coach was Jim Luchsinger. For lacrosse, my coaches were Brendan Talbot and Travis Swim. I was an all-conference lacrosse player in high school and went on to play lacrosse at Plymouth State University. Now I am proud to be the varsity lacrosse coach at NMHS as well as a paraeducator at Schaghticoke Middle School.



My inspiration for coaching is first and foremost my father. He played professional football for the New York Giants, then led a career as a physical educator and coach of several sports for 40+ years. Being able to learn from my biggest role model as I grew up really lit the fire and led me to my current career. Also the coaching I had growing up and in high school inspired me to become a coach. Being able to give back and instill what I was taught to the younger generation is something I strive to do. There is no bigger honor than being able to coach the team that gave you so much as a student athlete. Doing the right things such as winning and losing with class, developing student athletes on and off the field, and representing the great town of New Milford are vital in my eyes.

I am young for a coach but I have my father's "old school" mindset on certain circumstances. I am truly honored to be able to coach this team. We have such a bright future and everyone is extremely enthusiastic about the opportunities that lie ahead of us. We are rich in opportunities and it's going to transpire into a successful high school program, on and off the field.



Cindy Dubret – Cheerleading



In 1987 I tried out for cheerleading. I almost didn't go through with it. I didn't think I was good enough but my friends said just try. So I did. My freshman year I was on junior varsity then sophomore through senior on varsity. My junior and senior year I was captain. I was MVP three times. My senior year I made All American cheerleader at camp.

My coach during freshman year made quite the impression on me. Her name was Corky Pennucci. She believed in us, would do anything for us, even borrow her neighbor's van and pick up girls who needed a ride to practice. You never know

who will make a lasting impression on you until you look back. I miss her a lot.



One of my favorite memories from cheering was my sophomore year basketball season. We had five guys on the team and at one game just me and the other sophomore girl on the team showed up with the five guys and we got to cheer and do stunts with them. If I remember correctly I think they were calling for bad weather that night and that's why no one else showed up. We had so much fun at that game!



I also did track and field my senior year. For about two years the track coach had tried to recruit me for the high jump and hurdles because I jumped so high. So my senior year I tried but I didn't do the hurdles or high jump because they scared me. Instead, I ended up doing shot put with some success. I think I still have medals somewhere.

This is my tenth year coaching at New Milford High School. In 2008 my team took first place at SWC's, the first team to do that in cheer at NMHS. I think my 2017 team has the chance to do that again this year.

Ryan Fitzsimmons - Girls' Indoor and Outdoor Track

I competed at NMHS from 1996-2000 in football, wrestling and track and field for four years.

I was varsity in all three and Captain for wrestling. My coaches were for football - Joe Neff; for wrestling - Daryl Daniels; and for track and field - Chris McDougal.

Coach Daniels always inspired me then and continues to inspire me today. He pushed me as an athlete and still challenges me as a teacher at NMHS to stretch my horizons.

I moved onto college where I competed for four years at Division II Southern Connecticut State in indoor/outdoor track and field as a pole vaulter. It was natural to have the desire to return to NMHS and try to inspire athletes to have the same experiences I had. I have coached football (5 years), wrestling (10 years) and indoor/outdoor track and field (12 years) at NMHS. As an athlete I was twice All Conference in wrestling.



Wrestling

Varsity & JV: Antonio Escam, Clare Austin, Joe Beatty, Ed Eubank (captain), JP Fischer (captain), Anthony Bruno, Nick Bruno, Andrew Casade, Sam Caselli, Jim Chase, Eric Chernick, Justin Clark, Jason Gaud, Liri Elvik, Phil Estrada, Ryan Fitzsimmons, Ryan Felt, Ben Jansals, Jim Jansals, Mike Johnson, Rich Johnson, Brandon Fisher, Ryan Fisher, Gabe Knight, Jim Linsen, Nick Ligonski, Eric Lynch, Nick Marinakis, Jesse McFar, Ian McFarren, Craig Nelsen, Paul O'Rourke, Emily Poulton, Tom Rourke, Jonathan Sauer, Pat Simmons, Mike Stuckgale, Josh Stearn.



As a coach, I was an assistant coach when wrestling won ten SWC Titles and four Class L Titles. Our boys track team won the SWC Championship in 2010. It has been a joy and privilege over the years to coach numerous athletes who have earned All-Conference and All State accolades.

Dawn Hough - Field Hockey

I was lucky enough to play field hockey at New Milford High School for Coach Fran Zaloski in the 80's. We were very successful, but success was not only measured in games won. Mrs. Z, as we called our coach, expected the best on and off the field. She taught us the importance of our individual actions as part of the group. We were league champions three times in four years while I was in high school. We were taught to be excellent student athletes. My team included my class valedictorian and salutatorian, very bright young ladies who demonstrated how to be successful student athletes. Recently, I talked to Mrs. Z and asked her how many championships she had won. She explained in the 60's they did not name a champion but in the late 70's they started the league and championship series. She did not know how many, but said we won all but two championships in the WCC conference.



FRONT: V. Pizzarelli. ROW 1: K. O'Neill, J. Oshlan, D. Merrick, S. Owen, K. Carlson, R. O'Brien, D. Hough. ROW 2: M. Holsten, mgr., L. Pedota, M. Piccinini, N. Barlow, S. Woodin, L. Nahley, V. Vandigrift, Coach "Z".



As a player I learned if you do things correctly, good things will follow. As a coach I teach the same lesson. One of our favorite sayings is "play smarter, harder and together". We expect each student to be the best she can be, to contribute to make the team the best we can be. My coaches and I work diligently to teach a work ethic that will help our players excel not only in sports, but in life. The game is a microcosm of life. We drop them

in what seems to be chaos and see how they react. Then we review what went right and what did not. We teach our student athletes that repeating correct actions is as important as correcting errors, then we go over ways to improve. Then we do it again. If we have done a great job they will learn many valuable lessons that will help them to excel as student athletes. As coaches we play a valuable role in helping to teach them to be responsible for their own actions, be prepared for all situations. The goal is for these lessons to help them for the rest of their lives.

This fall my former coach, Fran Zaloski, was inducted into the Connecticut Field Hockey Hall of Fame. On September 17th we held Fran Zaloski day in her honor. We had all three levels of field hockey playing games and shared a few memories as well.



Nicole Madorran – Girls' Lacrosse



My time spent playing sports at NMHS are some of my fondest high school memories. I played field hockey in the fall, and lacrosse in the spring. Coach Dawn Hough and Coach Jen Wyslick were my coaches, and I now have had the pleasure of learning and coaching with them for the past four years. I remember being in the SWC Final my senior year. There is no feeling like stepping on the field and playing for a champion-

ship. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity for most, and a moment I believe should be treasured by all. Unfortunately, Pomperaug prevailed that year but my team and I were still able to walk away from that season with the most wins in NMHS field hockey history up until that point.

Coach Jill Strub, Coach Jen Wyslick, and Coach Bill Kersten were my coaches for lacrosse; all an integral part of me wanting to continue my lacrosse career as a coach. My senior year we made it to the state semi-final where we succumbed to Brookfield. It was a wild ride to get there, with our team beating the number 1 seed at Old Lyme, as well as Fairfield-Ludlowe, a very strong team that was highly favored to win.



All of my time spent at NMHS playing sports really inspired me to come back and coach. I love the competitive spirit of the players, and the adrenaline rush before the start of every game. After coming back to coach field hockey in my first and third years we came out on top in the final. The jitters were the same standing on the sideline as they were on the field, and I could not have been more proud to see all of the girls' hard work pay off.

Watching players start as freshmen and develop over the years to their senior year is a unique experience. They start as young dependent girls, and develop into strong, independent women. You see people at their best and at their worst in the world of sports. Everything that happens on a sports field can directly be applied to those "real-world" life experiences. Sports allow young men and women to figure out how they respond to adversity and they take those experiences with them once they step off of the field. My coaches gave me the experience of a lifetime during my time at NMHS and I hope to provide the same experience for my current and future players. I am excited for what is to come for both New Milford field hockey and New Milford girls' lacrosse!

Ryan Rebstock - Boys' Indoor and Outdoor Track

In the spring of 2003, after being cut from basketball in the winter, I decided to go out for the outdoor track and field team. I had no idea how much that decision would go on to shape my entire life. My love for running was born that season, thanks to the encouragement I received from Coach Chris McDougal and my coach now turned colleague Chris Bacich. Coach Bacich convinced me to come out for the cross country team that fall as a sophomore, and I never looked back. I worked my way up to varsity as a sophomore in track and went on to be part of some of the most successful sports teams in NMHS history.



In the fall of 2003, our cross country team, coached by Mike Abraham and Chris Bacich, captured the school's first State Open title in any sport, followed by a New England Championship victory, also a first for NMHS. I learned that the sky is the limit when a team comes together and fights for a common goal and competes for one another. We went on to repeat as New England champions the following fall, and I contributed to our SWC titles in outdoor track my sophomore and junior years, also fond memories. My experience running in high school spurred me to compete as a member of the Division I Wildcats at the University of New Hampshire.

As a coach, winning the 2012 State Open title in cross country (the team's first since 2003) brought everything full circle. For Coach Bacich and me to be a part of both of those teams nine years apart was really special and is a testament to his being one of the best coaches in the school's history. He has been a mentor to me and I've learned so much from him in the last thirteen years.



Even while I was still in high school, I always felt a desire to come and give back to the program that gave me so much. Oddly enough, I find myself now coaching side by side with two men who coached me and shaped my career, Chris Bacich and Ryan Fitzsimmons. The lessons I learned as a high school athlete and college athlete have prepared me to be a successful coach who will proudly carry on our illustrious tradition in cross country and track and field.

Giles Vaughan - Girls' Cross Country

I attended NMHS from 1985-1989. During that time, I was a boys' cross country four-year varsity runner under coaches Russ Devin for three years and Mike Abraham for one year. In 1985 we won the WCC title. I returned to NMHS as boys' cross country assistant coach from 2005-2010 and have been the girls' cross country head coach since 2011.

I think our sport demands a certain self-discipline and you have to be able to deal with discomfort on a daily basis. It requires a person who is an overachiever by nature and who is mentally tough. We push our bodies to do things that most sports don't require. I love our sport and our program, the history behind NMHS cross country which started when I was in high school. My Coach Russ Devin was a great leader and mentor and the founding father of our boys' program. I only wish I could call him to get coaching advice; he passed away a few years ago but we keep his memory alive with the Russell Devin Senior Leadership Award given out every year.



Row 1: D. Massotto, J. Bouzulak, S. Wargo, J. Roberts, B. King, R. Mayette, L. Talarico, J. Schultz. Row 2: B. Reilling, Q. Campbell, J. Malcolm, T. Wargo, G. Ganatnapp, M. Benson, D. Hillard, B. Wood, B. Gerren, J. Lester, B. Uzick. Row 3: Coach Abraham, E. Dunn, B. King, J. Strickland, G. Vaughan—capt., G. Rostulo, M. Short, V. Ready.

I have worked with youth in this town for 30 years in various capacities, but my favorite interaction with our town's youth has been coaching. I love coaching the student athletes, from my years with the boys' team to now coaching the girls' team for six seasons. I have coached student athletes of great character, integrity, and work ethic.



Each year the team is different and you have to mold to that; it's very much like a science experiment with a lot of trial and error. If you are lucky enough to be rewarded at the end of the season with a championship, it's the best feeling knowing all your hard work has paid off and every sacrifice has been worth it. However, there are much smaller gains each day, from beginners who just try to complete their first run without stopping, to the athlete who shoots for their personal record on a certain course. It's really about improving each day not only as a runner but as a person. As we say on our team, "The Process is the Goal".

Rites of Fall



There are several events that happen every fall in and around are schools. Some, like the elementary fall festivals and family movie nights, are designed for fun and to build a sense of community. Others, like the 4th annual Maureen Haas PK-5 Cross Country Meet, named in honor of a longtime paraeducator at HPS, encourage exercise and good health in our students. Other annual rites of fall focus on more serious pursuits such as post secondary planning.

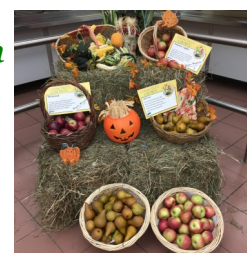
➡ Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week

The Food and Nutrition Services Department participated in CT Grown for CT Kids Week from October 4th – 7th. This event, which is celebrated annually as part of National Farm to School Month, turns the healthy eating spotlight to Connecticut grown and manufactured items.

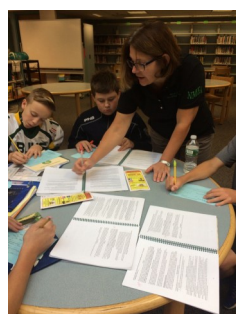


Mrs. Sandra Sullivan, Food Services Director, said “This year we were pleased to offer butternut squash delivered from our own Kimberly Farm here in New Milford. Rogers Orchards out of Southington supplied us with Bosc pears and Macintosh and Cortland apples. We also served authentic, all natural, no preservative Yosi hummus from South Windsor. Other featured items were Red Door calzones from New Britain served with Ragozzino sauce from Meriden.”

The CT Department of Agriculture features more information regarding CT’s Farm-to-School Program along with a link to *CT Grown Information for Consumers* with website listings and publications to help you find and enjoy Connecticut Grown products from farms, farmers’ markets, and local businesses across the state. There are links for agricultural fairs, apple and Christmas tree growers, forest products, honey producers, maple sugarhouses, specialty foods and more. Take a peek [here](#).



➡ Library Orientations



Library media specialists were pleased to open their libraries back up to students with several orientation events, including signing up for New Milford Public Library cards. The NMHS LLC will be celebrating Banned Books Week and Teen Read Week together from October 24th through October 28th with presentations and book talks. Mrs. Stiles, the NMHS Library Media Specialist, invites you to check out the [NMHS-LLC website](#) to see more. Better yet, she would welcome an additional parent volunteer or two to help with some LLC projects. Her phone number and email can be found on the website.

➡ NMHS Band Home Show



Photo courtesy of Kris Stewart

The NMHS Band Home Show is a chance for our talented high school band members to show off on their home field (which is now a state of the art turf field thanks to the New Milford community!). The show, which took place on September 24th, is part of the USBands competitive circuit for scholastic band programs nationwide. Over 700 high schools will participate in USBands events this fall. Our home competition featured performances from our award winning New Milford High School Marching Band and Color Guard, 11 high schools from the surrounding area in Connecticut, as well as a special performance by the University of New Haven Charger Marching Band. The night ended with a recognition ceremony for our 25 graduating seniors.

The NMHS Marching Band and Color Guard end their competitive season at the USBands New England Championships on October 29th and have also been accepted to perform in this year's Veterans Day Parade in New York City on November 11th.

➡ College and Post-Secondary Planning Events

The New Milford High School Counseling department hosts several events in the fall to start both students and parents thinking about college and post-secondary planning.

- ♦ **Financial Aid Night:** The Counseling department held its annual Financial Aid Night at the end of September. An information session packed with basic knowledge on how to pay for college and how to complete the FAFSA (FREE Application for Federal Student Aid) was presented by Julie Savino, Director of Financial Aid at Sacred Heart University. With the FAFSA application available online this year beginning on October 1st, it was certainly a timely event. If you were unable to attend, you can view the [power point presentation](#) on the NMHS website or check out updates at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ♦ **Senior Planning Night:** Senior year is an exciting time but it can also be stressful for students and parents balancing schoolwork, extracurricular activities and the college application process. Counselors began meeting with seniors during senior seminars in early September to help them get started and navigate their way through the college admission process. An informational evening was held on October 6th where counselors shared that information with parents as well.
- ♦ **College Visits:** The NMHS Career Center hosts admissions officers from many colleges throughout the country who come to talk to our students about their schools. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings (including parents). Students can view the list of colleges visiting and sign up through Naviance, the high school's college and career planning tool to which all students and parents have access. Curious? View list [here](#).
- ♦ **Overview of Family Connections/Naviance:** Interested parents joined the school counselors on October 20th for an introduction and overview to Family Connection from Naviance and how can use it throughout their child's high school career. Family Connection is a web based service designed especially for students and parents to help in making decisions about



courses, colleges, and careers. It is linked with Naviance Succeed, a service that school counselors use to track and analyze data about college and career plans, so it provides up-to-date information that is specific to our school.

- ♦ **Spring Events Still to Come:** Put a hold on your calendar for March 28th when all parents and students are invited to join the school counselors at 7:00 p.m. in the NMHS Theater for **College Planning Night**. Admission representatives from public and private colleges will present information on researching colleges, planning for standardized testing, components of the college application process and more will be presented followed by a Q&A session.
- ♦ The annual **College Fair** is planned for April 3rd from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the NMHS small and large arenas. Admission representatives from over 100 two and four year colleges will be available to answer questions, discuss specific majors, campus life, etc. A list of schools attending, in addition to a list of suggested questions for students to ask and tips on making the most out of the fair, will be given to students in advisories prior to attending the fair. The general public is also welcome.

➡ NMHS Homecoming

No fall would be complete without the celebration of NMHS Homecoming. Events add some fun to the student day (and evenings) while building class and school spirit.





NMHS SPIRIT WEEK
September 17th—24th

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Sat: 9/17: Homecoming Dance 7:00-10:00pm

Mon: 9/19: **Mismatch Monday**

Tues: 9/20: **Tacky Tourist/Hawaiian Day**

5:30pm Field Hockey vs. Watertown

Boys Soccer vs. Pomperaug 6:00pm

Swimming vs. Brookfield 7:00pm

Wed: 9/21: **Fictional Character Day**

Valleyball vs. Bunnell 5:30pm

Thur: 9/22: **American Day**

Girls Soccer vs. Masuk 4:00pm

Fri: 9/23: **Green White/ Sr. Toga Day—Pep Rally**

Football vs. Pomperaug 7:00pm

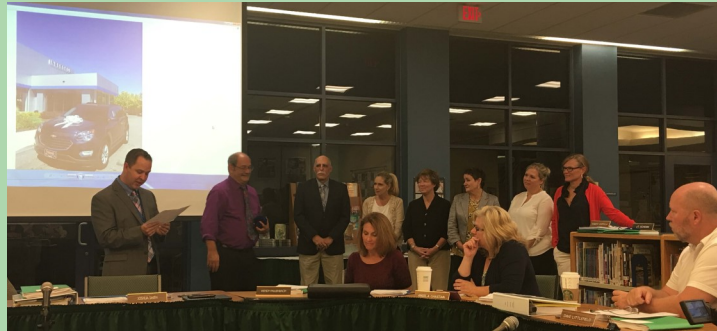
Swimming vs. Stratford 7:00pm

Sat: 9/24: Band Home Show 5:00-9:00pm



Congratulations to the New Milford Public School "Stars" for the month of October!

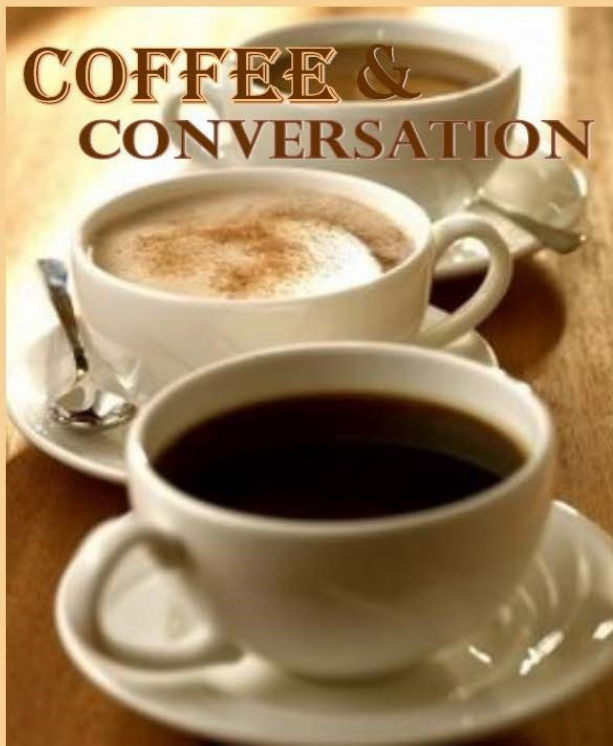
- ◆ Darcy Campbell
- ◆ Jane Danish
- ◆ Danette Lambiase
- ◆ Judy Larkin
- ◆ Kerry Schur
- ◆ Michael Tremmel



Supt. Joshua Smith and BOE Chair David Lawson prepare to congratulate October's NMPS Stars.

Special congratulations to Jane Danish who was randomly selected to drive the Ingersoll Auto of Danbury NMPS courtesy car for the month.

Don't forget to visit the district website to [submit your staff nomination](#) for November recognition.



What's on your mind?

Please join us for casual conversation with Superintendent of Schools Joshua Smith

**Wednesday, November 16, 2016
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Connecticut Room,
New Milford Public Library**

Can't join us but have a question or concern?

Call (860) 355-8406 or email:

suptoffice@newmilfordps.org



New Milford Public Schools

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

Mr. Joshua Smith
Superintendent

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Human Resources Director

Mr. Kevin Munrett
Facilities Manager

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

Board of Education

Mr. David A. Lawson
Chairperson

Mr. Bill Dahl
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Secretary

Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Assistant Secretary

Mrs. Angela C. Chastain

Mr. Robert Coppola

Mr. Dave Littlefield

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. J.T. Schemm

Make a Difference Day

October 22nd



Make a Difference Day evolved from an idea for a national day of service on February 29, 1992. Now, more than 25 years later, it is one of the largest annual single days of service nationwide. The day, held annually on the fourth Saturday every October, allows volunteers from around the nation to come together with a common mission: to improve the lives of others.

Here in New Milford our students make a difference throughout the year, engaging in a wide variety of community service projects. Two recent examples include the SMS Leo Club's participation in the Walk a Mile for Groceries to benefit New Milford's Food Bank on September 25th and NMHS DECA Club members walking and fundraising for the New Milford Hospital Diebold Family Cancer Center Walk & Run on October 15th.



AND...

If we are going to talk about making a difference, we would be remiss not to acknowledge our dedicated teachers and NMPS staff who strive every day to make a difference in the lives of their students.

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.

October brings