



New Milford Public Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406  
[www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org)



**New Milford High School**  
860-350-6647

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal  
Mr. Marc Balanda, Ass't. Principal  
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Ass't. Principal  
Dr. Christopher Longo, Ass't. Principal



**Schaghticoke Middle School**  
860-354-2204

Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal  
Mrs. Suzi Greene, Ass't. Principal



**Sarah Noble Intermediate School**  
860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Ass't. Principal  
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Ass't. Principal



**Hill & Plain Elementary School**  
860-354-5430

Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Ass't. Principal



**John Pettibone Elementary School**  
860-354-3218

Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Ass't. Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Ass't. Principal



**Northville Elementary School**  
860-355-3713

Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal

# Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 5, Issue 2

Back to School 2014



## Welcome back, we missed you!

The past week or so has seen the return to school of both students and staff alike. Students officially arrived on August 25th.

Staff started their year a few days ahead of time. Teachers and support staff spent August 19th settling in to their respective schools. August 20th and 21st were devoted to professional development. Assistant Superintendent Joshua Smith tells us that topics included work on curriculum and assessment, training in Math standards and in the new Social Studies standards, technology training, and preparation for New Milford High School's continued accreditation visit by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

August 22nd was highlighted by the annual all staff meeting. Superintendent of Schools JeanAnn C. Paddyfote officially greeted new and returning staff. Guest speaker Dr. Steve Sobel gave a dynamic presentation to the assembly regarding the power and passion of extraordinary educators in a time of rapid change. The event culminated with the announcement of New Milford's 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year, Northville Elementary School teacher Mrs. Connie Williams. Look inside to read more about this well deserving honoree.



Trumpeters from the NMHS band welcome New Milford Public Schools staff to the annual meeting on August 22nd.

Finally, this year we welcome thirty new staff members to the district. You can read a little bit about each one inside this month's *Spotlight on Staff* back to school issue.

## Introducing New Milford's 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year...



**Connie Williams**  
**Grade 2 Teacher**  
**Northville Elementary School**

Each year, parents, students and fellow staff members are invited to nominate a teacher for selection as New Milford's Teacher of the 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. A Selection Committee then considers all the nominees based on the following guidelines:

- ◆ Demonstrated ability to inspire enthusiasm and motivation for learning in students.
- ◆ Demonstrated use of effective teaching techniques, flexibility of style, innovation, and creativity.
- ◆ Caring relationships with students.
- ◆ Demonstrated commitment to continuing professional growth and development.
- ◆ Respect and admiration of students, colleagues, parents, and administration.
- ◆ Personal philosophy and goals.
- ◆ Ability to articulate ideas clearly.

This year, the Committee was pleased to select Mrs. Connie Williams as New Milford's 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year. Connie has worked at Northville Elementary School as a Grade 2 teacher since the fall of 2000. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Social Work from Bloomsburg State College in Bloomsburg, PA and a Master of Arts in Education from Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, CT. She also serves on the district's Professional Development Committee and has written Grade 2 curriculum on Reader's Workshop.

Connie said she was inspired to become a teacher while volunteering in her own daughter's second grade classroom. "I was supposed to be mixing salmon-colored paint with sand to create a concoction that would later be used by my daughter and her peers to slather onto shoeboxes, transforming them into Native American pueblos. Instead, my eyes were fixed on the illustrated page of the far-away book held open by the teacher, and

I was mesmerized by her changing tone and inflection as were the seven year olds sitting in front of her. In that moment, I knew that I wanted to do what she was doing ~ charming a group of children into loving books, and in turn, loving learning.”

Connie says that one of her greatest contributions to education is building community within and outside the classroom and fostering the home-school partnership. While Connie does not hesitate to call or email home to discuss difficult issues, she also reaches out to celebrate small milestones such as improved behavior, kindnesses shown, and other achievements. “Connecting to each one of my students is my top priority. I invest time to discover each child’s strengths and weaknesses, their interests, their passions, and their life’s circumstances outside the classroom. As an educator, my goal is not only to help students reach their full potential and to set them on the path of life-long learning, but also to learn how to be positive contributors to society.” To this end, Connie engages in many community activities which model for her students how to give back to others in small ways. Many of those commitments relate back to her work at school. “Each year my class makes casseroles for a local food bank, and we participate in a school food drive to benefit Loaves and Fishes. I encourage former students who attend Schaghticoke Middle School across the street to commit to volunteering in my classroom one day each week for an hour. I also assist with PTO sponsored events during the year which is fun for both me and my students.”

NES Principal Susan Murray praises Connie’s passion, knowledge and commitment to her students. Says Mrs. Murray, “Her students leave her classroom at the end of the year owning their learning; they talk about their thinking, exhibit respect for others’ viewpoints, and persevere when activities are challenging.” Superintendent JeanAnn C. Paddyfote agrees, “From the beginning of her teaching career in New Milford, Connie was recognized as someone with a gift for teaching. She has consistently created a learning environment that embraces the dignity and worth of each and every student.”

Connie says she never forgets that as a teacher she is entrusted to nurture and develop society’s greatest resource, the next generation of thinkers, problem solvers, contributors and compassionate individuals. “The greatest reward that I find in teaching is watching my students blossom as individuals and learners, seeing them excel in countless ways and knowing that their progress was made possible, in part, by the nurturing classroom environment that I facilitated. I understand that my influence will continue to make ripples in their lives extending well into the future.”

**Better than a thousand days of diligent study  
is one day with a great teacher.**

~ Japanese Proverb

# MEET NEW STAFF

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING ...



**Mr. Nestor Aparicio -**

Assistant Facilities Manager, District-wide

Mr. Aparicio received his BS from SUNY New Paltz in 2000. He has previously worked as a Program Director for the YMCA for five years and as a Project Assistant and Operations Manager for Residential Facilities Management at SUNY Purchase for seven years.

**Mrs. Tori Backer -**

Paraeducator, Northville Elementary School

Mrs. Backer received her AS in Early Childhood Education in 2009 and her BS in Exceptional Student Education in 2011, both from Florida College. She has previously worked as an inclusion counselor at a special needs camp, and as a substitute and elementary school teacher in Florida.



**Mr. Andrew Bimonte -**

Business Teacher, New Milford High School

Mr. Bimonte received his BS in Management of Sports Industries from the University of New Haven in 2006 and his MS in Business Education from the University of New Haven in 2011. He previously worked as a substitute teacher in North Haven CT, Wappinger Falls NY, and LaGrangeville NY.

**Mr. Michael Clyne -**

Data Coach, District-wide

Mr. Clyne received his BA in Sports Marketing from UConn in 2003 and his MAT in Elementary Education with a Technology Concentration from Sacred Heart University in 2006. He previously taught in Georgia for seven years.



**Ms. Kelsey Connolly -**

Speech Language Pathologist, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Ms. Connolly received her BA in Communications Science from UConn in 2006 and her MS in Communications from Southern CT State University in 2014. She comes to New Milford as a new graduate.





**Ms. Jane (Jenny) Cox -**

**English Teacher, New Milford High School**

Ms. Cox received her BA in History and Literature from Harvard University in 1984 and completed the Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) program in English in 2012. She has previously worked as a senior editor, an editorial consultant and as a staff reporter for The Ridgefield Press.

She has filled several long term teaching assignments in CT schools during the past several years.

**Mrs. Amy Crookshank -**

**Paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School**

Mrs. Crookshank received her BA in Psychology in 1994 from Quinnipiac College and is currently working on achieving teacher certification. Past experiences include work as a job coach for young adults with disabilities.



**Ms. Madilyn DaRos -**

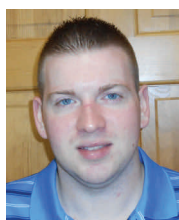
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School**

Ms. DaRos received her BS in Elementary Education from Keene State College in 2012. She served as a long term substitute in grade 5 at Sarah Noble Intermediate School in 2013.

**Mrs. Sara Del Mastro -**

**Biology Teacher, New Milford High School**

Mrs. Del Mastro received her BS in Biology from Sienna College in 1999, her MAT in Education from Sacred Heart University in 2001, and her 6<sup>th</sup> Year in Educational Leadership from Southern CT State University in 2010. Her previous experience includes working at Ansonia High School as a science teacher for eleven years, as Science department chair for seven years and as an instructional coach for fourteen years.



**Mr. Joe DiLeone -**

**Computer Tech II, District-wide**

Mr. DiLeone is currently enrolled in the Informational Technology program at Naugatuck Community College. He has previously worked as a communications contractor, an IT manager/draftsman, an AV engineer and as IT support for private industry. He worked as a part-time computer technician for the Seymour Board of Education for two years.

**Mrs. Rebecca Eannacony -**

**Paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School**

Mrs. Eannacony received her BA in Communications and Media from SUNY New Paltz in 1997 with a minor in Spanish. Her previous experiences include work as a teaching assistant.



**Mrs. Kristan Giroux -**

**Social Worker, New Milford High School and K-3 schools**

Mrs. Giroux received her BA in Sociology from Central CT State University in 1994 and her MSW in Social Work from Fordham University in 1998. She has previously worked with Education Connection, in a nursing and rehab center and as a clinical evaluator in the private sector. Most recently Mrs. Giroux was a long term substitute for New Milford Public Schools.

**Mrs. Randi Gray -**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School**

Mrs. Gray received her BA in Psychology from Western CT State University in 2004, her MA in Elementary Education from the University of Phoenix in 2006 and her MA in Psychology from Teacher's College of Columbia University in 2011. She previously worked as a teacher in the Arizona public schools, as a paraeducator substitute, as a research assistant, and as a tutor.



**Mrs. Jennifer Hankla -**

**Assistant Principal, Hill and Plain and John Pettibone Elementary Schools**

Mrs. Hankla comes to New Milford from the Ridgefield Public Schools where she has served as a Literary Specialist from 2005 to the present. Prior to that appointment, Mrs. Hankla spent 12 years as an elementary school teacher. Mrs. Hankla's educational background includes a BA in Elementary Education and Theatre & Speech from the College of William and Mary, an MA in Education with a concentration in Reading and English from the University of North Texas, a certification in Educational Leadership from Sacred Heart University and certification from the Advanced Alternative Preparation Program for Literary Specialists from Albertus Magnus College.

**Ms. Florence Hottes -**

**Custodian, Sarah Noble Intermediate School**

Ms. Hottes will be working as a night custodian at Sarah Noble Intermediate School. Her previous work experiences include work as a deli manager and office manager.



**Mr. Jay Hubelbank -****Director of Fiscal Services and Operations, District-wide**

Mr. Hubelbank's thirty years of experience in public education have provided him with an extensive background in finance, budgeting, facilities management, union negotiations, student transportation and food services management. He comes to New Milford from Education Connection where he served as Director of Finance and Operations for three years. Previously, Mr. Hubelbank served as Director of Finance and Operations for Regional School District #14 for four years, as Director of Fiscal Services for the Bethel Public Schools for three years, and as Director of Finance and Operations for the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 Boards of Education for five years. His educational background includes a BA in History with a Minor in Secondary Education from Waynesburg College in Pennsylvania and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of New Haven. He holds a professional educator certificate as a School Business Administrator.

**Ms. Heather Kiszka -****Secretary to the Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School**

Ms. Kiszka received her BA in Marketing & Management from Manhattanville College in 2006. She has previously worked in customer service, sales and hospitality management.

**Mrs. Kathleen Lewis -****Receptionist/Attendance Clerk, Sarah Noble Intermediate School**

Mrs. Lewis attended Simmons Secretarial School. She has previously worked as a secretary and administrative assistant in the private sector.

**Mrs. Eileen McDougal -****Kindergarten Teacher, Northville Elementary School**

Mrs. McDougal received her BS in Elementary Education from State University College in NY in 1992 and her MS in Remedial Reading from the University of Bridgeport in 1998. She has worked extensively in the New Milford Public Schools for the past five years as a substitute teacher, instructional tutor, and long-term substitute teacher.

**Ms. Elizabeth Mott -****Paraeducator, New Milford High School**

Ms. Mott received her BA in Psychology from Ashford University in 2012. Past experiences include work as a camp counselor and preschool teacher. She has worked as a substitute teacher and paraeducator.



**Mrs. Barbara Nanassy -**

**Assistant Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School**

Mrs. Nanassy comes to New Milford from the Brookfield Public Schools where she has worked since 1998 first as a Grade 2 teacher and most recently as a Grade 5 Math & Literacy teacher and as Building Coordinator for SRBI (Scientific Research-Based Interventions). Her educational background includes a BA in Communications from Houghton College, a Master of Education in Reading from Saint Joseph College and her 6th year degree in Advanced Studies in Administration from Sacred Heart University.



**Mrs. Shannon Panetta -**

**Special Education Teacher, Northville Elementary School**



Mrs. Panetta received her BS from UConn in Nutrition in 2002, her M.Ed. in Elementary Education from Eastern CT State University in 2008 with additional credits for Special Education in 2014. She has previously worked as a building substitute and paraprofessional in Vernon, Hartford, Ellington and Berlin Public Schools.

**Mr. Rory Perry -**

**English Interventionist/SAP Prep Teacher, New Milford High School**

Mr. Perry received his BA in English and his MA in Teaching/English from Fordham University in 1998 and 2000 respectively. He has his 6th year degree in Educational Leadership from SCSU. Mr. Perry has worked previously in schools in Hartford, Newtown, and New Fairfield CT and in Tennessee.



**Ms. Nicole Scalzo -**

**Computer Tech I, Hill and Plain and John Pettibone Elementary Schools**

Ms. Scalzo received her Information Technology certification from Ridley Lowell in 2013. She has worked as a part-time technology contract worker for the New Milford Public Schools in the past year.

**Mrs. Mariann Schirizzo -**

**Health Teacher, K-6 schools**

Mrs. Schirizzo received her BS in Music Education from Concordia College in 1994; her MA in PE and Sports Pedagogy from Manhattanville College in 2010 and has additional credits in school health education. Her previous work includes work as a private school music teacher, a supervisor of a fitness club, program manager and fitness trainer, and as a charter school PE and health teacher in New York.







**Mrs. Kathleen Sokolowski -**

**Special Education Teacher, New Milford High School**

Mrs. Sokolowski received her BA in Human Development from Boston College in 1982 and has additional coursework for Special Education certification. She has previously worked as a paraprofessional, testing coordinator and Special Education teacher in Texas schools.

**Mrs. Robin Stiles -**

**Library Media Specialist, New Milford High School**

Mrs. Stiles received her BA in Elementary Education from Grove City College in 1977, and her MLS from Southern CT State University in 1997. She previously worked as a Library Media Specialist in New Jersey and Connecticut schools and for the New Milford Public Schools from 1997-2001.



**Mr. Manny Teixeira -**

**Custodian, Hill and Plain Elementary School**

Mr. Teixeira will be working as a night custodian at Hill and Plain Elementary School. He is a graduate of Henry Abbott Technical School. His previous work experience includes positions as a lead technician and in maintenance management.

**Mrs. Laurie Thornton -**

**Business Office Secretary, Central Office**

Mrs. Thornton received her BFA from Syracuse University in 1978. She has previously worked as an art director in the private sector and she has been a substitute secretary in the New Milford Public Schools for the past eighteen years.



**Mrs. Catherine Westervelt -**

**Secretary to the Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School**

Mrs. Westervelt attended the State University of New York in Farmingdale. She has previously worked in real estate and office management.

**A Heartfelt Welcome to all the new staff  
and best wishes for a productive, successful year!**

## Sit Down with the Superintendent



**Morning, Noon or Night—  
you pick the time that works for you!**

*Would you like to sit down with  
Superintendent JeanAnn C. Paddyfote  
to discuss district happenings or ask questions?*

**Please consider attending one or more of the informal sessions  
planned for this school year; times vary to  
accommodate busy schedules:**

**September 24, 2014  
7:30 a.m. to 8:15 p.m.**

**October 22, 2014  
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**November 12, 2014  
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**January 14, 2015  
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
(Snow date February 4, 2015)**

**March 18, 2015  
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**May 20, 2015  
7:30 a.m. to 8:15 p.m.**

**All sessions will be held in the Lillis Administration  
Building Boardroom at 50 East Street.**



## New Milford Public Schools

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

**Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote**  
Superintendent

**Mr. Joshua Smith**  
Assistant Superintendent

**Ms. Ellamae Baldelli**  
Human Resources Director

**Mr. John Calhoun**  
Facilities Manager

**Mr. Jay Hubelbank**  
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

**Mrs. Daniele Shook**  
Chairperson

**Mr. Dave Littlefield**  
Vice Chairperson

**Mrs. Angela C. Chastain**  
Secretary

**Mrs. Theresa Volinski**  
Assistant Secretary

**Mr. Robert Coppola**

**Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach**

**Mr. David A. Lawson**

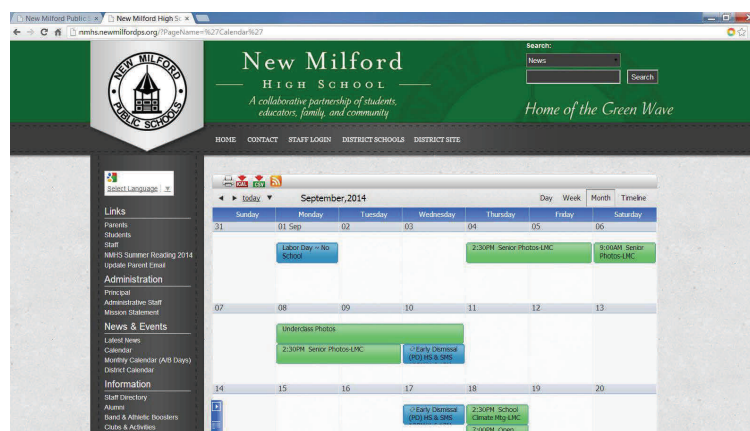
**Mr. David R. Shaffer**

**Mr. John W. Spatola**

## The Return of Busy Schedules!

Back to school oftentimes means the return to busy schedules as parents struggle to keep up with the family's after school activities as well as those a regular school day brings.

To keep track of special school events, don't forget to visit our [district website](#) to view school calendars.



If you are looking for help with organizing your family's schedule there are lots of free or inexpensive apps designed to help, just search family schedule. Here are just a few we found:

*Cozi Family Organizer*: Shared Calendar, Shopping Lists, To Do Lists – This free app won the 2012 Appy Award for the Best Family/Parenting app and has received the National Parenting Seal of Approval for four consecutive years.

*Glympse*: Part of managing the schedules of each member of your family is knowing where they are at any given time. With this free app, you can share your location to let family members know when you're running late and when you're on time.

*Chore Hero Lite*: designed to answer the question "Who's turn is it to do this chore today?" You can assign a chore to various people on different days, or if you like things a little more exciting, let the app pick a person at random each time.

Prefer the old paper and pencil calendar?

Try one clever mom's idea and hang your family calendar on the bathroom mirror where everyone is sure to see it!

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.

Back to school means