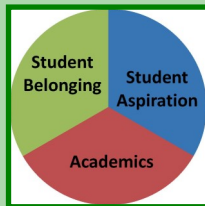




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



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
Mrs. Sasha Salem, 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 9

March 2020

NMPS Community – Working Together

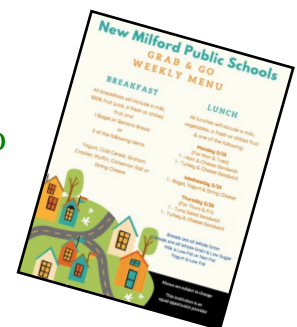
What a strange few weeks it's been!

NES started March celebrating their community-wide Read Across America Day, while SNIS held a First Friday Food Drive to benefit the community food bank.



Not long after, Dr. Parker began sending almost daily emails updating district families and staff regarding the district's response to the mitigation of COVID-19, starting with preventive efforts, event cancellations, parent/teacher conferences by telephone, and finally the closing of all schools as of March 13.

Following that closure, the district turned its focus to how best to support our families and staff. Dr. Parker has tried to keep all stakeholders informed through emails, website postings and Twitter. Links to learning and mental health resources have been shared. [Camella's Cupboard](#) stepped forward to provide food to any family in need. They continue their efforts with drive-up weekend bags every Friday evening at NMPS Central Offices, 50 East Street. On Monday, March 23, the NMPS Food Services department began providing FREE Breakfast and Lunch for any student (18 and under) in need every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. These Grab and Go meals are distributed at Sarah Noble Intermediate School without the need to leave your vehicle. Follow this link for more information or to pre-order [Grab and Go](#).



To prepare for distance learning, our Technology department surveyed all families regarding their access to devices. Since then, the department has distributed over 500 Chromebooks to families in need. On

March 23, Dr. Parker emailed the district's [Distance Learning Plan](#) to all families, prior to students' start date of March 25. As stated in the Plan, "The next few weeks will certainly bring challenges for everyone, however, we are confident that our team of dedicated, talented teachers, administration and staff can make distance learning a success for all of our students. Our continued success lies in our ability to work collaboratively as a school system with students and families."



As Dr. Parker stated in one of her many emails, "We have worked tirelessly to create and mobilize a plan that will embody all of our staff as well as all of our district families. It hasn't been easy, charting these unprecedented waters, and we know that distance learning will be a challenge for all of us. We are here to help."

To that end, please reach out if you need assistance. In these evolving days, our New Milford Public Schools mission statement seems particularly apt:

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.

Resources for Information and Assistance

Our district website: www.newmilfordps.org.

From the home page, you can go to individual schools as well.

Follow us on Twitter:

@NMHS_CT

@SMS_CT

@SNIS_CT

@NES_CT

@HPS_CT

@nmpps_supt

For individual school questions,
principal email addresses are listed below:

Mr. Greg Shugrue, New Milford High School shugrueg@newmilfordps.org

Dr. Chris Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School longoc@newmilfordps.org

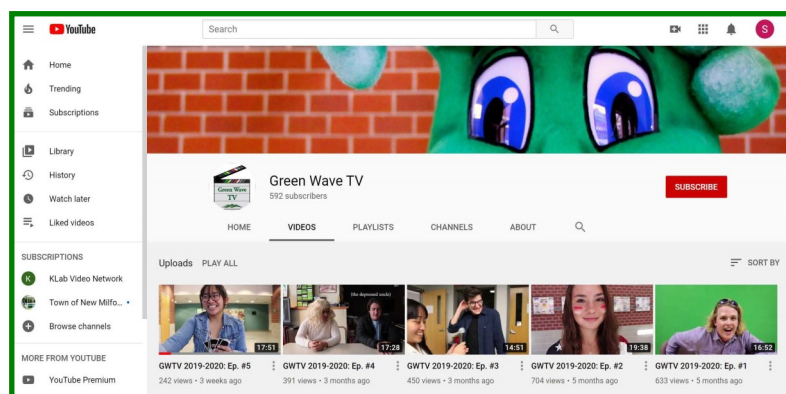
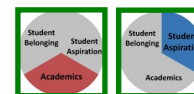
Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School bilkoa@newmilfordps.org

Mr. Eric Williams, Hill and Plain Elementary School williamse@newmilfordps.org

Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Northville Elementary School gallagherg@newmilfordps.org

For general questions,
suptoffice@newmilfordps.org

Green Wave TV on YouTube



Looking for something to do while home practicing social distancing? Watch New Milford High School's own Green Wave TV on YouTube.

NMHS teacher Alessandro Amenta teaches the class that produces these entertaining videos. We asked him how the skits are developed. "In my Advanced Video Production class, we will sit down

(usually) at the start of every month and brainstorm ideas. I tell students to think about what is going on in school that month that we can cover (talent show, concerts, dances, etc.) but also to think creatively and come up with skits that are either relevant to what is happening in the school, community, or world in terms of news, trends, pop culture, etc. I allow the students to follow their own interests and styles, though if some students struggle to come up with a segment I will assign them one."

Segments fall in one of the three categories: informative, promotional, or entertainment. After brainstorming, students get into small groups and start to draft and outline their idea. After they turn that outline in and Mr. Amenta checks it, they write the complete screenplay which he then reads and makes notes on. Once the students' screenplay is approved, they are able to film their segment and edit it. The whole process is a lot of time and effort and usually takes about a month.

We think you'll agree that the work is worth it! Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nmhsgreenwavetv/videos>



To NMHS All School Musical Ticket Holders

Like so many other wonderful events, *The Addams Family* musical is postponed indefinitely.

If you purchased an advanced ticket, you have the following options:

1. Ask for a Refund
2. Exchange Tickets for new performance date (to be determined)
3. Make a Donation

Please email your preference to

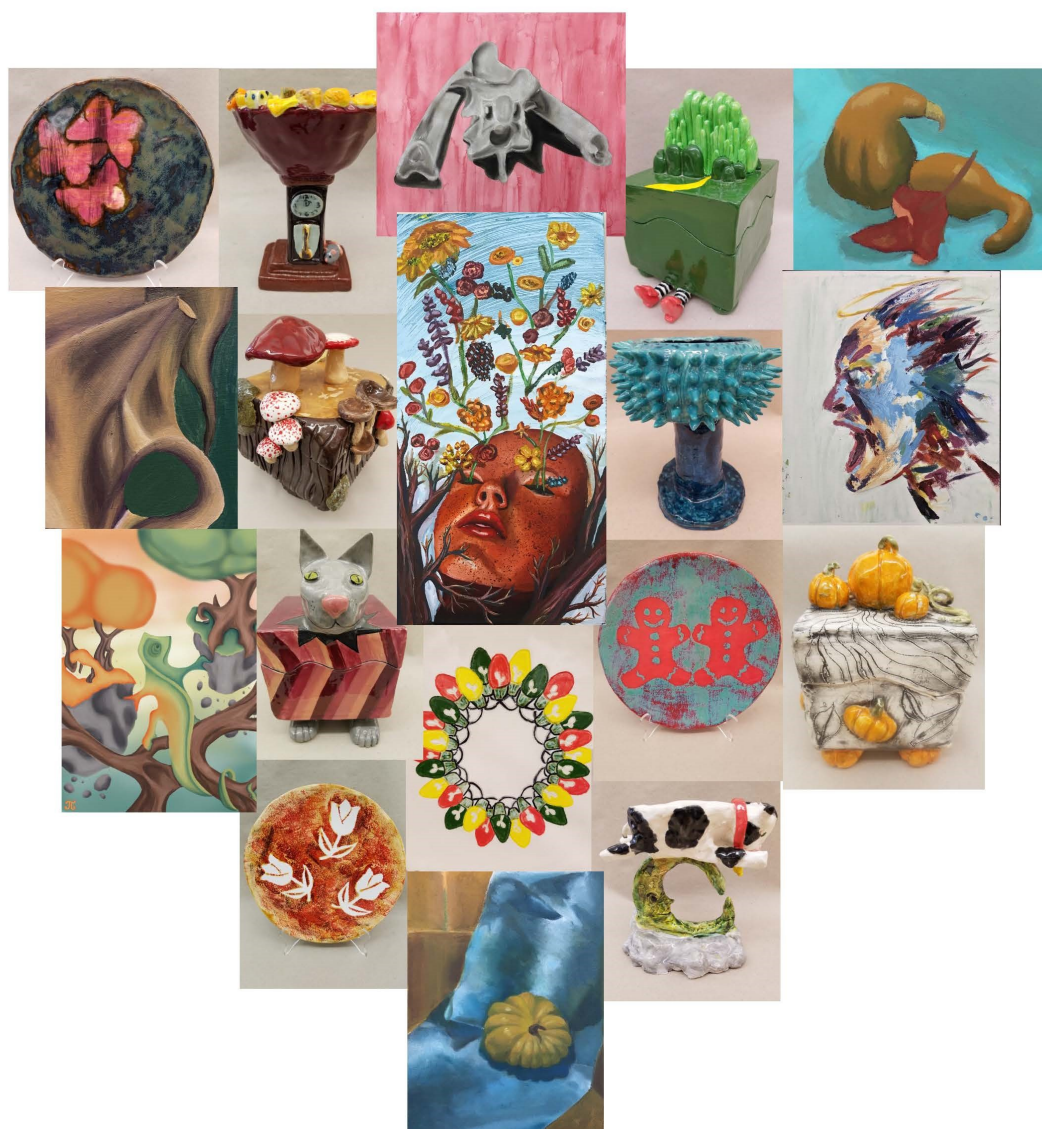
allschoolmusicalnmhs@gmail.com



Artists on the Rise

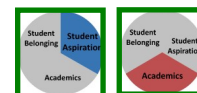
A record number of 26 New Milford High School students were recently granted entry into the Brookfield Craft Center's fifth annual juried student art show. The show is open to all high school student artists in the Greater Danbury area who design and create their own work in any of the following categories: Clay/Ceramic, Photography, Fiber, Glass, Jewelry, Mixed Media (2D), Mixed Media (3D), Painting, Drawing, Metal, Wood, Video. Participating NMHS students are from Ceramics I and II classes, as well as the AP Studio Art class.

Congratulations to the artists, some of whose work is featured below: Morgan Colp, Kenna Gavel, Susan Hackett, Dylan Heydet, Lily Hutchinson, Jess Learson, Tia Makowicki, Madisyn Martinelli, Matheus Martins, Emma Moore, Aiden Mulligan Brown, Hannah Murphy, Kyle Paist, Justin Pasato, Julia Botelho, Colleen Ryan, Mya Sheehan, Jillian Smith, Sopier Soeum, Andrew Sypko, Jack Teplica, Allie Thomas, Sania Toprani, Evelyn Toth, Isabel Vazquez and Olivia Zeitler.



NMHS DECA Club State Conference 2020

On March 4th, the New Milford High School DECA (Distributive Education Club of America) members traveled to the Aqua Turf in Plantsville for the Connecticut State DECA Competition.



DECA prepares emerging business leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high school and colleges around the globe. Students compete in a formal setting on the state level and gain experience with academic competition as well as professional behavior and expectations. The competitions enhance the preparation for college and careers by providing programs that integrate into the classroom. Students use knowledge, skills and applications learned in the classroom to demonstrate their knowledge of the subject. The state competition is a way they can demonstrate their skills in developing business plans, communication, interviewing, and interpersonal skills. Students also have opportunity to earn college scholarships when competing at state and national levels.

The members competed with 1,100 students from around the state. Our DECA members had an impressive showing by placing in the following events.

- Independent Business Plan Team**
 Third place: Abigail Mars, Isabella Damiano
- Start-up Business Plan**
 Second place: Mackenzie Brady and Owen Arias
- Franchise Business Plan Team Event**
 Second place: Mykenzee Baier, Kallie Johnson, Madison Martinelli
- Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making**
 Fifth place: Jack Cossari, John Comaskey



Wingmen Take Flight



The November *Spotlight* reported that the Wingman Program was coming to New Milford High School. The Wingman movement was started by Ian Hockley, whose son Dylan was killed in the shooting at Sandy Hook. Wingman is a student led program that focuses on social emotional learning with the goals of teaching students to be more empathetic and inclusive. Mr. Hockley gave an overview of the program to all high school students in assemblies on November 14, and offered a community workshop at night. Interested students trained as leaders in December and January.

The first school-wide Wingman Activity Day was held at NMHS on February 26th. The school, including both students and staff, were divided into randomized groups for activities designed to encourage new connections. Wingman provided activities included Domino Partners, Empathy Cards, and Handshake Mingle. Assistant Principal Linda Scoralick called the day a success, "It seemed like a lot of people got to talk and meet new people. It was a unique experience, and I think people will enjoy it and remember it."

Assistant Principal Kevin Best talked about the program going forward, "With this program we hope to improve the sense of belonging and community that our staff and students feel here at NMHS. We are hopeful that as a community we will learn to follow the program's mantra to *Look up, Look out and Look after* each other."



Kindness is Always in Season

At the beginning of the month, NMHS SADD Club members sponsored a Kindness Week where they engaged students during lunch waves to think about kindness and what it looks like in action. Some of the responses are highlighted below. Something to think about these days for sure.

"Say thank you, even for the small things."

"Listen and offer support."

"Help your parents."

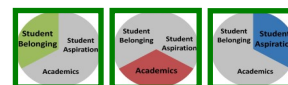
"Compliment someone every day."

"Smile and lend a helping hand."

"Remind people that they matter."



SNIS Kids Heart Challenge



Students at Sarah Noble raised **\$16,046.97** (over their goal of \$12,000) in three weeks during The Kid's Heart Challenge for the American Heart Association. Students celebrated in Physical Education class with a variety of jump roping activities and challenges.

SNIS then held an all school assembly where the "Top 10" earners got to slime SNIS Physical Education teachers Mrs. Brooks and Mr. Mumma. Mrs. O'Loughlin's 3rd grade class raised \$1,026 (Top earning class) and Mrs. Durkin's 3rd grade class was a close second raising \$953. In total, more than 260 students join the SNIS team to collect donations. Great job!



Children and adolescents need at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). If possible, make a point to get your kids and yourself outside a couple times a day, even if it's only for 20-30 minutes at a time. Consider these "recess" or "lunch breaks" that you schedule every day. As a bonus, research shows that daily time for kids outdoors also boosts the health and well-being of the adults in their lives.



New Milford Public Schools

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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

Mr. Brandon Rush
Technology Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

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Board Appreciation Month



Thank you to Board of Education members
Angela Chastain, Joseph Failla, Wendy Faulenbach,
Pete Helmus, Brian McCauley, Tammy McInerney,
Eileen Monaghan, Cynthia Nabozny and Olga Rella
for your volunteer service
to the New Milford Public Schools family.
Your dedication both behind the scenes and
out in the New Milford community
is sincerely appreciated.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In this time of social distancing,
New Milford Board of Education meetings
will be held by teleconference.
Notices of meetings will be posted
with the Town of New Milford
and on the district website.
Call-in directions will be included on all agendas.
Inquiries to the Board may be emailed to
BOE@newmilfordps.org

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