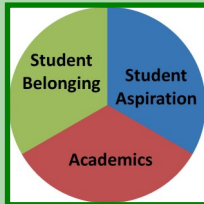




New Milford Public Schools
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www.newmilfordps.org



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
Mr. Michael Rafferty, Interim 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. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 11, Issue 10

April 2021

All Schools Are ALL IN!!

It was a long time coming! New Milford Public Schools opened to ALL IN Learning for all students district-wide on April 26th. Our PK-2 schools started the party on March 1st, with SNIS following on March 15th. SMS and NMHS students returned in full on April 26th. The openings were rolled out gradually to provide opportunities to plan and gather feedback to ensure a safe reopening for all.



Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo says, "I am elated that as a district we have successfully transitioned our students back to full in-person learning PK-12! As a community we recognize that the schools provide a much needed space for students to see friends and have a network of support, learn alongside their teachers, and to experience opportunities that will lead them to discover their passions. As a school district, we are grateful that a full return was possible this year for all of these reasons.

Planning and executing this level of preparation and readiness truly takes a village. I'd like to personally thank all of the members of my Central Office Cabinet for their support of the schools, the building administration, the Board of Education, parents, teachers, nurses, staff, the Health Director and School Medical Advisor, as well as our community partners, for helping us to make this a reality."

New Teacher of the Year Program

For several years now the district Teacher of the Year Committee, comprised of former Teachers of the Year, our Superintendent and Human Resources Director, has discussed ideas for transforming the process of selecting New Milford's annual Teacher of the Year. The committee's desire was to expand the program and provide an opportunity for more teachers to be honored for their exemplary work and dedication to students, families, and colleagues. Their vision is for one teacher from each school to be chosen as that school's Teacher of the Year. From this group, one teacher will then be chosen to represent the district at the state level for Connecticut's Teacher of the Year.

According to the CT Department of Education's website, "The Teacher of the Year Program recognizes and honors teacher excellence. It does not attempt to select the 'best' teacher; rather, to identify, from among many outstanding teachers of the year, one teacher to serve as a visible and vocal representative of what is best in the profession. The program celebrates excellence in teaching by recognizing teachers who have inspired a love for learning in their students and who have distinguished themselves in the profession."

Beginning the last week of April and continuing through May 7th, staff, parents, and students are invited to nominate staff members that they believe show excellence in teaching. The nomination form has been streamlined to encourage more participation by all stakeholders. Announcements will be made in early June as Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo, along with members of the committee, will surprise each school's Teacher of the Year with a bouquet of flowers and the official announcement. Each Teacher of the Year from all five schools will then be given an opportunity to move forward as a nominee for the district's Teacher of the Year. We are excited to be changing and re-energizing the Teacher of the Year process to showcase more of our talented and dedicated educators!

Submit your nomination by completing and returning the form found [here](#) or by completing the online Google Form at <https://forms.gle/17GwiMc3wHLju9nC6>.

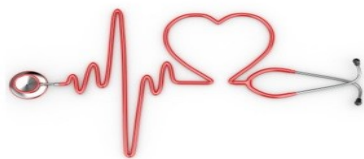


Susan Brofford
NMPS Teacher of the Year
2020-21



??????

To see a listing of past Teachers of the Year, click [here](#).



Notes from the School Nurses

The school year of 2020-21 is quickly coming to a close. As the COVID-19 restrictions for the public are loosening, keeping our children well and safe in school is our top priority.

What prevention strategies need to be maintained in our schools:

- Keep your child home if they are not feeling well!
- WEAR A MASK
- Social distancing (6 feet apart when possible)
- Frequent hand washing

COVID-19 vaccine - Consult your child's health care provider on the COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine is currently available for persons 16 years and older and will soon be available for those 12 years and older.

Quarantine guidance*: If a person is exposed to a positive case (person testing positive for COVID-19) within 90 days of their own positive test result **and** does not have symptoms, they do not need to quarantine.

Those who are fully vaccinated and without symptoms also do not need to quarantine if exposed to a positive case.

People are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

Please provide documentation to your child's school nurse if your child has had a positive COVID-19 test and/or COVID-19 vaccine.

New Milford Public Schools continues to use the 10 day quarantine period for individuals who are close contacts of a positive case. A negative test result will not shorten their quarantine.

*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

*If you have any questions or concerns,
please reach out to your child's school nurse anytime!*



Congratulations to the New Milford Public Schools "Stars" for the month of April 2021!



Alessandro Amenta, NMHS English Teacher

"Mr. Amenta goes above and beyond for his students in his classes and in the NMHS Theatre Program. In this particularly challenging year, Mr. Amenta has devoted himself to creating artistic experiences for our students both in Green Wave TV and this year's All-School Musical production."

Donna Difabbio, NES Tutor

"Miss Donna is exceptional. My four year-old often comes home telling me about how she was his buddy helping him with his Excel projects. She is patient while encouraging independence, has a great sense of humor, and always makes the kids feel loved."



Amy D'Orio, SMS English Teacher

"My daughter is on full remote so the teachers have had to really adapt and go above and beyond to connect. Amy has taken the time to really get to know our daughter, who loves to read and write. From special book recommendations, and challenging critiques of our girl's writing, to encouraging her to enter a writing contest, and especially the creation of a writers' group and a book club, our kiddo has grown so much as a writer and as a reader during this time. More importantly, she has been able to use school during a difficult time to make some meaningful social connections with like-minded students and teachers, and that is certainly the best, and most important thing we could ask for this school year."

Danielle Kiser, NMHS Special Education Teacher

"Danielle is an amazing teacher that works tirelessly to make sure her students are successful. Her flexible and easy going nature meets the challenges that we face with an array of students. I can really tell that she cares about everybody that learns and works in her classroom!"



Tammy Siegle, SNIS Library Clerk

"Tammy's dedication to the students at SNIS is superb! She goes above and beyond to assist students with their library books, including helping them find books in the library, putting books on hold and checking them out. Tammy loves her job and it shows every day."

Christine Zona, SNIS Grade 5 Teacher

"Mrs. Zona is kind and engaging. She has high expectations for each student and approaches each of their lessons to bring out their best effort. She provides clear directions and utilizes various modes of instruction providing multiple ways for students to reach mastery of skills. She has navigated this school year with flexibility while providing routine and a sense of normalcy to students."



[Complete a short online form](#) to nominate a New Milford Public Schools staff member for future recognition.

News from Our Schools

Hill and Plain Elementary School

To start off the month of April, students were hard at work taking their MAP assessments for the final time this year and then got a well deserved spring break. The week after spring break, our staff and students had our last scheduled remote learning week. Even though students were not in the building, teachers worked hard to create lessons that were fun and engaging. It was enjoyable to jump into different remote classes and see students interacting with each other and their teachers. Thank you to parents and caregivers who supported our students at home and at daycares, during what is hopefully our last remote week of the school year.

*A reminder to any family who has a child that will be attending kindergarten next school year, you can register your child now online [here](#), or call the school for more information.

Northville Elementary School

The students and staff at Northville Elementary School have certainly enjoyed the warmer spring weather and April was a very busy month! The NES PTO generously provided permanent awnings outside so that students and staff can enjoy more time (you guessed it!) outdoors - even if the weather doesn't cooperate (April showers bring May flowers after all). Here, the students are already enjoying the temporary awnings! Once the permanent ones are in place, they will be a nice addition to our usable outdoor space, especially for gym classes and mask breaks, here at Northville. We love having our students back in person full-time. The school community feels both vibrant and happy. It's lovely to be greeted each morning by the smiling faces of all our returning students! We continue to keep our safety protocols in place and have established a few new routines that are going smoothly (such as staggered lunch and recess times).



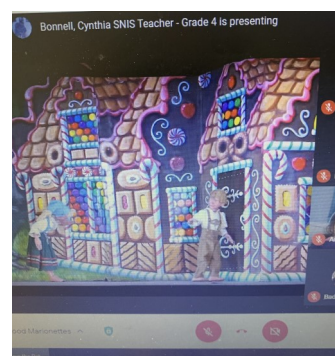
On Monday, April 5, students and staff at Northville recognized Autism Awareness Day by wearing blue to show support. We do morning announcements every day LIVE on twitter. We go over our CARES expectations (Cooperate, Act Responsibly, Respect, Encourage and Safety). After the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, we ask a math question (math Monday!), relay a weird fact (wacky Wednesday!) or tell a funny joke (Funny Friday!). Morning announcements are a great way to connect with our remote learners. They are often comically unpredictable, and laughter is such a nice way to start the school day. The week of April 26th, we warmly welcome new Assistant Principal Kerry Adakonis to NES.

Please remember Kindergarten registration is ongoing. If you know of a family with a child who will turn five by December 31, 2021 please ask them to visit the district website for [registration information](#).

Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Tanglewood Marionettes “Visit” SNIS

On April 8th, third grade students at Sarah Noble enjoyed a virtual performance of the classic fairytale, “Hansel and Gretel” by the Tanglewood Marionettes. In-person students viewed the performance in their classrooms on the SMARTBoard and remote learners joined via Google Meet. Students learned about how the Marionettes were created, what it is like being a “puppeteer”, as well as heard about the process of creating the performance (which took over a year!). Students shared positive feedback and asked great questions. They were especially amazed by the action of the characters and the scenery changes.



SNIS Annual Food Drive

Students at SNIS participated in a food drive to support the town’s Food Bank located at John Pettibone Community Center. This two-week event was the first of two food drives that will benefit our town’s children and their families. The second part of this initiative will take place at the end of this month when students and their families will collect items that are needed at Camella’s Cupboard. This local organization provides year-round hunger relief to children, seniors, and other vulnerable populations in the Greater New Milford, CT community without bias.

This effort is related to one of the four concepts taught to all SNIS children in the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Program. These concepts are Courage, Gratitude, Compassion in Action, and Forgiveness. The food drives give our students and their families an opportunity to show their compassion for others through their actions!



The success of this food drive was the result of a collaboration involving all SNIS students and their families, students from the Litchfield Hills Transition Center, and students from New Milford High School who volunteered to transport the food to the Food Bank. The high school volunteers included Tim Bensema, Amy Passero, Jessica Baranowski, Shannon Plamer, and RJ Harkin. A total of 1873 items were donated and delivered this week!

We are grateful for the generosity of all those who contributed food and to those who helped to package and deliver these items. The Food Drive initiative was organized by Becky Passero, a paraeducator at SNIS, and Dr. Len Tomasello (“Dr.T”) who teaches the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Program at SNIS and at SMS. We appreciate the support of all the staff and families at SNIS.

Schaghticoke Middle School

Grade 6 math students in Mrs. Tauber’s class have created their own Algebra Assessment following a rubric. They presented creative google forms, docs and also handwritten assessments with excellent algebraic equations. Mrs. Tauber is incredibly proud of these accomplishments.

Grade 6 students had a virtual visit from Brian Montgomery and Christina Speciale, lead meteorologists from the Albany National Weather Service. Brian and Christina discussed who the National Weather Service actually is and covered topics relating to weather forecasts, climate change and the difference between weather vs. climate.

Grade 8 students had a virtual field trip with Shawn Dahl, a forecaster at the Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado. Shawn presented information about the sun, space weather, the impacts of space weather, and the solar cycle. Some very interesting stuff for our young scientists!

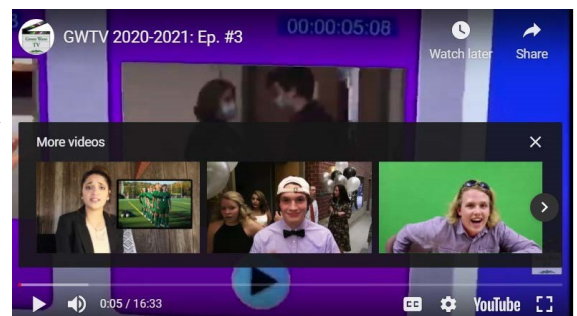
Also in Grade 8 science, students are researching dramatic events in the Earth’s 4.6 billion year old history to create a geologic and biologic timeline in SMS’s long hallways.

New Milford High School

Latest Episode of Green Wave TV Released!

Our newest episode of Green Wave TV is out now! This episode features a tour of the haunted Harden House museum in Harrybrooke Park, a behind the scenes look at the 2021 All-School Musical production of The Addams Family, a trailer for a new TikTok musical, and a makeup tutorial.

<https://youtu.be/jaRH7puscCo>



Signing Day

Over the course of this school year, New Milford High School has held multiple signing day ceremonies for our Student-Athletes. We would like to congratulate the following student-athletes who have signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level!

- Amanda Neeb will be joining the Swim Team at the University of Buffalo in NY
- Sam Tarrant will be joining the Track and Field Team at Bryant University in RI
- Emma Padros will be joining the Swim Team at Rowan University in NJ

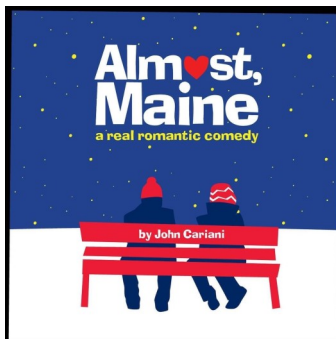
- Collin Farr will be joining the Football Team at UMASS-Dartmouth in MA
- Julia Cascone will be joining the Soccer team at Clarkson University in NY



Free National Honor Society Tutoring is Available

Does your high school student need help in a class? The National Honor Society is ready to tutor! NHS students can tutor in school during study halls or online via video calls. Check with the Career Center for details.

NMHS Spring Play



NMHS Theatre will be producing one last show before the year is over! In addition to the All School Musical production of *The Addams Family* that starts streaming May 14th, audiences will have the chance to see the play *Almost, Maine* in June. *Almost, Maine*—a romantic comedy—is a series of short plays about the residents of a fictional remote town in Maine called “Almost.” Each scene happens at exactly 9:00 PM on a winter Friday night just as the Northern Lights appear in the sky. Just as the northern lights are created as a result of molecules in the magnetosphere becoming excited by solar winds, the people of *Almost, Maine* find themselves momentarily excited by love. At times realistic and at times absurd, *Almost, Maine* is mostly very funny and sometimes dramatic. We are excited to produce this show and hopeful that we can have some sort of live audience for this production. Performances are scheduled for Friday, June 11th at 7 PM, Saturday, June 12th at 2 PM, and Saturday, June 12th at 7 PM. More information coming soon.

NMHS Music Students Shine

CMEA News

The Connecticut Music Educators Association provides programs and activities for professional educators and students striving to enhance the quality of music education in the state. This year CMEA held virtual auditions for their annual student performance festivals. New Milford High School had 15 students participate in the Northern Region Festival auditions. These students worked independently over the course of several months preparing a solo for the audition. The following students were selected to participate in the CMEA Northern Region Festival and the Connecticut All State Festival based on their performance. Being selected to the Connecticut All State Festival is the highest honor a music student can achieve in the state. Congratulations to all of our music students!



CMEA Northern Region Festival

Matthew Comfort – Band
 Hank Runyan – Band
 Hannah Spinner – Band
 Kelsey Stewart – Band
 Terrell Williams – Band
 Cory Woolley – Band
 Jason Zimmitti – Band
 Ian McNulty – Choir
 Diya Sukumaran – Choir
 Isabelle Bergman – Orchestra
 Riley Mahlke – Jazz Band

Connecticut All State Festival

Terrell Williams – Band
 Cory Woolley – Band
 Ian McNulty – Choir
 Diya Sukumaran – Choir
 Riley Mahlke – Jazz Band

NMHS Winter Percussion Success



The New Milford High School Winter Percussion ensemble was selected as a Semi-Finalist for a Winter Guard International (WGI) virtual competition at the end of March. WGI is the world's premier organization for indoor color guard, winds and percussion competitions. The Winter Percussion ensemble consists of marching percussion, also called the battery, and the front ensemble, also called the pit. The group combines elements of musical performance, marching and theatrics together to bring the story of their show to life. This year's show was called Escaping 51 where a group of aliens, the battery, were trying to escape from the scientists, the front ensemble, who were holding them captive. Winter Percussion ended their season with a live performance for friends and family. Congratulations to our students on a great season! Click [here](#) to watch the full show!



Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/abbqeTRnY>

*See flyers for links
and registration information.*

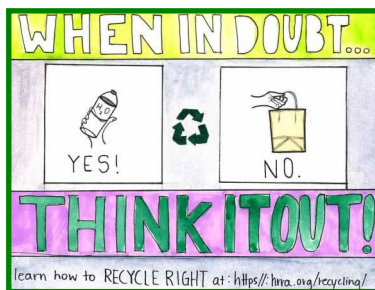
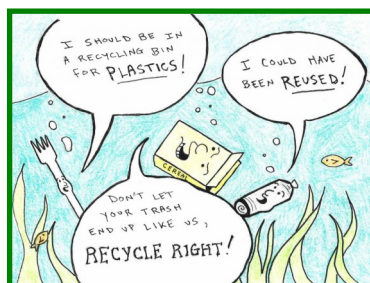
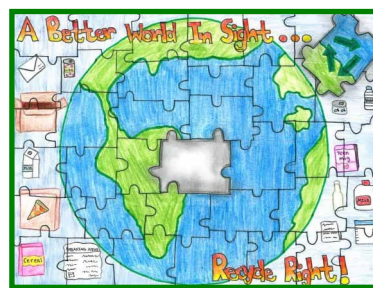
Based on Characters Created by Charles Addams

NMPS Students Are Winners in Recycling Contest

The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA) is a regional, governmental, waste management and recycling authority serving eleven municipalities in western Connecticut. HRRA municipalities include Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, and Sherman. Staff members are frequent visitors to our schools, providing recycling education programs for our students.

Each year the HRRA sponsors a billboard contest for students, designed to promote some aspect of community recycling. This year's contest theme was "Recycle Right". In celebration of Earth Day, winners were announced on April 21. Attendees to the virtual ceremony included our District's coordinator for the program, SMS Social Studies teacher Keli Solomon.

We are pleased to announce that eight NMPS students were named place winners in the contest. Congratulations to NES student Lily Sterry; SMS students Ryan Ma, Himaani Pradeep and Phebe Seppa; and NMHS students Aurelia Snow, Ruby Hangac, Isabel Loria and Mackenzie-Lee O'Donnell. Their work is featured below.



In Appreciation

2020-2021 School Appreciation Days	
National Principal Month	October
School Custodian Appreciation Day	Oct. 2
National Boss's Day	Oct. 16
Veteran's Day at School	Nov. 11
School Board Appreciation Month	January
Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	Jan. 9
School Counselor Appreciation Week	Feb. 1-5
Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day	March 5
Paraprofessional Appreciation Day	April 2
National Assistant Principal Week	April 5-9
School Librarian Appreciation Day	April 4
Volunteer Recognition Day	April 20
National Administrative Professionals' Day	April 21
Bus Driver Appreciation Day	April 27
School Principal's Day	May 1st
Teacher Appreciation Week	May 3-7
School Lunch Hero Day	May 7
School Nurse Day	May 12
National IT Professional Day	Sept 21

Every year brings special days that highlight special people. It's hard to keep track of them all! While we appreciate our NMPS staff and families every day, the spring months spotlight many groups.

April places a special spotlight on volunteers. While opportunities have been limited in person this year, many volunteers continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes for our schools and larger community. We thank you!

For those of you out front and center, we appreciate you too! Special recognition is due to our teachers and support staff (paraeducators, nurses, computer techs, secretaries) who have faced challenges with a smile every day. Thank you to the administrators for keeping

it all connected, and to our Facilities crew, Food Service workers, and bus drivers for keeping us all moving.

As our mission statement reminds us, New Milford Public Schools is truly "a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family and community."



NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY

NM Youth Agency Podcast



Laura Olson, NMPS Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services, joined the New Milford Youth Agency Podcast crew of Annabelle Colonna, Dillon Thomas and Paz Moran for helpful parenting tips to navigate the school system if your child requires services or accommodations to succeed. The crew sat down with Laura to find out how parents can recognize if a child needs help and how to access services. [Listen here.](#)



New Milford Public Schools

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Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Superintendent

Mrs. Catherine Calabrese
Interim Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Nestor Aparicio
Interim Facilities Director

Mr. Anthony Giovannone
Fiscal Services & Operations
Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

Mrs. Catherine Gabianelli
Human Resources Director

Mrs. Laura Olson
Pupil Personnel &
Special Services Director

Board of Education

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Mr. Joseph Failla
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny
Secretary

Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Pete Helmus

Mr. Brian McCauley

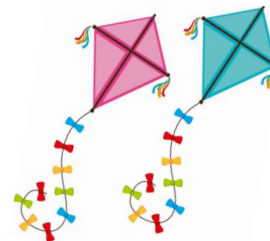
Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan

Mrs. Olga I. Rella

National Kite Month – Let's Celebrate!!!

What is National Kite Month*?

Every year in April Kite enthusiasts across North America celebrate the history and the future of the world's favorite pastime by letting their kites fly. It is a month to celebrate the joy and happiness that comes from letting out the line, letting your kite catch the wind, and letting that kite soar high into the sky.



Why April?

April was chosen as National Kite Month because it was the month that perfectly symbolized hope, potential, and joy. As the first month in Spring, it is when most kite fliers are starting to bring their kites out of the closet and prepare for a summer on the beach. It is the month that while we spring clean and dust off the cobwebs, we can look fondly back on the memories of the year before while looking towards a bright future. April is also the month that we see the last of the snow giving way to green lawns, a month that we are eager to get outside and be active. So why not do it with a kite this year?

Who Runs National Kite Month?

NKM is organized by the [American Kitefliers Association](https://www.americkitefliers.org/) (AKA). Volunteers work to help promote kite flying throughout the year and during National Kite Month itself.

What Can I do?

Have a family kite making session. There are lots of great ideas and instructions to be found online. Then head outdoors and let them fly!

*<https://www.nationalkitemonth.org>

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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.