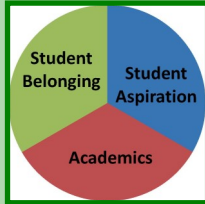




New Milford Public Schools  
 50 East Street  
 New Milford, CT 06776  
 860-355-8406  
[www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org)



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

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal  
 Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal  
 Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal  
 Ms. Linda Scoralick, Asst. Principal



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

Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal  
 Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal  
 Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal



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

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal  
 Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Asst. Principal  
 Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Asst. Principal



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

Mr. Eric Williams, Principal  
 Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal



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

Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Principal  
 Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal

# Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 10, Issue 2

August 2019



*Welcome to the 2019-20 School Year!*

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

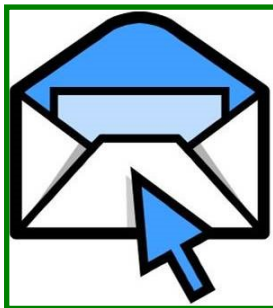
**Open Houses/Walkthroughs  
 Monday, August 26, 2019**

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

## Curriculum Nights

<b>Grades K-2</b>	<b>HPS/NES</b>	<b>Sept. 18</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Grades 3-4</b>	<b>SNIS</b>	<b>Sept. 19</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>SNIS</b>	<b>Sept. 23</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Grades 6-8</b>	<b>SMS</b>	<b>Sept. 11</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Grades 9-12</b>	<b>NMHS</b>	<b>Sept. 26</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>

## Registration and Scheduling/Annual Notifications



Administrative staff spend much of the summer months tracking the comings and goings of students, since final scheduling of classes is determined by current student enrollment numbers. These numbers change right up to the first day of school and beyond! That is why students do not receive class information and schedules until shortly before school starts. All parents should watch their email over the coming days for back-to-school information for students, including annual notifications and procedures regarding delays and/or closing of schools.

## Bus Routes for 2019-20

Bus routes for 2019-20 can be viewed [online at the district website](#). We ask for your patience with bus time pick up and drop off during the first few days of school as drivers and students settle into their routes.



## Celebrating NMPS Staff



The NMPS Stars of the Month recognition program is back. This will be the fourth year for this program where parents, students and fellow staff members are invited to [complete a short online form](#) to nominate a NMPS staff member of your choice. You are welcome to make a nomination at any time and for as many deserving staff members as you wish.

From all the forms submitted, six honorees will be selected each month, one from each school and one non-school specific honoree. All honorees will be invited to attend the Board of Education monthly meeting for public congratulations where they will receive a star lapel pin as a small symbol in recognition of their “star” qualities. In addition, thanks to our continuing partnership with Ingersoll Automotive of Danbury, one lucky honoree each month will be gifted at random with a courtesy car to drive for the following month!

The first honoree for this year will be New Milford’s Teacher of the Year who will be announced at the district’s back to school convocation on August 23rd, and recognized by the Board of Education on September 17th. Stay tuned for the September issue of *Spotlight* to read all about this deserving individual.

To see a listing of previous years’ monthly winners, as well as past New Milford teacher of the year recipients, visit the [Staff Recognition page](#) of the district website.

## Staying Connected...

One of the best sources for information about New Milford Public School events and happenings is our website: <http://www.newmilfordps.org/>

From the home page, you can visit websites of the individual schools, see a calendar of events, email staff using the staff directory, download district forms and more.



### Can't find your answer on the website?

You can always call the Central Office or individual schools. Phone numbers are listed on page 1 of this newsletter.



### Like your news faster?

Customize our [School Messenger](#) service for important alerts and district emails.



**Are you a twitter fan? All our schools (and many staff members) tweet!** Follow them at:

[@NMHS\\_CT](#)  
[@NES\\_CT](#)

[@SMS\\_CT](#)  
[@HPS\\_CT](#)

[@SNIS\\_CT](#)  
[@nmps\\_supt](#)

### Sign up for the ParentPlus Portal

This online tool allows you to obtain information specific to your child from any device that has internet access. Depending on the grade level, you can access information such as your child's schedule, homework, grades, and attendance. For security purposes, parents must [sign up to receive a personalized web access code for account log in.](#)



### Want to know what's happening at the district level?

Attend Board of Education meetings or watch through live streaming or video recording. Links to the schedule, plus the minutes of all Sub-Committee and full Board meetings that have taken place, are posted on our [home page](#).

### Prefer your news from the comfort of your couch?

Watch Educational Access TV on cable channel 194. A schedule of monthly Board of Education meetings and other special programs can be found on the [district website](#). You can view episodes of *Green Wave TV*, New Milford High School's student video production, on their [youtube channel](#).

### Want to attend a high school athletic event?

Visit [www.casciac.org](http://www.casciac.org) for up to date schedules and to sign up for schedule change alerts.

**REMEMBER:** *Staying informed works both ways. Please make certain that your child's school has your most up-to-date contact information by completing the back to school forms sent home at the beginning of the school year and by providing any needed updates throughout the year.*

## Interested in Volunteering?

The Board of Education recognizes that volunteers can make many valuable contributions to our schools. The Board supports a volunteer program that encourages community residents to take an active role to become school volunteers subject to suitable regulations and safeguards.



The district recognizes that just about any volunteer situation may result in direct contact with students. Our obligation to take appropriate measures to keep our children safe is one of our primary concerns. We require criminal history checks, at no cost to you, of all adults who wish to act as volunteers in our schools or chaperones on our field trips.

In order to volunteer, whether in the classroom, school or on a field trip, it is necessary for you to be fingerprinted. This takes place through the district's Human Resources department. From September through May, two dates per month are generally offered. Specific fingerprinting dates, and additional information, will be made available through the school offices once school begins and will also be posted on the district website.

- ◆ If you have already been fingerprinted and have volunteered each year, it is not necessary for you to be fingerprinted again. You will still need to sign up with your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year.
- ◆ If you have never volunteered before, or have not done so annually, fingerprinting will be necessary. You will need to sign up with your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year and will subsequently receive information about fingerprinting. It is recommended that you sign up earlier rather than later in the year to ensure that you will be able to be fingerprinted in time for the event or activity that you may be interested in volunteering for during the year.

We look forward to having you as volunteers!

## Welcome to School Breakfast and School Lunch



*"Back to School" is here again and what does every parent need more of? Time! The NMPS Food and Nutrition Services Department is here to help. We asked Mrs. Sandra Sullivan, the program's Director and Registered Dietician, to provide an overview of this year's program.*

Our school meal program is made for students and their parents. Not only are our school meals delicious and nutritious, they're also convenient and affordable for you. Our friendly food service staff is here to serve your children the nutrition they need to succeed in school.

Breakfast is available to all students every morning before school. The cost is \$1.40 for grades K–5, \$1.75 for grades 6–12, 30 cents for reduced students and no charge for free students. Cereal, muffins, yogurt, juice, fruit and milk are just some of the selections.

There is a wide variety of lunch choices daily, everything from a hot meal, to a cold meal, or salads and sandwiches. Students are offered a selection of low fat and fat free milk, colorful portions of fresh fruits and vegetables, and a variety of whole grains and lean proteins. The cost is \$2.35 for grades K–5 and \$2.60/\$3.10 for grades 6–12, 40 cents for reduced lunch students and no charge for free students. Our full menus can be viewed on the district website under the [Food and Nutrition Services tab](#).

A la carte snacks are also available for purchase. All snacks meet strict nutrition guidelines. Choices can include muffins, fruit, yogurt, baked chips, popcorn, frozen desserts or a whole grain cookie. If you have concerns about your child’s purchases, please call the cafeteria to discuss how limits may be placed on their account. Concerned about allergies?? Labels of all the food we serve are readily available for viewing.

For your convenience, an easy online payment system is offered to fund and view your student’s meal account at [MySchoolBucks.com](http://MySchoolBucks.com). Payments can also be made with cash or a check in the cafeteria. **Information on [how to apply for Free and Reduced Lunch](#) will be included in the district’s back to school packets and can be found on the district website.**



If you have questions regarding the school breakfast or lunch program, please call the Food Services office at 860-354-3712. You can follow Food Services on Twitter too @NMPSFoodService. We look forward to serving your children in our cafeterias!

### Feeding Families Outside of School Hours

*Sometimes we all need a little help. If your family is struggling to provide food for your children, Camella’s Cupboard can help!*



What is Camella’s Cupboard? Camella’s Cupboard is a grassroots, non-profit program for any New Milford family needing food assistance – these families may receive free or reduced lunch, find it difficult to stretch limited dollars, or just need a hand during a difficult time - doesn’t matter to them! Camella’s Cupboard realizes it takes a village and is here to help when needed. Need is self-identified and there is no verifying paperwork required. Qualifying for free or reduced lunch **IS NOT** required to participate.

Camella’s Cupboard also stocks in-school food pantries at Schaghticoke Middle School and New Milford High School that any student may access by going to their counselor.

**Signups are now open for weekend and break bags.**  
This is a pick-up program!

To sign up to participate in the program, learn how to donate or volunteer, visit their website at [www.camellascupboard](http://www.camellascupboard).

## Building A Bridge to Learning

Now in its fourth year, the Summer Bridge Program moved to New Milford High School this summer to accommodate work being done on the Sarah Noble Intermediate School roof. Incoming 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders got a real high school experience for three weeks, walking the halls and sitting in the classrooms of their older district peers. Even with the change of scenery, the program had another successful year in preparing almost fifty students for the upcoming school year. Students attending the program received additional instructional support in both math and reading to better prepare them to meet those standards in their upcoming school year.

Ms. Giudice's class of incoming 3rd graders had a choice of reading with new non-fiction books that were purchased for the program. Students were tasked with finding the main idea of the text by asking themselves: *What is this book trying to teach me?* and *What is this book mostly about?*. In math, students practiced addition and subtraction of two digit numbers along with word problems.



Ms. DaRos taught reading for both the incoming 4th and 5th graders. Her students read non-fiction texts and articles and identified the main idea of each along with supporting details. Students then wrote their own summaries of these texts and practiced note-taking skills. Students also practiced reading strategies such as previewing the text and identifying the structure of the text.

Ms. Montemurro taught math for both the incoming 4th and 5th graders. Her 4th grade students practiced skills in one-step multiplication and division problems and her 5th grade students practiced multiplication and division using two and three digits.



The data speaks to the success of the program. Students saw a dramatic increase in both their reading and math scores from their pre-assessments to the post-assessments. In reading, over 75% of students in all three grade levels improved in their grade-level reading progression. In math, every single student saw an increase in scores, and an amazing fifteen students overall improved by at least 50 percentage points from their initial score. Attendance also remained strong throughout the three weeks averaging over 80%.

“The Summer Bridge Program is great for our students. They enjoyed being here and like the change of pace from the regular school year,” remarked Jeff Bronn, program administrator. “In addition to our great teachers, I also would like to thank the district custodial staff and instructional coaches for their work in helping to make this program a success.”

## **It's Back to School for District Staff Too**

On August 23, 2019, teachers, school and district staff will convene in the New Milford High School Theatre to begin the new school year. This year, professional learning will continue to be driven by the needs of our teachers and, for the first time, feedback provided from district focus groups, in an effort to concentrate our learning on what will inspire, motivate and educate our staff while we collectively work to learn together in support of our students and families.

The day will begin with a message from our new Superintendent, Dr. Kerry Parker, followed by two speakers: motivational speaker Shawn Ellis, and Brandon Nappi from Copper Beech Institute. Both speakers will focus on how to be present in the moment, how to work at being more resilient and reflective, as well as how to care for others and ourselves. The techniques described and utilized with the staff can be shared with our students across district, helping children center themselves during times of stress and to help them be mindful and in the moment when working with peers and in small groups. Following the speakers, the afternoon will feature several breakout sessions.

Elementary teachers will learn about a variety of different curriculum based topics, such as the structure of math workshop, how to use data to link resources in support of students, as well as taking time to unpack and break down the new phonics curriculum. Special education teachers who are in co-taught classes for the upcoming year will also be participating so that the differentiated needs of all learners are addressed.

At the 6-12 grade level, teachers in each subject will focus on their curriculum implementation, data analysis, and technology integration. Teachers will also engage in vertical conversations with their colleagues at the middle school and high school. Science teachers in grades 6-12, along with selected special education teachers, will have time to meet with the CT Science Center to learn about three-dimensional learning in the new science standards and will work together to identify shifts in curriculum and instruction that may result in changes in classroom practice. In addition to the new learning occurring in the Science department, Library Media Specialists also will have the opportunity to share their new curriculum with one another and to discuss its implementation as well as professional learning needs.

Special education teachers K-12 will be provided with differentiated training in the area of individualized standardized assessments used for students with special needs. Through live webinars, selected teachers will be learning how to assess, evaluate and summarize testing protocols and best practices in evaluations. Related service staff will have a variety of new learning opportunities that include mindfulness training and workshops related to mental health and service eligibility. Paraeducators will also be included in our professional learning and will train on how to access Master Teacher professional development webinars.

“Preparing for what is to come with colleagues promotes collective teacher efficacy and provides teachers with the opportunity to share ideas, collaborate and discuss the ‘living curriculum’ that we use to educate our students”, says Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo. “It’s a great way to kick off the year.”



**New Milford Public Schools**

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

- Dr. Kerry Parker**  
Superintendent
- Ms. Alisha DiCorpo**  
Assistant Superintendent
- Ms. Ellamae Baldelli**  
Human Resources Director
- Mr. Kevin Munrett**  
Facilities Director
- Mr. Anthony Giovannone**  
Fiscal Services & Operations  
Director
- Mrs. Laura Olson**  
Pupil Personnel &  
Special Services Director
- Mr. Brandon Rush**  
Technology Director
- Mrs. Sandra Sullivan**  
Food Services Director
- Board of Education**
- Mr. David A. Lawson**  
Chairperson
- Mrs. Tammy McInerney**  
Vice Chairperson
- Mrs. Angela C. Chastain**  
Secretary
- Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan**  
Assistant Secretary
- Mr. Bill Dahl**
- Mr. Joseph Failla**
- Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach**
- Mr. Brian McCauley**
- Mr. J.T. Schemm**

**Back to School**



The Department of Education website offers suggestions for parents to help make each school year successful.

Browse at <https://www.ed.gov/backtoschool> and take a look at resources including:

- ⇒ [Helping Your Child booklets](#) for practical lessons and information on bolstering your child's success at school.
- ⇒ A [month-by-month guide](#) filled with advice, tools, and resources to help your child have a fun and educational school year.
- ⇒ [5 simple ways](#) to make the most of your child's first month back at school.
- ⇒ [FAQs](#) for parents of elementary and middle school children.
- ⇒ The steps that are important to [helping your child with homework](#) and being prepared to [resolve homework problems](#) should they arise.

***Wishing all our students (and staff)  
a year of growth and discovery!***

August 2018

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.