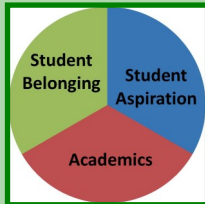




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



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 11, Issue 3

September 2020

FREE!!



**Breakfast
&
Lunch**

On August 31, 2020, the USDA released nationwide waivers to extend flexibilities for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) through December 31, 2020. Note: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reserves the right to withdraw this approval subject to the availability of funding.

What does this mean for families in New Milford?

Effective September 14, 2020, New Milford Public Schools began offering FREE Lunch and FREE Breakfast for all students in grades PreK-12 AND to ANY New Milford resident 18 years and under, until December 31, 2020 or until otherwise noted.

What type of lunch is included?

In order for a student to have a Free Lunch or Breakfast, the student must take a complete meal or take what is described as a "Full Lunch" or a "Full Breakfast." A "Full Lunch" includes 3 of 5 meal components including a serving of a fruit or vegetable. A "Full Breakfast" includes 3 of 4 components. A complete meal's components include: Milk (skim, 1% white, nonfat flavored), Fruit, Vegetable, Grains (whole grains), and Protein. Ala carte items, including water, snacks, and milk, are still available but not included in the Free Lunch and Breakfast program.

For Remote Learners and Children 18 years & under not enrolled in the District:

"Curbside Meals" are available for all of our students who are Remote Learners (Cohort A & B, and Five Day Remote Learners) and for children 18 years and under not enrolled in district, also at no charge. **As a reminder, pre-registration for curbside meals is required by Monday of each week.** Meals may be picked up once a week on Wednesdays at Sarah Noble Intermediate School between 8 AM and 9 AM. Parents or guardians can pick up meals for their students. Children do not need to be present but must be a New Milford resident. Register for Curbside Meals here: www.newmilfordps.org/curbsidemeals

Please contact the Food and Nutrition Services office with any questions at 860-354-3712.

Barn Quilt Block Placed on Larson Barn at NMHS Honors Larson Family's 90 Years of Farming

**Article courtesy of Bill Devlin, New Milford Barn Quilt Trail Committee*

The colorful ear of corn painted on an 8' x 8' simulated quilt background and hung on the big red Larson Barn at the northeastern corner of the New Milford High School property is one of 19 quilt blocks throughout New Milford. They have been placed on selected buildings around town on the New Milford Barn Quilt Trail to raise awareness of New Milford's rich agricultural past and present. Board of Education Chairperson Angela Chastain and NMPS Facilities Director Kevin Munrett were both instrumental in the design and site selection for the Larson Barn quilt block.



While barn quilt trails have been popular tourist attractions for decades in over forty US states, ours is the first and only one to date in Connecticut.

The massive English-style bank barn was built by Swedish immigrant Frank Larson in 1900, serving one of the largest dairy operations in the area. Larson also grew corn and tobacco, the most important cash crop at a time when there were over 200 family farms in New Milford alone.

The Larson family adapted to changing times in local agriculture for almost a century, ultimately surviving into the 1990s on the strength of their famous sweet corn, sold at a farm stand where today, the high school stands. Artifacts found when the high school was being built suggest that Native Americans occupied this area up to 8,000 years ago.

In her 1931 novel *American Beauty*, the great US novelist Edna Ferber described the area in which the Larson Farm was located as “the rich green valleys of that spectacular part of Connecticut...brilliant emerald in the summer sunshine, the tobacco farms...a rich and heartening sight.” In 2006, the Larson barn was listed on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places.



In 2017, the first phase of the New Milford Barn Quilt Trail, consisting of eight barn quilt blocks, was completed with partial funding from the Connecticut Office of Tourism of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. New Milford is a Bronze-certified sustainable town and the 2020 expansion of an additional 11 quilt blocks was funded by generous donations from area residents matched dollar for dollar by Sustainable CT via www.ioby.org, a non-profit crowd-funding website.

To help make the project a reality, New Milford-based KatArt donated design work, and the New Milford Sherwin Williams store supplied paints at cost for the Village Center for the Arts team, which was commissioned by the six-member volunteer Barn Quilt Trail Committee to paint most of the quilt blocks.



The New Milford Commission on the Arts provided a significant grant to assist in completing the project. The Facilities Department of New Milford Public Works assembled most of the 2020 all-weather polyurethane quilt blocks (including by flashlight during the August Isaias storm outage!) so New Milford would be ready for late August filming by Connecticut Public Television (CPTV). This will be a special showcasing this fall of five exciting projects by Sustainable CT-certified municipalities. A guided tour of the entire 19-site New Milford Barn Quilt Trail will be organized for the public following updating of the webpage at www.newmilfordfarmlandpres.org/barn-quilt-trail. Visitors to the barn quilt trail are encouraged to post photos at <https://www.facebook.com/NewMilfordBarnQuiltTrail/>



The New Milford Youth Agency offers the following FREE programs for students:

- ◆ Snacks at the Maxx/Open Studio for high school students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:15 to 5 p.m. at the Maxx
- ◆ Homework Club on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Youth Agency in the John Pettibone Community Center
- ◆ Student Advisory Board meeting from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13th at the Maxx with discussion of volunteer opportunities

For more information, contact the Youth Agency at (860) 210-2030 or email Natalie Rodriguez, Youth Advocate, at NRodriguez@NewMilford.org. To find out more about the Youth Agency's services, visit their website at Youthagency.org.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!



Ms. Taylor Anderek

Mathematics teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Anderek graduated from Sacred Heart University in May 2020 with a BS in Mathematics and MA in Teaching, Secondary Education. She completed her student teaching at Newtown High School.

Ms. Erica Andreasen

Grade 4 teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Andreasen is an experienced educator, having taught previously for New Milford, Ridgefield, Stamford and Bethel Public Schools. She earned her BS in Elementary Education and MA in Teaching, with a concentration in reading, from WCSU.



Mrs. Jessica Arnold

Special Education teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Arnold received her BA in Psychology and MS in Special Education, with a concentration in Assistive Technology, from SCSU. She worked as a special education paraeducator and teaching assistant prior to obtaining her teaching degree. Most recently, she worked as a special education teacher for Waterbury Public Schools.

Mrs. Barbara Basile

EXCEL Preschool teacher, Northville Elementary School

Mrs. Basile has been a preschool teacher in New York State since 2004. She has a BA in Early Childhood from the University of Hartford, and an MS in Special Education from the College of New Rochelle.



Mrs. Mia Burch

Paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Burch is a New Milford resident who helped grow the family construction business for many years before working as a substitute. She has subbed in all New Milford Public Schools but one, both as a paraeducator and as clerical support.



Ms. Katelyn Cafarelli

English teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Ms. Cafarelli graduated from Lesley University in 2019 with a BA in Secondary Education and English Literature. She has been substitute teaching for Danbury Public Schools.

Mr. Robert Costigan

Social Studies teacher, New Milford High School

Mr. Costigan recently graduated from Sacred Heart University with a BA in History and an MA in Teaching. He completed his student teaching at Newtown High School where he has since worked as a substitute teacher.



Ms. Paula Davenport

Special Education teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Davenport worked as an instructional tutor and long term substitute for New Milford Public Schools while working on her certification in special education through the CREC Advanced Alternate Route to Certification. She earned her MS in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport.

Ms. Rachel Gall

Science teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Ms. Gall earned her BA in Physics from Barnard College, Teaching Certification in Middle School Mathematics from UMass Amherst, and her Masters in Secondary Education from the University of Bridgeport. She has previously worked as a Math teacher at Salisbury Central School, as a Science and Math teacher at North Canaan Elementary School and as a SMart Schools Educator for the Flying Cloud Institute in Great Barrington.



Mrs. Christine Garbowski

EXCEL Preschool teacher, Northville Elementary School

Mrs. Garbowski is an experienced educator, having previously worked as a teacher for Weston and New Fairfield Public Schools, and most recently as an EXCEL tutor at HPS. She has a BA in Early Childhood Education from CCSU.

Mrs. Kelsey Holub

Grade 5 teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Holub has previously worked at SNIS as a tutor. She has been a lead teacher at the Goddard School and has taught grades 3 and 5 for Waterbury Public Schools. She earned her BS in Elementary Education and MS in Literacy and Language Arts from WCSU.





Ms. Faith Jackson

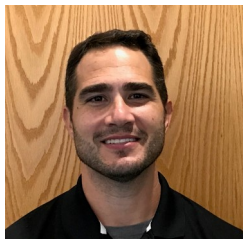
Paraeducator, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Ms. Jackson earned her BA in Education from Naugatuck Valley Community College and her BA in Psychology from WCSU. She has previously worked as a counselor for the New Milford Youth Agency and as a kids' coach for a fitness club.

Mrs. Jaimee Keppel

Grade 5 teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Keppel has served as a long term substitute for grade 5 at SNIS and has worked as a special education teacher in New York State. She earned her BS in Human Ecology, Child and Family Studies, from SUNY and her MS in Childhood Education 1-6 from Mercy College.



Mr. Kory Kevorkian

PE/Health teacher, New Milford High School

Mr. Kevorkian is an experienced educator of fourteen years, having taught PE and Health at all levels PK-12. He has a BS in PE/Health from CCSU and an MS in School Health Education, as well as his 6th year certification in Educational Leadership, from SCSU.

Mr. Stephen MacKessy

Grade 1 teacher, Northville Elementary School

Mr. MacKessy has nine years teaching experience K-5, both in Illinois and in CT. Previously, he has been a tutor, long term substitute and interventionist in New Milford Public Schools. He has also worked at Burnham Elementary School and Washington Primary School. Mr. MacKessy has his BS in Elementary Education from SUNY and his MEd in Curriculum and Instruction from Lewis University.



Mrs. Kimberly McCarthy

TESOL teacher, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Mrs. McCarthy earned her BA in Communications from CCSU and her MA in Elementary Education from Manhattanville College. She has worked as an elementary classroom teacher in New York State and as an EL tutor for Brookfield Public Schools.

Mr. Logan Messina

English teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mr. Messina is a recent graduate who earned his BA in Film Critical Studies from Keene State College and his MS in Secondary English Language Arts Education from the University of Bridgeport. He completed his student teaching at Shepaug Valley School.





Mr. Daniel Miller

TESOL teacher, Northville Elementary School

Mr. Miller has served as a long term substitute in Stamford Public Schools. He earned his BA in TESL from Liberty University and his MA in TESOL from Azusa Pacific University.

Ms. Jessica Morfea

Paraeducator, Northville Elementary School

Ms. Morfea earned her BFA in Illustration from the NY School of Visual Arts. She has worked as an after-school art teacher for the Young Rembrandts program in New York State. She also served as an Americorps Fellow through their program ArtistYear, which places recent higher education arts graduates across all disciplines as full-time teaching artists at low-income schools.



Ms. Laura Nadriczny

Mathematics teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Nadriczny is a recent graduate, having earned her BA in Mathematics from WCSU and her MA in Curriculum and Instruction, Secondary Mathematics Education, from UConn. She completed her student teaching at Newtown High School, where she also worked as a long term substitute.

Mrs. Nicole Orletski

Grade 1 teacher, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Mrs. Orletski is an experienced teacher, having worked ten years in Florida, and four years for Hartford Public Schools. She earned her BS in Elementary Education from Florida Southern College and her MS in Education from the University of Bridgeport.



Mrs. Sarah Parker

Paraeducator, Northville Elementary School

Mrs. Parker is a NMHS graduate. She has worked previously as a special education paraeducator at NES and most recently as a preschool student care worker for EdAdvance.

Mr. Joseph Perlman

Mathematics teacher and Department Chair, New Milford High School

Mr. Perlman is an experienced educator with almost 20 years Mathematics teaching in New York State. He has his BA in Mathematics from Iona College and his MSE in Mathematics and Secondary Youth Services from CUNY. He is a Board member of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New York State and an item writer for the ACT college entrance exam.





Mr. Gerson Rivera
Technology Specialist, District-wide

Mr. Rivera has a BS in Computer Science and over five years of experience in the Information Technology field. He is CCNA, Network+, A+ and Google IT Professional certified. He has previously worked as a support technician, customer service engineer, help desk analyst and technical support specialist.

Mr. Alexander Rosenhein
Science teacher, New Milford High School

Mr. Rosenhein is a recent graduate who did his student teaching in Waterbury Public Schools. He earned his BS in Biology from Ithaca College, with a minor concentration in Spanish, and his MA in Curriculum and Instruction, Secondary Science Education, from UConn.



Mrs. Kristin Saplio
Paraeducator, Northville Elementary School

Mrs. Saplio has been a substitute for New Milford Public Schools and is an active volunteer for PTO and scouts. She has an Associate's degree in Art/Graphic Design from CCSU.

Ms. Sarah Schneider
Speech Language Pathologist, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Ms. Schneider has worked as a speech language pathologist in New York State since 2014. She earned a BA in English from UConn and an MS in Communication Disorders from SCSU.



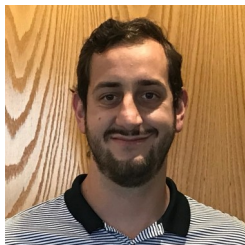
Mrs. Amanda Silva
Special Education teacher, Northville Elementary School

Mrs. Silva has been a tutor and long term substitute at NES, HPS and the Sherman School. She holds a BS from Russell Sage College and an MEd in Special Education from Framingham State College.

Mrs. Diana Spedafino
School Psychologist, New Milford High School

Mrs. Spedafino previously worked for Waterbury Public Schools. She earned her BA in Psychology from Emmanuel College and her MS in School Psychology from SCSU.





Mr. Corey Stevens

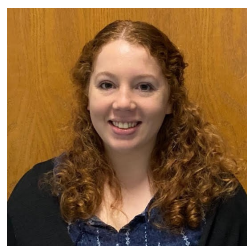
Mathematics teacher, New Milford High School

Mr. Stevens has been working as a Mathematics teacher in South Carolina since 2015. He received his BS and MAT from the University of South Carolina. He has completed the AP Institute for AP Calculus AB.

Mrs. Janet Swierbut

English teacher, New Milford High School

Mrs. Swierbut has taught middle school ELA at St. Rose School in Newtown and most recently at Bethel High School as an ELL teacher. She earned her BA in English from Siena College, and her MEd from Depaul University. She is an adjunct instructor at WCSU where she has taught Intro to Drama, Intro to Fiction and Intro to Literature.



Ms. Shannon Thomas

School Counselor, Schaghticoke Middle School

Ms. Thomas has substituted long term as a school counselor for both Milford and Meriden Public Schools. She is a recent graduate of SCSU where she earned her BA in Psychology and MS in School Counseling.

Ms. Nicole Verrilli

Social Studies teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Verrilli worked for the Americorps City Year program in Los Angeles and has been a Social Studies teacher for the RI Alternative Academy and Betances Stem Magnet Middle School in Hartford. She has a BA in History/Education from Keene State College.



Ms. Jeanmarie Vivian

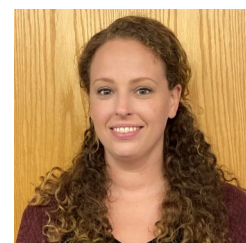
Paraeducator, Northville Elementary School

Ms. Vivian has been a substitute paraeducator for New Milford Public Schools for several years. She has also worked as a receptionist and administrative assistant.

Mrs. Bonnie Wright

Paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Wright has worked previously as a day care teacher's assistant, at MCCA, Ability Beyond and at the CT Institute for Communities in Danbury.





Ms. Chelsey Zimmerman

Music teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Zimmerman has four years' experience teaching primary music at a charter school in Florida and one year secondary music teaching in Ireland. She has her BM in Music Education from Marywood University and her MA in Irish Music Studies from the University of Limerick. She is currently working on her Ph.D.

Mrs. Christine Zona

Grade 5 teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Zona has worked previously for New Milford Public Schools as an instructional tutor, a grade 4 long term substitute and in various other substitute positions. She earned her BA in Political Science from Indiana University and her MAT in Elementary Education from Manhattanville College.



SANITATION ATTENDANTS

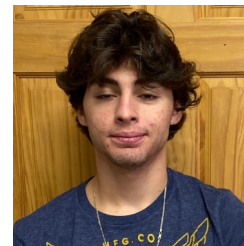
All our schools have additional custodial help to provide daily cleaning. Please welcome:



Ms. Norma Castro



Mr. Nicholas Coniglio



Mr. Peter Coniglio



Mr. Lorenzo DiBlasi



Mr. Steven Kurt



Mr. Kyle Ledoux



Mr. Sean Mateer



Mr. Griffin Rama



Mr. Travis Spengler



Ms. Miranda Villa



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

Dr. Paul Smotas
Interim 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
Mrs. Angela C. Chastain
Chairperson

Mr. Joseph Failla
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Secretary

Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Pete Helmus

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mrs. Tammy McInerney

Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny

Mrs. Olga I. Rella

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



HPS/NES October 15

SNIS October 5

SMS October 19

NMHS October 8

**All Open Houses start at 6 PM.
Principals will be sending details.**

STAY INFORMED

**This year, more than ever, it is important
to make sure that your child's school
has up-to-date contact information
for your family, including email and
phone numbers.**

**Visit [school and district websites](#) to stay
informed about events and happenings
and to review important correspondence
from principals and the Superintendent.**

Community Events

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.