



New Milford
Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776



New Milford High School
Greg Shugrue, Principal

Assistant Principals
Marc Balanda
Liz Curtis
Christopher Longo



Shaghticoke Middle School
Dana Ford, Principal

Assistant Principal
Suzi Greene



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
Len Tomasello, Principal

Assistant Principals
Anne Bilko
Don Naiman



Hill & Plain Elementary
Maryann Ness, Principal

Assistant Principal
Susan Ruddock



John Pettibone Elementary
Paula Kelleher, Principal

Assistant Principal
Joan Kick



Northville Elementary
Susan Murray, Principal

Assistant Principal
Joan Kick

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 3, Issue 3

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NMPS Website Update



The New Milford Public Schools Technology Department worked over the summer to provide a new website for New Milford Public Schools. Although the web address is still the same—<http://www.newmilfordps.org>—the website has a great new look and many more capabilities.

The new website introduces a horizontal navigation bar, which gives the site a cleaner, more organized look. With a new content editor, media can now be embedded and allow for videos, scrolling photos, twitter feeds, teacher blogs and wiki links.

The website is designed to provide parents with up-to-date information about events, activities, athletics and announcements. To make sure you don't miss any important news or announcements, make New Milford Public Schools, or your child's specific school, your Internet browser homepage. To do this, see the tutorial on the back cover.

Project Lead the Way

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education curricular programs used in middle and high schools across the U.S.*

The hands-on, project based engineering courses engage students on multiple levels, expose them to areas of study that they typically do not pursue, and provide them with a foundation and proven path to college and career success.*

More than 4,200 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are offering PLTW courses to their students. In addition, PLTW has trained more than 10,500 teachers to instruct its engaging, rigorous STEM education curriculum.*

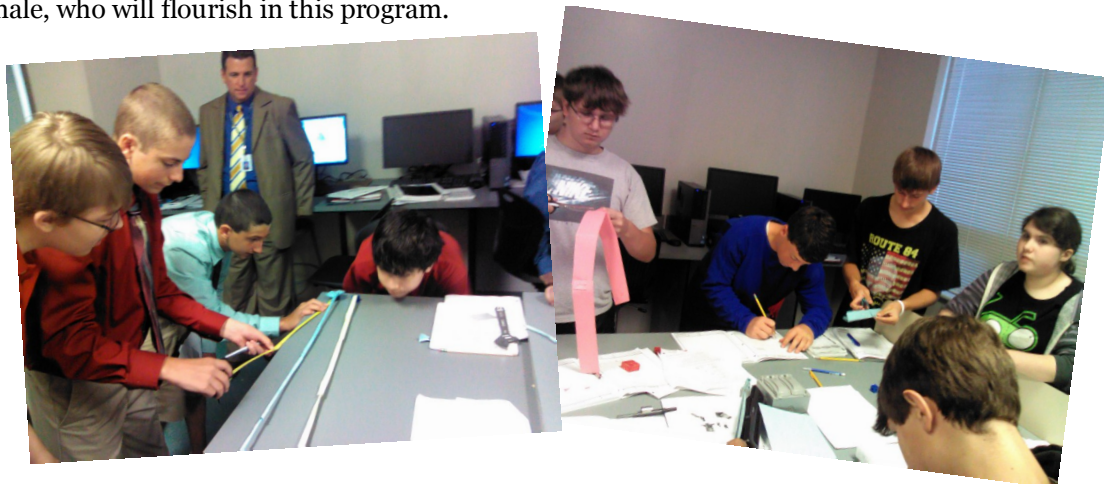
New Milford High School is participating in the Project Lead the Way program by offering a new course sequence called "Pathway to Engineering." This sequence consists of four pre-engineering courses, designed to introduce students to the different forms of engineering. Engineering and science are intricately tied together, as engineering is the 'application' of science. The program began this year with the introductory course called "Introduction to Engineering Design." This course is being taught by Mr. Brad Jones. Three additional courses will be phased in over the next three years. Next year's course addition will be another foundation course called "Process of Engineering." This course will likely be taught by Mrs. Erin Lucia. Both Mr. Jones and Mrs. Lucia are certified in physics and have very strong engineering backgrounds.

The NMHS course sequence is designed for students who may or may not know much about engineering but want to explore it as a possible career. The students who take these courses will have an aptitude in math and science, enjoy computers, and have a talent for or interest in design.

This year three sections of "Introduction to Engineering Design" were offered to a total of about 60 students. The initial plan was to run only one section, but because of the high interest and demand, NMHS was able to offer three. The hope is that many, if not most, of these students continue on to the next course in the sequence next year, although taking the whole sequence is not required.

"Introduction to Engineering Design" is a fun, hands-on, computer heavy class. Students receive a realistic idea of what the general field of engineering is all about. Regardless of whether students go on to engineering for a career, the course provides students with an opportunity to practice and build a variety of math, science and computer skills.

The NMHS science department is very excited about this new pre-engineering program and is looking forward to developing community connections and possible mentorship opportunities for students. They are also hoping to develop a special outreach to female students, as engineering has typically been a male-dominated field. However, they know NMHS has a large pool of very talented students, both male and female, who will flourish in this program.



*Taken directly from PLTW website—<http://www.pltw.com>

New Opportunities

You've had a few months to "settle in" and get in the routine of a new school year. However, at NMPS, we are constantly bringing new opportunities to your students to keep in line with new standards and skills. Here is a brief overview of what's new this year at Schaghticoke Middle School.

Literacy is a new course designed to help all SMS students improve their skills in writing, reading comprehension, and interpretation. The SMS reading teachers will supervise these classes and facilitate reading discussions. Students will be enrolled in this class for one semester and will meet twice a week.



Technology is a new course which will be held twice a week for one semester for all students. Students will be introduced to the ethics of "Digital Citizenship" which will enable them to participate on the Internet and view its offerings with confidence and courtesy.



Ms. Jennifer Morrison will be the teacher in charge of this new course offering. Ms. Morrison says of the course, "According to a 2011 survey from the Pew Research Center, 95% of all teens age 12 to 17 have access to the Internet, and 80% of those are social media users. In just a few years the Internet has gone from being something we consume to being something we create or modify. Before students can be taught how to use the Internet or applications, they need to be taught how to be Digital Citizens. This year our class is focused on the basics of Digital Citizenship Online

safety and the student's misconceptions about what is safe; digital footprints; privacy; cyber-bullying; respecting creative work (copyright); and security are all topics we hope to cover. Currently we are finishing safe online communication, having explored scenarios involving social network friending, gaming, virtual worlds and chatrooms."



7th grade health will meet once a week for one quarter. The course will include but not be limited to discussions on stress management, goal setting, nutrition, good hygiene and exercise. Scott Hoffman, our SMS health teacher, is looking forward to working with our seventh grade students.

7th and 8th grade developmental guidance will meet once a week for one quarter of the year. SMS school counselors Christine Pizone, Kari Stewart, and Jill Strub, will be responsible for teaching these important lessons. Lessons will include such topics as:

- ♦ Bully Awareness
- ♦ Goal Setting
- ♦ Cyber Safety
- ♦ Career Exploration

And speaking of bully awareness, a great resource to find out more information is:

<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/>

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NMPS STEM Teachers

It has been said that a good teacher is always learning. That adage has never been truer for a group of New Milford elementary and intermediate teachers. First grade Northville Elementary teacher Susan Brofford, second grade John Pettibone Elementary teacher Carrie Allen, third grade John Pettibone Elementary teacher Cindy Cotter, and sixth grade Sarah Noble Intermediate teachers Carol Allison and Meghan Schoonmaker are part of a three year program to improve science and math instruction at New Milford and other area districts. Not only are these teachers learning how to more effectively teach students, they're also learning how to instruct other teachers in the district.

As part of a three-year initiative funded by a \$780,000 Mathematics and Science Partnership Grant, these five New Milford teachers are working with 26 teachers from Danbury, Newtown, and the Bridgeport Diocese school systems as part of an Elementary Science Instructional Coaching Academy. Working with the Connecticut Department of Education, The Connecticut Science Center, and Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), their goal is to provide early Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) instruction by serving as "Science Instructional Coaches" in their respective buildings and across the district.

The project is designed to improve science instruction and upgrade each district's science curriculum and instructional materials. Additionally, the program will create a STEM education center at WCSU. The program will provide graduate credits for educators who wish to become STEM instructional specialists. Eventually WCSU hopes to create a master's degree in the STEM program. WCSU will create custom courses to address both the state content and assessment standards of each district.

Teachers in the program have spent many hours outside of school participating in the following activities:

1. Monthly professional seminars focused on general and science-specific topics.
2. Week-long summer institute provided by the CT Science Center.
3. Graduate level courses in mathematics.
4. Graduate level life science for teachers course.
5. Graduate level physical science for teachers course.
6. Graduate level Earth and Space Science for teachers course.
7. Designing effective science instruction seminars.
8. Cognitive coaching seminar.
9. Scientific research experience for teachers.
10. Classroom action research experience.
11. Supervised coaching practicum.

How does this program affect your students? Meghan Schoonmaker, Sarah Noble Intermediate School teacher, says, "This program has not only provided us with training in effective science teaching, but useful materials as well. We now have leveled texts on some topics to help our struggling readers. We each have access to a data collection device called a SPARK (made by PASCO) that students can use to collect information. We also have "experts" at the university level that we can refer students to if they have a content question we are not sure how to answer."

Not only have the schools received additional material, but new technology as well. Each participating teacher received a FlipCamera to record their teaching so they could reflect on their practices. The FlipCameras are also used by students to reflect on their learning (by watching their experiments and discussions / presentations after the fact). The participating teachers believe these items will directly impact student learning by making it more accessible and exciting.

Ms. Schoonmaker adds, "On a personal level, I have gained a new appreciation for science and have been able to learn topics in Biology, Earth Science and Physical Science in further depth - something I didn't get the chance to do as an undergraduate or graduate student focusing on education. "



C A L E N D A R

November

- 26—JPS Book Fair Family Fun Night—6:00 p.m.
 H&P Book Fair Kick-off—6:30 p.m.
 Town Wide PTO @ H&P —7:00 p.m.
 27-29—Early Dismissal—Parent/Teacher Conf.
 27—Coffee w/the Superintendent—10:30 a.m.
 28—HPS PTO Breakfast—7:30 a.m.
 29—SNIS Family Fun Night
 30—NES School Photo Re-takes
 SNIS Photo Re-takes
 NES Book Fair Family Fun Night
 SMS PTO Family Fun Night

December

- 2—SNIS Band Aids Breakfast with Santa
 3—NMHS PTO—6 p.m.
 K-3 Evening Conferences
 4—SNIS Evening Conferences
 BOE—Facilities Committee Mtg.—6:30 p.m.
 BOE—Operations Committee Mtg.—7:30 p.m.
 5—SMS PTO—9:00 a.m.
 SNIS Holiday Shop (also open 12/12 and 12/19)
 SMS Evening Conferences
 SMS PTO Family Fun Night—7 p.m.
 6-7—NMHS Holiday Art Sale—7:30-9:00 a.m.
 NMHS Evening Conferences
 7—JPS Santa Fund Chorus—2:00 p.m.
 10—SNIS Orchestra/Jazz Concert
 11—BOE Annual Meeting—7:00 p.m.
 SMS Band and Chorus Concerts—7:00 p.m.
 BOE Meeting—7:30 p.m.
 12—SNIS Grade 5 Concerts
 13—SNIS PTO—9:00 a.m.
 NMHS Jazz and Concert Bands & Wind
 Ensemble Concert—7 p.m.
 14—JPS Family Fun Night—6:00 p.m.
 16—NMHS Chorus Concert—3 p.m.
 17—SNIS Grade 6 Chorus/Int. Band & Strings/
 Adv. Band Concerts
 18—H&P Winter Concert—2:00 p.m.
 19—SNIS Grade 4 Concerts
 20—SNIS Brown Bag Lunch with Dr. T

2012-2013 Board of Education Meetings

December 11, 2012

Annual Meeting begins at 7:00 PM

Regular Meeting begins at 7:30 PM

*Budget Hearings at 7:00 PM

January 22, 23 & 29, 2013

Snow date: January 24, 2013

Budget Adoption at 7:00 PM

January 30, 2013

Snow date: January 31, 2013

February 12, 2013

March 12, 2013

April 9, 2013

May 14, 2013

June 11, 2013

Meetings are at 7:30 PM in the SNIS Media Center, unless otherwise noted.



Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent

NMPS Superintendent Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote will again be hosting Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent events on the following dates:

- Tuesday, November 27
Topic: Curriculum
- Thursday, January 24 (snow date Jan. 25)
Topic: Budget
- Thursday, March 28
Topic: Technology
- Tuesday, May 21
Topic: To Be Determined

All events will be held in the New Milford Railroad Station—11 Railroad Street at 10:30 a.m.



CT Grown for Ct Kids Week

Each year the Connecticut State Department of Education and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture select a special week to celebrate the use of CT grown products in our schools.

New Milford's School Lunch Program celebrated "CT Grown for CT Kids Week" during the week of October 15-19, 2012. Some highlights of the locally grown and produced CT products were:

- ♦ CT Butternut Squash
- ♦ CT Cucumbers
- ♦ CT Apples
- ♦ CT Zucchini and Yellow Summer Squash
- ♦ CT Tomato Sauce
- ♦ CT Baked Tortilla Chips
- ♦ CT Beef
- ♦ CT Hummel Hot Dogs
- ♦ CT Carla's Ravioli

This celebration brings school children together with Connecticut farms, farmers and Connecticut agriculture.

School lunch menus are available [here](#).

Online School Lunch Pre-Payments can be made [here](#).

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Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Superintendent

Mr. Joshua Smith
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Director, Human Resources

Mr. John Calhoun
Facilities Manager

Mr. Dan DiVito
Director, Technology

Mrs. Laura Olson
Supervisor, Pupil Personnel and
Special Services

Mr. Gregg Miller
Director, Fiscal Services

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Director, Food Services

Make NMPS Your Web Browser Homepage



“The first thing I do when I arrive in my home office is check email and open my web browser,” states Angela Chastain, NMPS parent. “A few years ago, I set up my web browser home page to New Milford High School. That has helped me stay up-to-date with happenings at the school and serves as a constant reminder to check the pages for my other students’ schools as well!”

To make NMPS or one of the specific schools your webpage, follow these easy steps:

Internet Explorer

Open Internet Explorer on your computer. Go to <http://www.newmilfordps.org> (or your child’s specific school). At the top of the page, click the tools button and then select Internet Options. Click “use current.”

Google or Google Chrome

Open Google or Google Chrome on your computer. Click “menu” on the browser toolbar, select settings. Turn on the Home button by selecting the “show home button” checkbox in the “appearance” section. Click “change” to enter a link (<http://www.newmilfordps.org> or a specific school site).

Other ways you can stay up-to-date on NMPS happenings:

New Milford High School is tweeting! Not only does New



Milford high school have a twitter account ([@NMHS_CT](https://twitter.com/NMHS_CT)), so does the NMHS Athletic Department ([@GoGreenWaveNM](https://twitter.com/GoGreenWaveNM)) the NMHS Media Center ([@nmhslmc](https://twitter.com/nmhslmc)) and the NMHS Bands ([@NewMilfordBands](https://twitter.com/NewMilfordBands)).

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.

DISPATCH