



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
 Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
 Ms. Linda Scoralick, Asst. Principal
 Mr. Eric Williams, Asst. Principal



Shaghticoke Middle School
 860-354-2204

Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal
 Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal
 Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Asst. Principal
 Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal
 Dr. Len Tomasello, Transition Admin.



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
 Mrs. Emily Gervasio, Asst. Principal
 Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal
 Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Asst. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School
 860-354-5430

Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal
 Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal



Northville Elementary School
 860-355-3713

Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal
 Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 7, Issue 2

August 2016



**Are you ready to start the
2016-17 School Year?**

First Day of School for Students:

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

NMHS and SMS:

7:35 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

HPS, NES, and SNIS:

8:50 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

The lazy, hazy days of summer are winding down and the 2016-17 school year is right around the corner. Administrators and support staffs have spent the last few months welcoming and registering new students, bringing new staff on board, readying our facilities, and making all the many preparations that a new school year brings. Take a look inside for a "spotlight" on just a few of the things we've been up to this summer and information to get the new year started.

A Note from the Superintendent



While each new school year is exciting and presents new opportunities to learn and grow, this one is even more so for me personally.

As this year approaches I am excited by the great work happening in New Milford and in the direction we are heading. This summer began the third time the community has allowed me to play a role in the district's educational vision. In my former roles as a classroom teacher and as the Deputy Superintendent, I have had the opportunity to work with our students, teachers, and families to build relationships, expectations and academic goals. As Superintendent, I hope to build upon that work as we look to set new goals and provide students with the academic and social foundations they need to be successful in whatever direction they decide to travel.

The world is an exciting place, full of wonder and changing landscapes. It is very likely that the majority of our students will end up in careers that do not even exist today. Our educational system needs to be flexible and reflect the demands of a global society, yet be grounded in the strong values and integrity of this community. Whether you are just joining our educational family or have been a member for years, I would like to thank you for the support and partnership that each of you provide. I hope that over the course of this year we are able to strengthen that partnership, to support and challenge our students, and to foster the confidence needed to know that success can be attained through perseverance.

*Looking forward to conversations to come.
Joshua Smith, Superintendent*

Summer Open House Dates

(Watch your email for details from individual schools)

HPS & NES Meet the Teacher Open House, K-2

August 26 - 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.



SNIS Open House Grade 3

August 26 - 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

SNIS Open House Grades 4&5

August 26 - 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

SMS Walk Through

August 26 - 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

NMHS Grade 9 Orientation

August 22 - 10:00 a.m. to noon

Registration and Scheduling



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 for 2016-17 Back-to-School information for students.

Bus Routes for 2016-17

Bus routes are another item which is affected by current student enrollment. These are expected to be posted on the district website the week of August 15th and should appear in the local newspaper shortly thereafter.

Please be patient the first few days with bus time pick up and drop off as drivers and students settle into their routes.



UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars
EVENTS



Curriculum Nights/Open House

Curriculum Night, Grades K-2
September 14, 2016
(HPS, NES) 5:30 p.m.

Curriculum Night, Grade 5
September 29, 2016
(SNIS) 6:00 p.m.

Curriculum Night, Grade 3
September 20, 2016
(SNIS) 6:00 p.m.

Curriculum Night, Grades 6-8
September 15, 2016
(SMS) 6:00 p.m.

Curriculum Night, Grade 4
September 21, 2016
(SNIS) 6:00 p.m.

Open House, Grades 9-12
September 22, 2016
(NMHS) 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to School Breakfast and School Lunch

Back to school also means back to school breakfast and lunch. We asked Mrs. Sandra Sullivan, Food and Nutrition Services Director, to provide an overview of this year's program:

Our friendly Food Service staff members are looking forward to serving your children healthy, well balanced meals and providing them with 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, juice, fruit and milk are just some of the selections.

Daily Breakfast Menu			
Choose One	Choose One or Two Different Items	Choose One Item	Choose One
8 oz milk	Fruit Juice	Assorted Whole Grain Cold Cereal or Muffin	Whole Grain Bagel
1% unflavored	Fresh Fruit	AND Choose one additional item	Breakfast Pizza (once a week) (K-5)
Skin Flavored	Canned Fruit	Low Fat Yogurt	Egg & Cheese Sandwich (9-12)
Slim unflavored		String Cheese Stick	
		Graham Crackers	
		Maple Cinnamon Bread	
K-5 Breakfast Meal \$1.40	Students must have a minimum of 3 items, one being a Fruit.		
6-12 Breakfast Meal \$1.75	All Breakfast Meals include Fruit & Milk		
	Free Breakfast for Free Eligible Children		
	Reduced Breakfast Meal \$30		
			Note: All grains are whole cereal

There is a wide variety of lunch choices daily, ranging from a hot meal or cold meal, to salads and sandwiches. Meals are a great value and convenient for busy families. 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 students and no charge

for free students. Our full menus can be viewed on the New Milford Public Schools' 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. Payments can also be made with cash or a check in the cafeteria. Additional information can be found on the district website under the Food and Nutrition Services tab. Information regarding Free and Reduced Lunch will be distributed to all students in August and can be accessed on the [district website](#) as well.



If you have questions regarding the breakfast or lunch program, please call the Food Services office at 860-354-3712. We look forward to serving your children in our cafeterias!

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 New Milford Public Schools 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.

How wonderful it is that nobody need
wait a single moment before starting
to improve the world.

~Anne Frank



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. Fingerprinting dates will be made available through the school office 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.

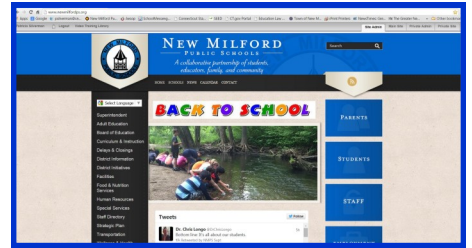
If you have never volunteered before, or have not done so annually, fingerprinting will be necessary. You will need to sign up with your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year and will subsequently receive information about fingerprinting. It is recommended that you sign up earlier rather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

More information will be given to you by the schools. We look forward to having you as a volunteer.

Stay 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?

Sign up for 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

@SMS_CT

@SNIS_CT

@NES_CT

@HPS_CT

@nmpps_supt

Sign up for the ParentPlus Portal

This on-line 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. 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 for up to date schedules and to sign up for alerts about changes in schedule.

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.

NMPS Teachers Prep for the New School Year



Get to know all of New Milford Public Schools' new staff in next month's issue of *Spotlight*.

As the final few days of summer wind down and students are enjoying their last little bit of time in the sun, our district's teachers are hard at work preparing for the first days of school. Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo says "The 2016-17 school year starts extra early for teachers new to the district who will be welcomed to New Milford during New Teacher Orientation on August 23th and August 24th. During the orientation, new teachers will learn about the district's curriculum, meet with administrators and fellow teachers and will have the opportunity to learn about the systems in place and the support they will have throughout their first year."

August 25th is the first day back for all teachers and they will spend it settling in and making sure they are ready for students' return. They'll also be busy on August 26th and 29th, attending staff meetings and the annual all district convocation, as well as welcoming students and parents to open house activities.

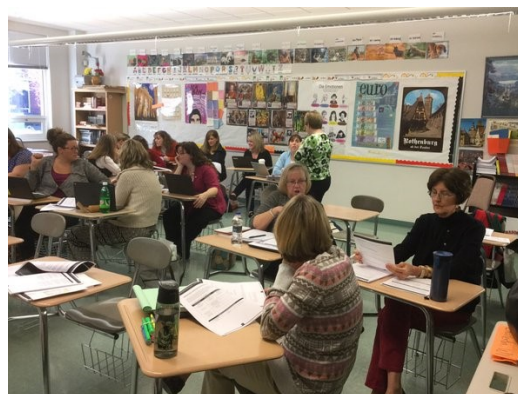
On August 29th and 30th, all teachers from across the district will come together to take part in a series of professional learning opportunities tied to the work of teaching and learning. Teachers will meet with their grade level teams and departments to review curriculum, engage in discussion around student work and to look at data to determine next steps for instruction.



In addition, each afternoon, teachers will take part in four, thirty-minute sessions called "Ed Camps". These learning sessions are created by teachers for teachers and are on the cutting edge of professional development in education.

During the two days, each teacher will be provided with a menu of options from which to choose sessions to attend. Ms. DiCorpo says that "Teachers from different schools will work together on topics

such as technology integration, Writer's Workshop preparation, review of new curriculum, developing math routines and number talks, and data analysis, just to name a few. With just over 135 sessions to choose from over the two days, teachers will leave the sessions feeling prepared and excited to return to the work they love, teaching the students of New Milford."



Working Hard to Get Ready

Each summer, the New Milford Public Schools Facilities Department works diligently to make sure our buildings are ready for the return of students and staff in August. Facilities Manager Kevin Munrett says there are a multitude of projects going on at each building. The department receives cooperation from administrators and staff and works around the summer activities of the schools and community.

There are some projects that happen every summer. District wide, all floors are re-waxed, all carpets shampooed, restrooms sanitized, and walls and other surfaces cleaned. The department sands and recoats every wood gymnasium floor, and seals the synthetic gym floors throughout the district, as well as inspects and services all gym partition doors.



Workers pump, inspect and dispose of waste from every septic and grease tank at each of our facilities that have such tanks. All fire extinguishers, fire alarms, emergency lights and fire suppression systems are inspected and repaired as needed. All kitchen ductwork and hood systems in every kitchen in the district are cleaned and inspected. The staff cleans, services and repairs all boilers, burners and hot water heaters in every Board of Education building. And, of course, there is always mowing!

Our custodians and maintainers also tackle the myriad of work requests which are submitted by staff members as needed, everything from painting to small repairs - the types of things that may be required in any household, especially one as big as NMPS!

This summer the Facilities staff were very busy with school specific projects as well:



At HPS the crew completed the final pieces of relocating the greenhouse from JPS and are happy to report it is fully functional for use in the fall.

At NES the crew installed ceiling fans in six rooms for additional cooling as needed.

At SNIS the rear student entrance “catwalk” has deteriorated over time and is in the process of being replaced this summer.

At SMS several projects are ongoing including a major roof replacement. It is expected that one layer of roofing will be fully in place before the start of school. In addition, the facing has been painted hunter green for contrast. The art rooms are having new sinks and lighting installed. The main office is getting a new intercom system so that multiple desks may activate the front door buzzer as needed. Cooling units are being installed to protect the district’s investment in our computer lab and servers.



At NMHS the hallways, bathrooms and staircases are being painted. A new art kiln is being installed. Projects are taking place on both chillers. Entrance doors and hardware are being replaced to allow for increased handicap accessibility. Crews are working on additional wiring to support Project Lead the Way classrooms, the Video Production classroom, and the LMC.

The community's Turf Field project is almost complete and the Facilities staff has received training on proper maintenance prior to the highly anticipated opening of the fields and track. The district has installed walkways and curbing to the fields for handicap accessibility. A lighting ceremony took place on July 22nd at dusk when the lights were turned on for the first time publicly. The district will celebrate the facilities' official opening for the 2016-17 school year with a formal dedication ceremony on Thursday, September 8th. Details to follow.



As summer draws to a close, the Facilities staff will continue to put the finishing touches to each building going forward so all are ready and welcoming for the return of both staff and students alike.



New Milford Public Schools

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

Mr. Joshua Smith
Superintendent

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Human Resources Director

Mr. Kevin Munrett
Facilities Manager

Mr. Anthony Giovannone
Fiscal Services & Operations
Director

Mrs. Laura Olson
Pupil Personnel & Special
Services Director

Ms. Roberta Pratt
Technology Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

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Mrs. Angela C. Chastain

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Mr. J.T. Schemm

Transitioning from Summer to Back to School Routine

The Internet is full of helpful ideas for making the switch from summer to school. Just enter the topic in your favorite search engine and you'll find a wealth of articles from which to choose. To give you a start:

Scholastic.com suggests [10 Ways to Make the Switch from Summer to School](#). We like #3) *De-Stress Dressing*. Let your child choose special first day clothes — a souvenir shirt from a park you visited this summer or a new dress to match her best friend's. To avoid arguing over school-appropriate clothes, bring the fall wardrobe front and center. Replace sandals and swimsuits with socks, sneakers, and lightweight sweaters.

Oprah.com has suggestions on how to [Beat the Back-to-School Blues](#). We especially liked #3) *Start an Achievement Tree*: Draw a tree with numerous brown branches on poster board, and create a handful of "leaves" on strips of green paper. Each time your child accomplishes something he or she is proud of—such as a successful day at band practice or a solution to a tricky geometry problem—record it on a leaf and tape it to the tree. By the end of the school year, you will have created a full, lush tree!

Idea #7) Create a Launch Pad was also welcome: To smooth out mornings, create a "launch pad" (out of blue painter's tape) near the front door. As part of your bedtime routine, have kids put everything they need for the next day in the launch pad—packed backpacks, the right shoes, appropriate foul-weather gear, etc. When it's time to leave, just have kids empty out the launch pad and hit the road!

Interested in still more ideas? Visit [edutopia.com](#) for a list of [Back-to-School Resources for Parents](#). Here you will find a multitude of links to resources to help children begin school with a positive mindset, support their transition into a new school year, and prepare them for fall learning.

Still not enough? The website [care.com](#) offers [101 Back-to-School Tips for Kids and Parents](#). Our favorite on this list? #101) *Take a breath!*

August
means

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.