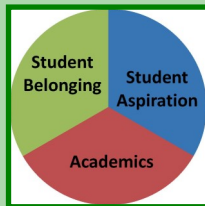




New Milford Public Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406  
[www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org)



**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  
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

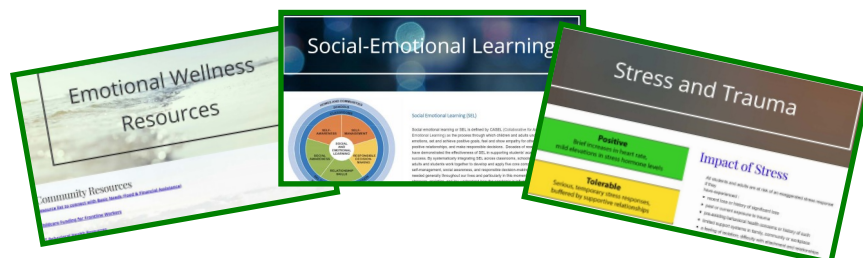
Volume 11, Issue 11

May 2021

## NMPS Launches “Pathway to Emotional Wellbeing” Website

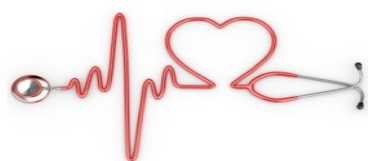


The Wellness Advisory Committee, part of the District’s large group Reopening Committee, met on numerous occasions in the summer of 2020. These meetings focused, in part, on ways to integrate social emotional wellness for all school community members. As such, a team composed of Jane Danish (school counselor at SNIS), Lynn Nissenbaum (school psychologist at NES), and Julianne Morin (school social worker at NES/HPS), in collaboration with Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Laura Olson, worked on providing a resource guide for the school community. The result is the district’s new *Pathway to Emotional Wellbeing* website. The website provides resources, information, webinars and links on a number of topics such as: stress and trauma, grief, social emotional learning, anxiety, community resources, and school resources.



“The intent of the website is to provide information and resources for parents, staff and students to use to enhance their emotional well-being”, says Mrs. Olson. “The emphasis on emotional wellbeing is especially relevant in the current health crisis. Schools are seeing an increased number of learning, behavioral and emotional problems, from more students. For those who already have emotional and

behavioral challenges, these could be exacerbated. Existing disparities have become more pronounced. Stressors and uncertainty are continuing to impact learning and teaching.” The Committee worked to gather information into a website that can be easily accessed by staff and families to address considerations for the social and emotional wellbeing of students and staff. The site will be updated frequently by the committee to provide the most current information and address any new concerns. [Browse the resources here.](#)



## Notes from the School Nurses

### End of the Year Reminders



**Students entering 7th grade** are **required** to have Tdap and meningococcal prior to entering.



**6th graders and 9th graders** are **required** to have physicals on record in the nurse's office prior to 2/28/22. Physicals must be dated on or after 8/25/2020.



**If your child has received the COVID-19 vaccine** please send a copy to your school nurse. This helps the school to maintain a complete immunization record for your child. In addition, it will keep them out of quarantine if they are exposed to an individual with COVID-19 as long as they remain asymptomatic.



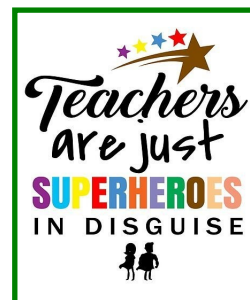
**Medication pick up.** Make arrangements with your child's school nurse to pick up medication from the nurses' office before the end of the year. It is District policy to discard any medication that is not picked up at the end of the school year.

**Enjoy your summer and we look forward to working with you next year!**

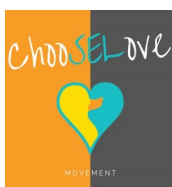
## News from Our Schools

### *Hill and Plain Elementary School*

The month of May kicked off with teacher appreciation week. Thank you to our PTO for planning an amazing week for our staff to help show appreciation for everything they have done this year! Our staff is also working with our PTO to plan some fun events in June for our students as we are quickly coming to the end of the school year.



Thank you to Mrs. Bilko and the staff at SNIS. HPS 2nd grade students and their families were invited to join a virtual meeting in which they received an orientation to SNIS. While we are sad that our time with our 2nd graders is coming to an end, we are excited for what awaits them in 3rd grade at SNIS.



The Choose Love Awareness focus for the month of May was mindfulness. In morning announcements throughout the month, we spoke of the importance of being mindful. Students were asked to be mindful about themselves and to think about what makes them great. We also talked about slowing down and taking deep breaths when feeling overwhelmed.

Next month we are planning on running our mini-kindergarten experience and we are excited to meet our incoming kindergarteners for next year. If you still have to register a child for kindergarten, please contact the main office as soon as possible.

### *Northville Elementary School*

We can't believe it's May! The school year is winding down, but there are still so many fun things ahead. Despite the obstacles this year brought, we've continued to feel blessed for so many reasons, not the least of which includes a caring, dedicated staff here at Northville. We switched gears and rolled with the many changes as they came. Our motto for 2020-2021 was "We Got This!" and though the year proved to have its fair share of challenges, we rose to the occasion, put teamwork into practice, and proved we indeed "had it," *all the way*.

On Monday, May 3rd, our fabulous PTO provided lunch and sweet treats for NES staff to kick off teacher appreciation week. They held a "fun run" fundraiser on May 6th. Students participated at different times throughout the day. They also held the Scholastic Book Fair (outside) along with the "Don't Touch a Truck" event on May 7th. Such a wonderful time for students, staff and parents to connect a bit!







The children learned about life cycles this spring. Some of the Kindergarten classes witnessed caterpillars turn into chrysalis and then into butterflies. The first graders incubated eggs and hatched chickens! The second graders grew vegetables and flowers! They watched seeds turn into sprouts, then to seedlings and finally to big healthy plants. They spent some time in the plant patch, which was a treat! Of the many valuable lessons these activities instilled, the biggest one of all can't be denied: *Living things change*. Often, for the better!

Instead of a one day event, we will hold the “Mini Kindergarten Experience” on Wednesday afternoons throughout the month of June. Families will be invited to Northville to become acclimated and learn more about our school. Informational sessions will be provided for the parents and care-givers while the little ones enjoy some fun, interactive activities at different stations throughout the building. Families will receive a copy of “Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten,” along with some other goodies.



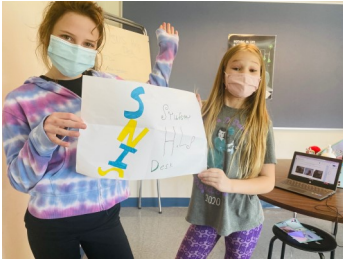
Kindergarten registration is ongoing. If you know of a family with a child who will turn 5 by December 31, 2021 please ask them to visit the district website for registration information.

Upcoming happenings will include the second grade send off, which is our way of saying goodbye and good luck to our second graders moving on to third grade. Field Day is one of the celebrations the kids look forward to, and we are beyond excited to get outside and have some “end of year” fun with our super resilient students! We are looking on the bright side these days *for sure*. To the finish line we go!

### ***Sarah Noble Intermediate School***

*SNIS Student Help Desk is open for business!* How can we help you? That's the motto of the four 5th-grade students who worked with Mrs. Bonnell to build a student-led help desk from the ground up. The “tech agents” (how Mrs. Bonnell refers to the students) are a model example of student agency occurring at SNIS. Their journey started with multiple brainstorming sessions, which included stating a purpose, listing common problems, and eventually led to creating a “more than hunky-dory” website (as described by the tech agents).





The site consists of four sections: home, requests, tutorials, and about. On the home page, you can find the group's purpose, *"Our mission is to help students with tech questions and concerns. We aim to do techie things."* The requests section includes a Google Form for students or their teachers to fill out. The site is just the beginning, now it's time to unleash the agents to do what they've been building up to do, help the SNIS community. Visit us at:

<https://sites.google.com/newmilfordps.org/snis-student-help-desk/home>

**SNIS 2nd to 3rd Grade Family Transition Night:** On Monday, May 17th, the SNIS administrative team hosted a virtual family night for 2nd grade students. The night consisted of a short presentation followed by Q&A from students and families. The 2nd Grade students did a wonderful job asking many questions about 3rd grade next year. For students and families that missed the event, students in class are watching a video of the presentation and it also can be viewed here [2021 2nd Grade Open House](#).

Going forward over the remaining weeks, 2nd grade classes are meeting with 3rd grade classes virtually to hear more about Sarah Noble and to answer any questions they have of our actual 3rd grade students! The SNIS team is looking forward to meeting our new 3rd graders in August.

**Camella's Cupboard Drive:** Dr. Tomasello reports a very successful drive to support Camella's Cupboard with personal care items. Students from Mrs. Backus' class helped finish boxing all the contributions. While Dr. T says they didn't count all the food, soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, and other personal care items, they DID count the diapers and wipes. Impressive numbers they were - 588 diapers and 2806 wipes!!!!

"Thanks to all the students for participating in this important event", says Dr. T. "We appreciate their 'compassion in action', showing that they and their families care for others. A very good lesson to be learned for all."

### ***Schaghticoke Middle School***

May was a busy month at SMS. Our in-house and remote students participated in SBAC testing. Staff and students alike are happy to be finishing up with this big task!

On May 19, two students from SMS were honored at the CAS-CIAC/SOCT Unified Sports Awards Ceremony held virtually on YouTube. Summer DeGrosse and Regan O'Loughlin, both 7th graders (pictured here with SMS Assistant Principal Barbara Nanassy and their certificates), were honored with the Mike Savage Teammate Awards. Regan has been a part of the Unified Sports program at SMS for two years and this school year was Summer's first year participating.



In Grade 6 ELA, students have been sketching out graphic novels. In Grade 7 Social Studies, students have been looking at Chinese culture. Students studied Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism. Then, in groups, they had to pretend to be the “Emperor”, discuss the merits and deficiencies of each, and then select which philosophy should be used to rule the land, which in this case, was NMPS. Plans continue to evolve regarding end of year events for our promoting Grade 8 students.

This month, we held an all school lock down drill. We are so proud of our staff and students. Students have been practicing these drills for many years now and by this time, they know the exact behavior expected of them for safety reasons. They fulfilled our expectations with flying colors.

### ***New Milford High School***

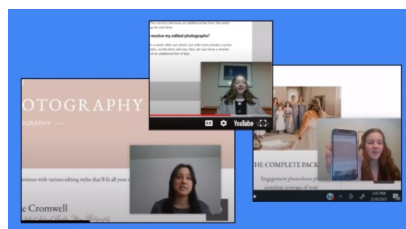
*\*Courtesy of NMHS eNews Blast*

***NMHS Seniors Show Their Colors:*** May 1st is Decision Day across the country, the deadline for most high school seniors to enroll at the college, university, vocational/trade school or military branch of their choice. To show their school spirit, it's a nationwide tradition for students to wear a t-shirt or sweatshirt from the school which they have committed to attend, thereby announcing their decision to friends and faculty. This year, NMHS seniors celebrated their new school colors on Monday, May 3rd. (But we know that deep down their true colors will always be green and white!) Congratulations Seniors!



***Win for NMHS's FBLA Team:*** The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Conference was held virtually on Saturday, April 10th, with an unprecedented **92% of NMHS students placing in their division!**

- 2nd place Banking & Financial Systems - **Jay Bishop & Jake Wilkinson**
- 3rd WebDesign - **Kylie Lane, Leah Minsek, & Jennifer Ferreira**
- 3rd Organizational Leadership - **Josh Sam**
- 4th Accounting 2 - **Jessica Miller**
- 5th Healthcare Administration - **Eve McDermott**
- 5th Computer Applications - **Camila Zhunio**
- 5th Business Ethics: **Justin Chodack, Abu Abdullah, & Ashton Manaog**

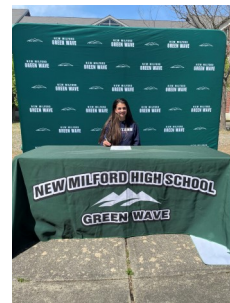


Normally, students would have been required to present their websites to the judges in person. This year, students were required to record and virtually submit presentations through YouTube. Congratulations to the entire team.

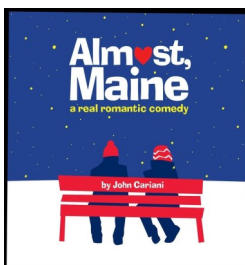




**DECA Team Member Receives Recognition:** Members of the NMHS DECA Team attended the DECA Nationals virtual competition on 4/20. The Sports and Entertainment Marketing event (SEM) is a very competitive event at Nationals. Congratulations to **Ian Lee** for a high score on his role play in this event, in which he received Honorable Mention!



**Signing Day:** Congratulations to Adriana Alfano who signed her letter of intent to play soccer for Western Connecticut State University.



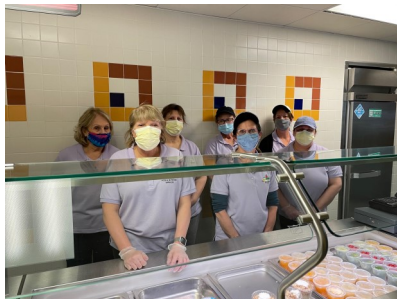
**NMHS Spring Play:** NMHS Theatre will be producing one last show before the year is over! *Almost, Maine*, a romantic comedy, is a series of short plays about the residents of a fictional remote town in Maine called "Almost." Each scene happens at exactly 9:00 PM on a winter Friday night just as the 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 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 for a LIVE audience!! Performances are scheduled for Friday, June 11th at 7 PM and Saturday, June 12th at 2 PM. The Theatre is allowed a half-capacity audience so get your tickets soon! Cost is \$10 per ticket and can be purchased on [nmhsct.boottix.com](http://nmhsct.boottix.com).

### **District-wide**



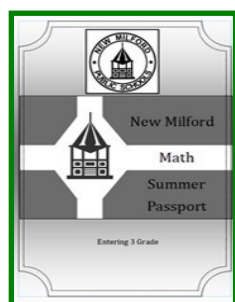
Our Food and Nutrition Services department wanted to share a few pictures of staff from the 8th Annual School Lunch Hero Day on May 7th. Between preparing healthy meals for America's students, feeding families curbside, preparing Grab and Go meals, adhering to strict nutrition standards, navigating student food allergies, and offering service with a smile, school nutrition professionals are true heroes!



## NMPS Expands Summer Programming Options

At the May Committee on Learning meeting of the New Milford Board of Education, Interim Assistant Superintendent Cathy Calabrese outlined the expanded summer programming options that will be offered to qualifying students this summer. “New Milford Public Schools is happy to be offering several new programs designed to ensure that all students have opportunities to meet the district’s rigorous academic standards. Students’ social and emotional learning will be aligned into the programs as well.”

At the K-2 level, the district is offering the Jumpstart program for a week at the beginning of August to selected incoming 1st and 2nd graders at both HPS and NES. The program will focus on core skills. For incoming students grades 3-5, the Summer Bridge program is returning. The focus here will be on reading and math specifically. A new Summer Bridge program will be offered to incoming 6th graders. This new program is designed to help students transition successfully from intermediate to middle school in the areas of literacy, numeracy, and social emotional learning. A similar program is being offered to selected incoming freshmen. Additionally, NMHS is offering a Credit Recovery program which will allow students the opportunity to recover credits lost due to failing grades. There is no cost to the student. Previously students wishing to recover credits needed to attend a program in Brookfield and pay tuition.



All students are invited to participate in the district’s Summer Math and Summer Reading programs. For incoming students grades 1-5, the Summer Math Passport is back. This math themed adventure includes a real-world connection with local community partners. Summer math calendars are also available for grades K-8. In addition, select incoming 8th graders who will be taking Algebra in the fall may participate in the Algebra Readiness program. This course will expose students to critical units of the pre-algebra curriculum to ensure preparation for the Algebra course.

In addition to participation in the Governor’s Reading Challenge, summer reading will take various forms at the different grade levels. K-2, students will play Summer Bingo. Grades 3-5 students will work off of a Summer Reading Choice Board while students in Grades 6-8 will play Summer Reading Tic-Tac-Toe. SMS students will also be offered a summer reading book by grade level, purchased by the SMS PTO. At the high school level, students may choose from over 40 books, including digital and print options. The New Milford Public Library will be working in partnership with NMHS to help supply and promote the choices.



***Thank you  
from the Teacher of the Year Committee!***

The Teacher of the Year Committee would like to thank staff, parents, and students who nominated an outstanding educator who inspired them or others this year. We had an overwhelming response to our new program, with 174 nomination forms received and 89 educators nominated!



A Teacher of the Year for each school will be named in June, and the district Teacher of the Year will be announced, as always, during the Convocation Ceremony when school begins in August.



[Visit the district website to see a listing of all the past NMPS Teachers of the Year.](#)

## NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY

**Welcome to PARENTHOOD**

**It Takes a Village**  
Parent 2 Parent Support Groups

FREE ongoing workshops for parents, run by parents, co-facilitated by Sara Wells, LMSW  
Learn about and share your :  
EXPERIENCES, CONCERNS, ISSUES, & HELPFUL TIPS

Location : The Maxx  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month starting 7/6/21  
@ 5:30pm—6:30pm  
Lite Bites and Bevies provided

For more information please contact Sara Wells, LMSW  
860.210.2030 or [swells@newmilford.org](mailto:swells@newmilford.org)  
Registration required : [www.myouthagency.com](http://www.myouthagency.com)

### **"It Takes a Village" Parent Support Group**

Free group for parents and guardians to offer support, guidance, tips and tricks, and to talk about any parenting concerns and struggles. Light snacks and drinks provided.

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month starting 7/6/2021  
5:30pm-6:30pm, The Maxx, 94 Railroad Street

For more information, please contact Sara Wells, LMSW, at 860-210-2030 or [swells@newmilford.org](mailto:swells@newmilford.org)  
Registration required: [www.myouthagency.com](http://www.myouthagency.com)



## Congratulations to the New Milford Public Schools “Stars” for the month of May 2021!



### **Tori Backer, SMS Special Education Teacher**

*“Tori is an incredible special education teacher and co-teacher. She is thoughtful, kind, and generous! I am so lucky to have the pleasure to work with someone so genuine and caring!”*

### **Toni Bentley, SMS Paraeducator**

*“Mrs. Bentley has worked with my son for the past two years. She has patience and an upbeat caring, loving attitude. She knows him very well and knows how to work with him. I have seen her on Google Meets with him and she is just the kindest, sweetest person. This makes me happy, confident and positive knowing my son is in good hands.”*



### **Ashley Kivela, SMS Social Studies Teacher**

*“Mrs. Kivela is the type of teacher that every child wants and every parent appreciates. I want to thank her for understanding the struggles of our kids during these times and for always showing up with a smile and getting the kids excited to learn.”*

### **Jennifer LaCava, NMHS English Teacher**

*“Ms. LaCava is an inspiring, kind hearted, and flexible teacher. She makes an effort to build individual relationships with each of her students. She tries her hardest to make class a fun experience yet educational every class. She is over-all the best teacher!”*



### **Karen Matthews, SNIS Grade 4 Teacher**

*“Throughout this 20-21 school year’s different schedules, Karen has really stepped up and educated herself on all the new technology that is used to teach these kids. She never has them just sitting on a computer. She tries to work one on one with each student at least once a day so they feel a sense of normalcy. I feel she truly is a star that SNIS is lucky to have.”*

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



## New Milford Public Schools

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

### 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

### Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

Chairperson

### 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 Photography Month\*

Professional photographers, including videographers, take part in activities in celebration of their art medium. That doesn't mean amateur photographers and selfie enthusiasts can't participate. There are multiple ways to pay homage to the amazing contribution of photography to our world.



**Photograph the normalcy of your life.** You don't have to wait for a vacation or special event to take a photo. Capture the moments of your everyday life in unplanned, spontaneous snapshots.

**Make a photobook.** Most of us have a stash of photos stuffed in a closet somewhere. May is the perfect time to get them into a scrapbook or organized into a photobook.

**Photograph your pet.** Who doesn't love pictures of adorable pets? Set up an Instagram account for your pet. The world is waiting for you to share the cuteness of your pet. It's wildlife photography from the comfort of your own home.

**Make a family tree with photographs.** Family trees are a great project for everyone in the household. Dig through old photos and take new ones to make a photo version of the traditional family tree.

**Visit a photo gallery or museum.** Some of the most iconic and inspiring works of art, whether they're painted or photographs or film/video footage, are on display in museums, art galleries, and local libraries. Make it a family outing to visit one near you for a trip through history and local culture.

**Enroll in a photography course.** Whether it's at a local college, online, at a local hobby store, or just a group of enthusiasts, get involved in photography through a course of your own. Whether traditional or digital, it's a skill you won't regret acquiring.

\*Courtesy of <https://www.mimeophotos.com/blog/national-photography-month>

May  
bringing  
s

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.