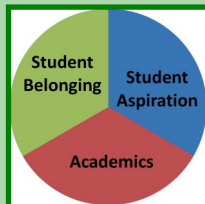




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647
Mr. Raymond Manka, 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 12, Issue 1

July 2021

Summer Learning Resources



On June 4th, New Milford Public Schools released their new summer reading initiative to students and families. Teachers, paras, tutors and administrators recorded a [promotional video](#) to the tune from Dua Lipa's hit song, *Levitating*, to encourage students to read this summer. The song itself is sung by Northville school psychologist Lynn Nissenbaum's daughter, Abby.

The video was followed by the announcement of the [NMPS Summer Learning webpage](#) for rising K-8 students. The webpage features many learning activities for literacy and mathematics, including the Governor's Reading Challenge and the Summer Math Passport for students in grades K-5. The Math Passports provide a real-world connection with local community partners and encourage families to explore New Milford. All programs are designed to motivate, encourage and build stamina through a variety of activities and choices. SMS and NMHS have their own pages for ideas and suggestions. The [New Milford Public Library](#) is collaborating with the district to offer additional resources and summer programs.

"We hope families make use of these resources which are offered in a fun, creative way to encourage students to continue learning during the summer months," says NMPS Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo. "At the same time, we hope families are able to take advantage of this time to relax and recharge."



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

As required by the State of CT, Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo, the Central Office Cabinet, and NMPS Building Administration have developed the first version of the district's *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* for the fall. The full plan may be viewed on the district website [here](#). The Plan incorporates portions of the 2020-21 pre-existing reopening plan that match the most current Department of Public Health guidance from the State of Connecticut. The district will continue to reassess and review updated state guidance as it is received, and as advised by our local Department of Public Health and our District Medical Advisor. The *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* will be updated every six months over the course of the 2021-22 school year in order to adjust to updates that are provided to school districts from the State of CT, CDC, and Department of Public Health. Please remember that all public school districts are required to follow the mitigation strategies and guidance outlined from the State and the Department of Public Health.

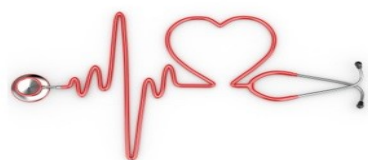


A stakeholder survey accompanied the release of the first version of the Plan. As a result of survey responses, questions were asked regarding the Music program, mask wearing and snow days. Superintendent DiCorpo says, “We have heard the concerns. Answers to these questions await updated guidance from the CSDE and DPH and are not individual district considerations.”



UPDATE: On July 9, 2021 the CDC updated their [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#). Then on July 27, 2021, given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, the [CDC updated their guidance](#) for fully vaccinated people. The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.

Currently superintendents are awaiting further guidance from the Governor and the Commissioner of Schools. “This guidance will drive our decision making for the fall,” says Superintendent DiCorpo. “Any changes to our current plan will be communicated to families shortly after receiving the guidance. We will be maintaining ventilation on buses, assigning seating and will be following all guidance regarding social distancing protocols. We will be maximizing spacing in the cafeterias and will socially distance at least three feet in all other classroom settings. The NV5 project that is ongoing with the Town will help to support proper ventilation through replacement of some or our operating mechanical systems. We will continue to share any updates with the community as they are received.”



Notes from the School Nurses

The 2021-22 school year is quickly approaching and we are excited to welcome our students back! With COVID-19 still on the forefront and the ever-changing guidelines, keeping our children well and safe in school is our top priority.

Our best protection from getting sick and spreading the COVID-19 virus continues to be vaccinating, masking, social distancing, and frequent handwashing. Thank you for your help in reinforcing healthy behaviors in our students.

Please continue to:

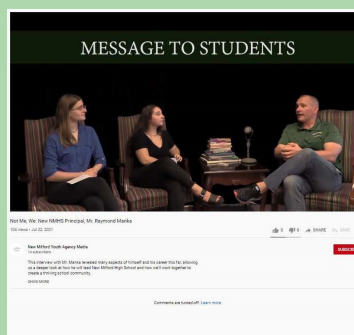
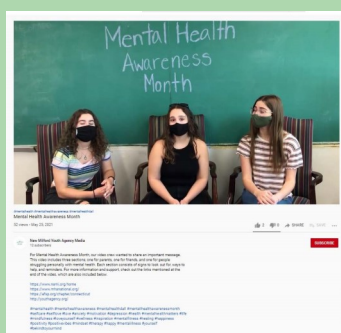
- Screen your children daily for illness prior to sending them to school
- Keep them home if they are not feeling well

COVID-19 vaccine - Consult your child's health care provider on the COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine is currently available for persons 12 years and older.

If your child has received the COVID-19 vaccine please send a copy of the card 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.



The talented Youth Agency video crew recently created two videos:
a public service announcement about Mental Health
and an interview with new NMHS Principal Raymond Manka.

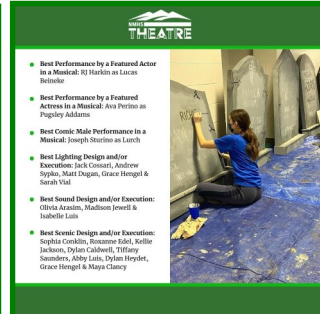


Check them out [here](#) ...

... and [here](#).

***The Addams Family* Earns CT Halo Awards Recognition**

Halo awards are the premiere high school musical theater awards in Connecticut. This year, the NMHS production of *The Addams Family* was honored to be nominated for 18 Halo Awards! The virtual awards ceremony took place on Saturday, July 10.



That evening, the NMHS Theatre production of *The Addams Family* won Best Musical in their division! All School Musical Director Alessandro Amenta says, “We are so honored to be recognized for what was an incredibly ambitious and challenging production in a difficult year. Thank you to Seven Angels Theatre for continuing to support and promote high school theatre programs. Thank you to everyone that worked on this show over the last year and half; your passion made this win possible. Thank you to all who supported us during our abnormally long rehearsal process and helped us keep theatre alive. This was the best way to end our strange season, and we’re excited to see what we create next.”



In addition to the award for Best Musical, the Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical (Contemporary) went to Tyler Holm for his legendary performance as Gomez Addams.

Congratulations as well to the set building team, stage crew, and principal artistic designers on winning Best Set Design. These sets were designed, built, and painted by a team of talented and hard-working students. The spectacular sets would not have been possible without Master Carpenter, Mr. Jim Luis, Production Manager, Mrs. Jackie Decho Holm, and the set building team and stage crew members from the Class of 2020.

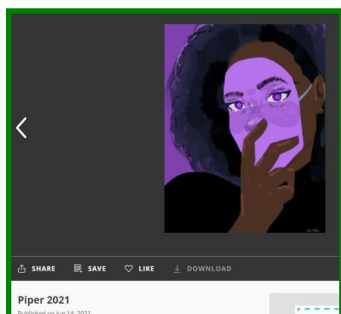
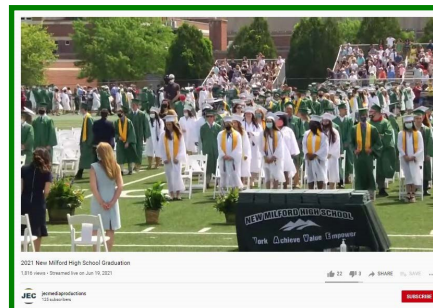
Want to Catch a “Wave”?

Are you in a couch potato mood? Stuck inside on a rainy day? Why not catch a “Wave”, Green Wave that is, and check out one of the suggestions below:



Watch the latest episode of Green Wave TV, episode 4 for 20-21, [here](#).

Relive the 2021 NMHS Graduation [here](#) or Awards & Senior Scholarship ceremony [here](#).



Check out the New Milford High School literary magazine, *The Piper*, online. Click [here](#) to view the work of our talented student writers and artists.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, August 18	NMHS Freshman Orientation	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, August 24	SMS Walkthrough Grades 6-8	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, August 24	NES/HPS K-2 Open House	12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 24	SNIS Open House	1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 25	STUDENTS FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	
Wednesday, September 8	NES/HPS K-2 Curriculum Night	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 8	NMHS Curriculum Night	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 14	SMS Curriculum Night	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 15	SNIS Grade 3 Curriculum Night	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 15	SNIS Grades 4/5 Curriculum Night	7:00 p.m.

The NMPS 2021-22 School Calendar may be viewed [here](#).
Visit individual school sites for their calendar of events.

Facilities Director Appointed

At a Special Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, New Milford Public Schools Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo recommended, and the Board approved, the appointment of Matthew Cunningham, who will join New Milford Public Schools as Facilities Director.



Mr. Cunningham is coming to New Milford from the Derby Board of Education where he has served as Facilities Manager since 2019. His duties included managing facilities usage for the district, purchasing, budget preparation, and employee evaluations. He also served as the district's Facilities Committee Chair for the COVID-19 Recovery Plan and as the Safety Services Program Coordinator. During his tenure in Derby, Mr. Cunningham oversaw several large scale projects including managing logistics and support for a multi-million dollar school district ESPC project, working on plans to upgrade the COGEN plant at Derby

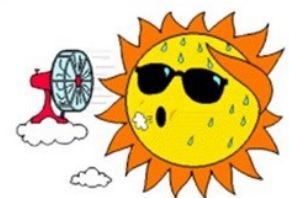
Middle School, and working in conjunction with City officials for the completion of a new multi-million dollar sports complex.

Prior to Derby, Mr. Cunningham was the Head Custodian at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls. He has previously worked in Building Maintenance/Custodial for the Town of Monroe and as a Foreman for Home Maintenance, Inc. of Bridgeport.

Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo says, "With so many ongoing and upcoming Facilities projects, the Director is a key position. Mr. Cunningham has demonstrated that his prior management of large scale projects as well as his ability to manage multiple projects at one time will help him to organize, orchestrate and advocate for what is necessary as we begin to transition into each. Mr. Cunningham's skill set will also complement the existing team and we look forward to working with him."

Shout Out to Our Hard Working Facilities Department!

Summer is no vacation for our hard working Facilities personnel, whether indoors and out. It is prime time to take advantage of the schools being relatively empty of students and staff to work their way through all the cleaning and disinfecting, scrubbing, painting, annual inspections and work order processing needed to keep our buildings' thousands of square feet maintained. In addition, summer is the time for annual servicing of septic tanks, kitchen hood cleaning, boiler maintenance and other miscellaneous projects. Finally, summer wouldn't be summer without yard work, and our grounds provide plenty of it!



Kudos to our custodial and maintenance crews who work behind the scenes to maintain our buildings and grounds throughout the year.


New Milford Public Schools

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

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Superintendent

Ms. Holly Hollander
Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Matthew Cunningham
Facilities Director

Mrs. Catherine Gabianelli
Human Resources Director

Mr. Anthony Giovannone
Fiscal Services & Operations
Director

Mrs. Laura Olson
Pupil Personnel &
Special Services Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

Board of Education

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Chairperson

Mr. Joseph Failla
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Pete Helmus

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan

Mrs. Olga I. Rella



The *Pittsburgh Mom Collective* offers
The Ultimate List of 100 Fun Summer Activities To Do With Your Kids

Here are some of our favorites:

- #1 Have a picnic at the playground.
- #7 Have a water gun or water balloon battle.
- #13 Play water balloon baseball.
- #17 Have a nature scavenger hunt.
- #26 Join the Summer Storytime program at your local library.
- #33 Play a round of mini golf.
- #35 Build a sandcastle.
- #47 Cover your slide with shaving cream.
- #50 Decorate the driveway with sidewalk chalk and have a photoshoot or draw a hopscotch board and play a few games.
- #58 Have a car wash using ride on toys.
- #69 Make banana splits or have a sundae bar.
- #81 Make a bird feeder.
- #88 Stargaze with your family.
- #94 Play "tennis" with (clean) fly swatters and balloons.
- #100 Have your kids create a Summer Scrapbook by keeping a journal about their favorite summer activities, and adding mementos and pictures.



[Click here](#) for more inspiration
and to see the full list.



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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.