



New Milford Public Schools
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New Milford High School
860-350-6647
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal

Mr. Marc Baland, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Ass't. Principal
Dr. Christopher Longo, Ass't. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204
Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Suzi Greene, Ass't. Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
860-210-4020
Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Joan Kick, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Ass't. Principal
Dr. Don Naiman, Ass't. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School
860-354-5430
Dr. Anne Stuhlman, Principal

Mrs. Joan Kick, Ass't. Principal



John Pettibone Elementary School
860-354-3218
Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Ass't. Principal



Northville Elementary School
860-355-3713
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

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Five New Milford Teachers Become Certified STEM Coaches



On Friday, August 23, 2013 five New Milford Public Schools elementary teachers attended a reception at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford in recognition of their graduation from the Danbury-Area Elementary STEM Instructional Coaching Academy (DESICA). The educators were recognized here in New Milford at the October meeting of the Board of Education. Kudos to Mrs. Carrie Allen (John Pettibone School), Mrs. Carol Allison (Sarah Noble Intermediate School), Mrs. Susan Brofford (Northville Elementary School), Mrs. Cynthia Cotter (John Pettibone School), and Ms. Megan Schoonmaker (Sarah Noble Intermediate School).

An MSP grant of \$927,000 from the Connecticut State Department of Education funded the three year training program. MSP stands for the Mathematics and Science Partnerships Program which came into being in 2002 as part of the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Administered by the U.S. Department of Education, the program is designed to improve the mathematics and science knowledge of classroom teachers while encouraging them to increase their use of teaching techniques associated with improved student learning.

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STEM Teachers continued from page 1

One unique aspect of this program is that it requires projects conducted through partnerships between high-need school districts and science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics (STEM) departments in colleges and universities. These partnerships provide intensive, content-rich professional development to teachers and other educators, with the goal of improving classroom instruction and, ultimately, student achievement in math and science. Funds are distributed by the U.S. Department of Education to each state, and states then establish their own priorities and hold competitions to fund promising projects.

Since 2006, the Connecticut Department of Education has awarded nearly \$8 million in MSP grants to support nine regional instructional coaching academies.

Nearly 200 elementary and middle school teachers have received three years of intensive coursework and workshops in mathematics and science content, pedagogy and coaching techniques. As instructional coaches, they will collaborate with classroom teachers to enhance understanding of state standards, develop engaging lessons, and use evidence-based instruction and assessment practices.

Thirty-eight Connecticut school districts have participated in MSP instructional coaching academies.

In 2010, a cohort of 24 elementary teachers from Danbury, New Milford and Newtown were selected to participate in a three year program to prepare them for new roles as school-based science instructional leaders. The training program consisted of 18 credits of graduate courses in science and mathematics, as well as numerous institutes and seminars in science pedagogy and coaching techniques. For the past two years, MSP surrogate teachers have enabled cohort members to spend time each month observing classes, modeling lessons and conferencing with other teachers about effective strategies for engaging students in scientific inquiries.

The five New Milford graduates will serve as building, and district, “go to” teachers for colleagues wishing for support in the STEM areas. They will work to advance the art of science education by promoting integrated STEM activities, specifically project-based and hands-on learning.

“We are so excited to have these talented educators trained as STEM instructional coaches. They will be wonderful assets for the New Milford schools.”

~ Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote

SMS Students Accept Rachel's Challenge

On October 4, 2013 Schaghticoke Middle School 7th graders participated in an assembly dedicated to Rachel's Challenge. This is the third year that the school has participated in the program.



*7th grade students sign
the Rachel's Challenge banner*

Rachel's Challenge is a series of student empowering programs and strategies that equip students and adults to combat bullying and allay feelings of isolation and despair by creating a culture of kindness and compassion.

The programs are based on the writings and life of 17 year-old Rachel Scott who was the first student killed at Columbine High School in 1999. Rachel left a legacy of reaching out to those who were different, who were picked on by others, or who

were new at her school. Shortly before her death she wrote, "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go."

Rachel's Challenge was started by Rachel's dad and stepmom, Darrell and Sandy Scott when they realized that the writings and drawings Rachel left not only had an impact on her friends and classmates, but could also resonate with students around the world.

It's estimated that each day 160,000 students do not go to school because they are bullied, teased and harassed. By turning the story of a tragic death at Columbine High School into a mission for change, Rachel's Challenge is helping create safer learning environments and making a world-wide impact.

More than 19 million people have been touched by Rachel's message, and they continue the legacy of making a difference in their communities. Each year at least 2 million more people are added to that number. In one survey, 78% of students indicated they would definitely intervene in a bullying incident in their school after seeing Rachel's Challenge. In the last 3 years, Rachel's Challenge has received nearly 500 unsolicited emails from students stating that after hearing Rachel's story they reached out for help as they were contemplating suicide. Some even state that "Rachel saved their life".

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Rachel's Challenge continued...



Presenter Larry Scott, Rachel's uncle, poses with members of the Schaghticoke Friends of Rachel Club

At SMS, The Friends of Rachel Club (FOR) meets after school on two Thursdays a month until 3:30 p.m. The goal of the group is to continue spreading Rachel's message of kindness and helping to make SMS a positive place for everyone. Interested students can contact the school counseling office for more information.

To read more about Rachel's Challenge, go to www.rachelschallenge.org.



Spotlight on School Breakfast

The New Milford Public Schools Food Service Department is doing its part to make sure all of our students are fully prepared for academic success. We all know that hungry children have a more difficult time doing their best work. That is why it's important that students begin the school day with a nutritious breakfast.

The Food Service Department offers a **School Breakfast Program** to students in **grades K – 6** every weekday morning. **School Breakfast** is an ideal solution on busy mornings when kids are running late or parents have to be at work early. Whatever the reason, if breakfast at home is not convenient, your child can take advantage of breakfast here at school.

You do not have to register your child in advance. Your child can eat breakfast at school every day or only occasionally. The breakfast menu consists of cereal, muffins, bagels, assorted fruit, 100% juice, yogurt, string cheese, low fat or skim milk. School breakfast makes good sense; it provides $\frac{1}{4}$ of your child's nutritional needs and meets Dietary Guidelines recommendations.

Students who qualify for free lunch will receive breakfast for free, the cost for a reduced student breakfast is .30 cents and a paid breakfast is \$1.40.

As Mrs. Sandra Sullivan, Food Service Director says "The School Breakfast Program helps to make sure that all of our students start the school day alert, well fed and ready to learn."

High School: Sometimes it is all Fun and Games

When you think about high school activities what is the first thing that comes to mind: an athletic team, the band, art club? While New Milford High School offers all of those, how many of you think of American Sign Language, Ballroom Dancing, Digital Photography, Electronics and Robotics, Flag Football, Guitar Club and more? These are just a few of the many activities offered to students during Activity Day at New Milford High School.



Drama Club

Activity days are held approximately 14 times during the course of the school year, alternating A and B days to try and keep the academic schedule balanced. Activities meet for a 33 minute period. Offerings change from year to year. Sometimes staff members offer an activity because they have a special skill or interest to share with students. This year Dr. Longo, the Assistant Principal who oversees extracurricular activities at the high school, reached out to students to inquire about what kinds of clubs are missing at NMHS. Dr. Longo says “The goal is to offer something for everyone. We want to be able to have a place for all students to go during



Team Building with Duct Tape

Activity Period. We also looked for ways to decrease the number of students who attended study halls during this period of time.” Once student interest was gauged, Dr. Longo solicited a volunteer from staff to act as advisor for the interested students. The past school year saw 19 new clubs designed based on student interest. In this current school year, another 21 clubs were either created or revised based on student interest.

This year students have over 80 offerings from which to choose! Many of the activities also meet after school and sometimes on weekends. A [full listing of activities and clubs](#) is available on the school’s website. Some of the more unique offerings this year include:

Arduino and Raspberry Pi Club:

This club allows students to experiment with controlling devices through sensors and the internet.

Ballroom Dancing: Students learn the basic steps of dances such as the Rumba, Foxtrot, and Lindy.

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Scrabble Club

Banana Ball: A game similar to Mat Ball and Wiffle Ball, Banana Ball lets students choose a bat or a tennis racket to hit a handball that is pitched to them.

Needlework for the Needy: This club is for those who knit and crochet on any level who are interested in making items for charitable donation.

Team Building with Duct Tape: This fun group uses only duct tape to learn important skills such as leadership, trust, cooperation, creativity, problem solving and confidence.



Badminton Club

Yoga Club: A thirty minute class to help students quiet their minds, be more organized and focus better the rest of day.

Video Productions, a class and a club, spotlighted Activity Day in a recent Green Wave TV episode. To view, follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPC8IOSB24k>.

Activity Day takes place in neighboring districts as well and helps fulfill the requirements of the State Department of Education that "Each school district and school profile must address characteristics, needs, and resources including participation in extracurricular activities and athletics."



Children's Crafts Club

Dr. Longo says the goal of Activity Day is simple: for students to develop relationships with their peers who have similar interests and with the advisor. "It is important that students have the opportunity to grow socially, in addition to academically at this age. High school is full of many stresses in terms of academics and most would agree about the importance of extracurricular and co-curricular activities."



New Milford Public Schools

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National Principals Month

"The key to student success is a great school, and the key to a great school is a great principal."

October has been designated National Principals Month by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals as a time to honor the hard work and dedication of America's principals.

Congress is joining in with both the House and Senate introducing Principals Month Resolutions. The House resolution sums up the principal's job description nicely as school leaders who "are expected to be educational visionaries, instructional leaders, assessment experts, disciplinarians, community builders, public relations experts, budget analysts, facility managers, special programs administrators, and guardians of various legal, contractual, and policy mandates and initiatives as well as being entrusted with young people, the most valuable resource".

Mrs. Dana Ford
SMS



Mrs. Paula Kelleher
JPS



Dr. Anne Stuhlman
HPS



Mr. Greg Shugrue
NMHS



Mrs. Susan Murray
NES



Dr. Len Tomasello
SNIS

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.

October berries