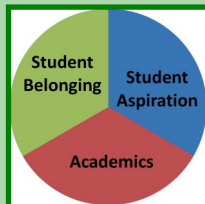




New Milford Public Schools
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New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647

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



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204

Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Delaney, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Asst. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School
860-354-5430

Mrs. Patricia Corvella, Interim Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal



Northville Elementary School
860-355-3713

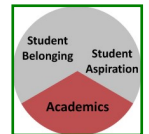
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 9, Issue 7

January 2019

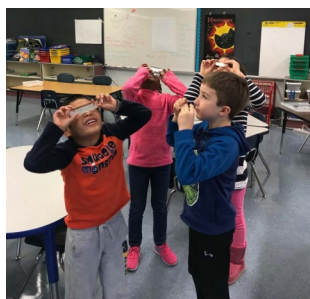
Students Enjoy Science Enrichment Activities



New Milford Public Schools K-5 Science Enrichment teacher Susan Brofford reports that students in grades 1-5 have been hard at work this year on their Project Lead the Way enrichment courses. Each group is working on a Problem Based Learning (PBL) activity to solve a real-world problem. To complete their task, students work through the following 5 steps of the Engineering Design Process:

1. Ask: What is the problem I need to solve?
2. Explore/Imagine: Brainstorm ideas and choose the best one.
3. Plan/Model: Draw and label your idea.
4. Create: Build it using your plan and test it.
5. Explain/Improve: Tell others how it worked and what you would change.

Mrs. Brofford says, "While the engineering design process always follows the same steps, the specific PBL activity that students investigate can take many forms and varies among grades and schools."



At Hill and Plain, first grade students investigated the properties of light and the effect of different materials placed in the path of a beam of light. They made the connection between sound waves and how we hear sounds. They used their new learning to create ways to communicate over a long distance using light and sound.

Second grade students investigated how the landscape changes due to weather events. They used their knowledge to engineer retaining walls in a project designed to "Save the City!"

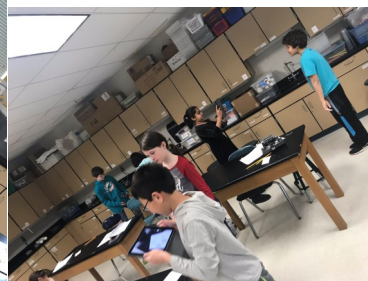
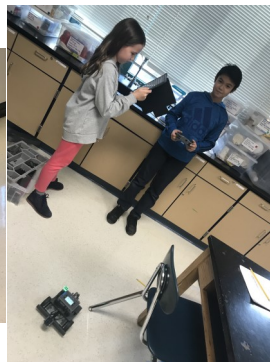
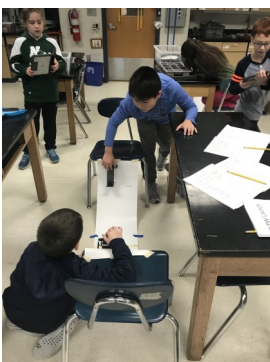


Northville's second grade students learned about materials science and young inventors. They engineered a contraption to keep an ice pop from melting on a hot day using only materials they might have in their car. They took measurements and created data tables to determine the best solutions.



At NES, first grade enrichment students researched animal and plant adaptations to get ideas to construct the perfect shoe for a traveler headed to the Arctic, African Savanna, Sahara Desert, or Amazon Rainforest.

Sarah Noble students focused on the Engineering Design Process and using 21st century skills to complete their projects. Third grade students built and tested simple machines including inclined planes, pulleys, and levers. They combined these to create compound machines capable of lifting and rotating an object. Fourth grade students explored energy transfers in collisions by looking at direction, speed, and force. They used the four C's (critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration) to design a vehicle restraint system for a fragile passenger. Fifth grade students showcased their engineering skills by building a robot capable of retrieving hazardous materials from a waste site. These students then turned STEM into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) by producing movies about their robot adventures.



Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo says, "New Milford Public Schools is proud to offer 21st century learning opportunities such as these to our students."

SMS Students Attend CT Unified Sports Leadership Summit



This month, SMS Physical Education teacher Eileen Holden and four Schaghticoke Middle School students attended the Connecticut Unified Sports Leadership Summit in Newtown. The Unified Sports program is an inclusive program that gives all school-aged children opportunities to participate in organized team sports and build friendships with their peers while helping to inspire a school environment where inclusion, acceptance and respect are cornerstones.

"At the summit, student leaders participated in activities that could be used in the after school Unified Sports program in our school," says Ms. Holden. "Our students also learned about different ways to include all students into the school community. It was a very positive experience."

Superintendent Search Update

With the start of the new year, the search for the next Superintendent for New Milford Public Schools has kicked into high gear. A key step in this process is to identify the characteristics desired in a new Superintendent.

The data collected will be used to develop a leadership profile that outlines expectations and desired characteristics for candidates looking to apply for the position. This profile will be presented to the Board of Education at a special meeting on February 12, 2019, and upon approval, will be posted online to the district website.

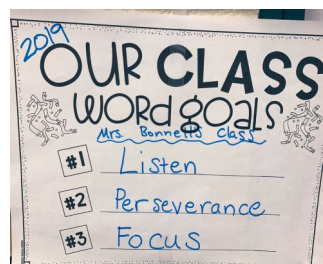
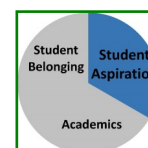
It is not too late to add your valued input by completing the online survey at

<https://ecrasurvey.com/newmilfordct>

Don't delay, the survey closes January 31!

What's my 2019 word? Ask some SNIS 4th graders...

January is a time when many adults choose to be reflective and think about how to be a "better you". This year, adults are not the only ones setting goals as 2019 begins.



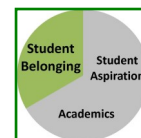
Fourth grade students in Mrs. Gee and Mrs. Bonnell's classes started the new year off by creating personal "word goals". Says Mrs. Gee, "Students chose words that would help them grow as a person in both school and at home. They selected words such as: patience, honesty, and perseverance." After the words were chosen, students developed action plans that would help them accomplish their goals and explained why those words would help them grow.

Peers shared their "2019 words" through a gallery walk amongst the lockers. Mrs. Bonnell says, "The students chose to display them there in order to remind them daily of their 2019 word goal. The lesson also led to a larger discussion about how to set goals and work towards them. As a whole, both classes also voted on three word goals to work on collaboratively. This provided a chance for students to help the whole class be successful moving forward in the new year."



Consistent goal setting is part of SNIS' school initiatives regarding maintaining a growth mindset. Students are reminded that goal setting helps with growth, success, and the understanding that we can always improve.

Recognizing the NMHS Student of the Month



The mission statement of the New Milford Public Schools emphasizes that we are “a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family and *community*”. This community involvement manifests itself in many ways to nurture and celebrate our students. Groups such as the Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary Club all have youth branches of their organizations at work in our schools. The students participate in service projects at school, and out in the community, in conjunction with adult club mentors.

Clubs also provide scholarships and other recognition for our students. One example of this can be seen in the New Milford Rotary Club’s long standing Student of the Month program. New Milford Rotarian Katy Francis says, “The New Milford Rotary Club Student of the Month program recognizes outstanding New Milford High School students for achievement in academics, school activities and community service. The program has been in existence since 1962 and has recognized approximately 560 students during that time.” That’s a tremendous amount of student recognition!



Business teacher Deborah Knipple is the NMHS liaison for the program. She works with school administrators, department heads and teachers to select a student each month. Departments rotate throughout the year to recognize a variety of students who may excel in different areas. Mrs. Knipple provides the student information to Rotary who then invites the student, along with her/his parents and the nominating NMHS teacher, to attend the

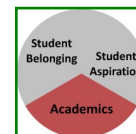
monthly New Milford Rotary luncheon meeting. The accompanying teacher is asked to speak about the student's accomplishments and the student is invited to address the Rotarians about their career plans and future goals.

To top off the recognition, the student honoree is presented with an Award of Merit and a check for \$100.00. A photo of the student is placed in the Rotary Student of the Month plaque at NMHS, located across from the library, displayed on the NM Rotary website and Facebook page and submitted to the local newspaper.

“As the liaison for Rotary”, Mrs. Knipple says, “I would like to add that the Rotary Club contributes to our school and local community in many ways and it is a privilege to work with them. They are very supportive of all our students. Student of the Month is just one example of how they recognize and honor our students.”

Per the [New Milford Rotary Club website](#): Rotary International is one of the largest service organizations in the world with more than 1 million members worldwide. It is the only service organization to have a permanent representative to the United Nations. The Rotary Foundation provides grants for Rotary initiatives throughout the world, including cultural exchanges, graduate level scholarships, humanitarian projects, and Polio Plus. Rotary, working with the United Nations, is leading the effort to eradicate polio in all countries. Rotary has contributed hundreds of millions of dollars and countless volunteer hours in this campaign over the past twenty years. The New Milford Rotary Club was chartered on January 12, 1960. The club annually raises in excess of \$80,000 which is used to support various local and international projects.

NMHS Business Classes go to Court



Each semester, New Milford High School Business teacher Kristie O'Neill takes her Business and Personal Law classes to visit Litchfield Superior Court in Torrington, CT. Prior to the trip, the classes learn about moral and ethical conflicts in law, corporate scandals, the creation of laws, state vs federal courts, the bill of rights, criminal vs civil law, the appeals process, and juvenile law.

While at the courthouse, the students get a tour of the jury selection room, the court library and the court room itself. They also have the unique opportunity to ask questions of professionals in a variety of roles within the courthouse. Depending on availability, this can include: state prosecutors, public defenders, private attorneys, court marshals, the deputy chief clerk, a probation officer, a parole officer, a translator and a judge. Students also sit in the courtroom while both civil and criminal cases are being arraigned, presented and decided.

Upon return from the trip, students reflect on career choices within the legal profession, discuss the cases observed and use the experience to help prepare them for the student run mock trial at the end of the course.

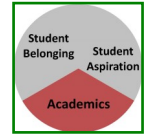


Mrs. O'Neill says the trips wouldn't be possible without the assistance of Eric Groody and Robert Dwyer. Eric is the Deputy Chief Clerk II for Geographical Area Matters and is responsible for staffing and day-to-day operations. When asked about the school's visits Eric said, "By providing opportunities for schools and other community groups to visit the Torrington courthouse and speak with staff, we strive to promote public trust and confidence in the Connecticut Judicial Branch. For high school tours, in particular, we try to create an environment that allows students

to see, first hand, that the state courts are here to serve a vital role in our society. It becomes clear that the true role of the court is different from what is often portrayed on television and social media. All of our speakers volunteer their time to talk to the student groups. The experience is intended to provide an enhanced understanding of the judicial system and to be an invaluable tool for students as they learn about the functions and purpose of the state courts."

Robert Dwyer is a private attorney out of Winsted, CT who also volunteers his time as the Attorney Coordinator for the Connecticut Court Visitation Program. When Bob was asked about his role with the court visits he said, "It is one of the highlights of my job. For a moment, I remember how I viewed the criminal justice system as a student and it inspires me to not forget the role I play in this system. Also, I have an opportunity to impart a little wisdom to students and hopefully it makes a difference."

NMHS Forensic Psychology Visits Correctional Institution



On December 5th, NMHS Forensic Psychology students went on a field trip to Cheshire Correctional Institution as part of a unit on crime and incarceration. The trip provides an opportunity for students to get a first-hand look at the criminal justice system in action. The students toured the facility, including a housing unit and the shop where inmates create the license plates used by the state of Connecticut.



Social Studies teacher Candice Schiesel says, "The most impactful part of the trip was sitting down for a group discussion with the mentors group. This is a group of inmates who are serving lengthy sentences but who have decided to focus on self-growth and civic engagement by taking part in the Youth Initiative Program that counsels youth from local communities, including those currently in juvenile detention. These mentors also counsel younger inmates at Cheshire who are serving shorter sentences so that they will be prepared to make better choices after their release. The students gained a deeper understanding of the social and environmental factors that lead people to commit violent crimes and were able to break down some of the stigma associated with criminality and to discuss the role that rehabilitation can play in helping previously violent offenders make amends and become contributing members of society."

Mrs. Schiesel and the students were thankful to the wardens and counselors at Cheshire Correctional Facility who made this memorable trip possible.



Tickets are on sale now!

NMHS All School Musical:

March 29, 2019 7:00 p.m.
March 30, 2019 7:00 p.m.
March 31, 2019 3:00 p.m.
April 5, 2019 7:00 p.m.
April 6, 2019 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

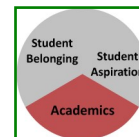
Tickets for Footloose may be purchased online at <https://nmhsct.booktix.com> or through the box office at NMHS. For more information, call the box office at (860) 350-6647 ext. 1552. All seating is reserved and all tickets purchased in advance* are \$10 each.

* In an effort to reduce large crowds at the box office on a show date, please be aware that this year tickets purchased at the door on the day of the performance will cost \$15 each. Credit cards incur an additional \$1.50 fee per ticket.

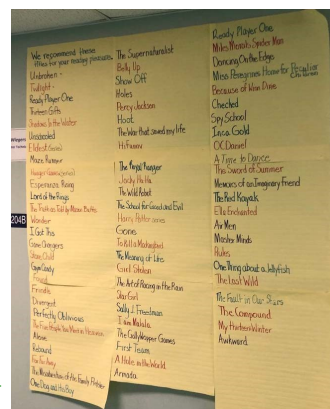
Building a Reading Culture



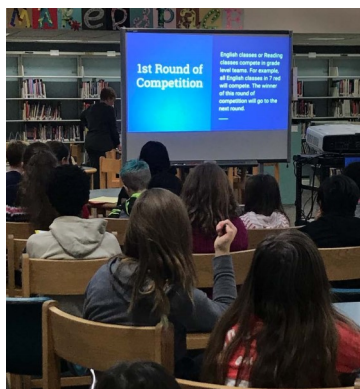
When students enter their middle school years, reading instruction shifts from learning to read, to reading to learn. It's important therefore to foster a culture where reading is integral to the environment. At Schaghticoke Middle School, students receive a visual reminder as soon as they enter the school in the form of the new "What's Going on in Reading" bulletin board. Sample books that SMS students are reading are on display in the front case, along with a scrolling presentation that shows images of students reading.



Classroom and office doors all sport clear plastic paper holders designed to highlight reading choices. Teachers and administrators are using the website <http://whatimreading.org> to make a poster to slide into the covering showing what they are currently reading, or something they've read in the past, that they would recommend to students. Students are getting into the act by giving their own suggestions and sharing them for all to see.



The school recently held its kickoff and introduction for the annual Battle of the Books, a hotly contested event where students read



as many books as they can in preparation for answering a series of questions. The more they read, the better prepared they will be. Classroom teachers determine the teams who will collectively be able to answer correctly the most comprehension questions about the books. These teammates will then move on to the grade level battle. The Battle of the Books preliminary and final rounds take place in the spring.

The PTO generously sponsored a Read-a-thon to get things started, complete with pizza for sustenance. Staff and students met after school in the cafeteria to view book trailers and to read selected excerpts to spark an interest in the upcoming Battle of the Books competition.



To cap off the initiative, SMS Principal Chris Longo and other "beard growing" colleagues continued the *No Shave November* initiative into the new year, but to a different tune. Dr. Longo and the teachers wanted to inspire and motivate students to share their love for reading in a friendly competition in which the staff members pledged not to shave if students reach reading goals. Each week, the number of books read by students were tallied and submitted to the Principal's office. Read on to see the totals...

Way to go SMS students!

We are happy to report that the SMS student reading goals were met each time, making for some very interesting beards for the mid-winter challenge!

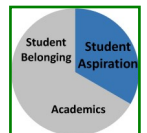
Goal: Week of December 3 = 400 books
Books read: 521
 Goal: Week of December 10 = 500 books
Books read: 647
 Goal: Week of December 17 = 600 books
Books read: 740
 Goal: Dec 24 until Jan. 10th = 1200 books
Books read: 1622



NMHS Alumni Share Experiences



On January 4th, thirteen alumni from the NMHS Class of 2018 visited the high school to talk about their college experiences. Two different alumni panels met with current seniors in the theatre and lecture hall during their advisory period. The alumni's colleges represented a varied range and included: University of CT, Clemson, Columbia, CCSU, ECSU, WCSU, Naugatuck Valley Community College, Quinnipiac, University of Rhode Island, Sarah Lawrence, Sienna, Western New England and the VA Military Institute.

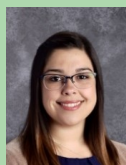


Current seniors enjoyed hearing first hand from former students who have completed the college application process and transitioned to university. The alumni shared advice about using high school to best prepare for college and for AP exams. One student shared that she received a total of 12 college credits for the AP courses she took in high school.

Other topics included adjusting to campus life in general and, more specifically, how to get along with your roommate! Students talked about the importance of managing their time, the overall college workload, resources on campus that the students have accessed, and getting involved in campus life.

NMHS counselor Danette Lambiase says, "As counselors we talk to students about these same topics, but there is nothing like hearing it from someone who is living it now. It brings a completely different perspective. The alumni visit has become a highly successful annual event."

Congratulations to the New Milford Public School “Stars” for the month of January!



Ashley Dovale



Elizabeth Pitcher



Cheryl Reiner



Marney Roberts



Gretchen Rondini

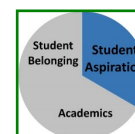


Daniel Savo

Thanks to Ingersoll Auto of Danbury for their donation of the NMPS courtesy car.
Don't forget to visit the district website to [submit your staff nomination](#).

Student Creativity at Work in the SMS Makerspace

On any school day, the SMS Library Media Center is a hub of student activity as classes visit to work on projects, check out books and take part in special presentations. The Makerspace section of the LMC is no exception.

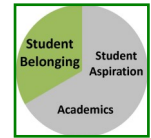


A favorite spot for students to gather, the space provides a spot for students to show their creativity and relax. LMC Specialist Susan Baerny often has a service project on display to inspire that creativity. A recent project used recycled greeting cards to make new, decorative bookmarks. Students have also made Danish heart baskets that will be put to good use next month around Valentine's Day.

Sometimes, students work together just for the fun of it. Mrs. Baerny says, “Two groups of students recently completed jigsaw puzzles...for the first time in their lives. It took them several sessions to complete the tasks. That was a very proud moment for all of them that they finished the puzzles.”



SADD hosts annual Project Purple Week at NMHS



The high school chapter of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) hosted a Project Purple Spirit Week at New Milford High School from January 14-18. Project Purple is an initiative of The Chris Herren Project, a non-profit foundation established by former NBA basketball player Chris Herren, which assists individuals and families struggling with addiction. The THP Project Purple initiative was launched to break the stigma of addiction, bring awareness to the dangers of substance abuse and encourage positive decision making to navigate life's challenges.

SADD Advisor and NMHS Health Education teacher Mrs. Elizabeth Schlicher says, "Students timed our event to occur just before high school midterms, in the hopes of bringing awareness, support and positivity to their classmates. This can be a stressful time for many students and by promoting SADD initiatives like substance abuse awareness, the importance of our community, mental health, and the power of positivity the group hopes that students will think twice about the decision to turn to drugs, look for healthy ways to manage their stress, and know that there are people here if they need help.

Special theme days provided students with visual reminders of the event. Monday was "Project Purple Day" and students were asked to wear purple in solidarity. Tuesday's theme was "United As One"; students were encouraged to wear red, white and blue as a reminder of how much more they can do as part of a greater community. Wednesday, students wore green in support of "Mental Health Day" for education and services. On Thursday, students were encouraged to wear yellow to "Shade out the Negativity". The week culminated with the wearing of neon colors to focus students on "Looking Towards A Bright Future" and an Open Mic Night in the cafeteria on Friday evening.



To spread community awareness, SADD students, with the help of Jason O'Connor from the New Milford Youth Agency, also took the initiative to decorate the town green, gazebo and surrounding area with purple ribbons.



New Milford Public Schools

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Dr. Stephen Tracy
Interim Superintendent

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Human Resources Director

Mr. Kevin Munrett
Facilities Director

Mr. Anthony Giovannone
Fiscal Services & Operations
Director

Mrs. Laura Olson
Pupil Personnel &
Special Services Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

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Mr. J.T. Schemm

National Puzzle Day



What is 24 hours long, all about solving problems, and is one of the best unofficial holidays of the year? Puzzle Day, of course. Celebrated in January each year, the holiday honors puzzles of all kinds - jigsaws, riddles, science, math, mechanical, and word puzzles - that get our brains moving.

Studies have pointed to the benefits of working on puzzles. Spending time daily working on puzzles improves memory, cognitive function and problem-solving skills. Jigsaw puzzles use both sides of the brain; word searches and crossword puzzles have the benefit of increasing vocabulary and language skills. Sudoku, a puzzle sequencing a set of numbers on a grid, exercises the brain as well by testing memory and logical thinking.

Puzzles provide benefits for all ages. By introducing your child to puzzles at an early age, you can help them develop hand/eye coordination, fine & gross motor skills, memory, problem-solving and shape recognition. Collaborative puzzles help children learn how to work together while learning other spatial, motor, and problem-solving skills. Studies have shown that doing puzzles can help enhance brain activity in adults, increasing creativity and concentration, and improving memory.

Puzzles go back to the beginning of civilization. In fact, humans have been designing puzzle games since the invention of language. Over the years, all kinds of word games, logic games and other types of puzzles were developed. The jigsaw puzzle traces its origin to the mid-eighteenth century when mapmakers would paste their maps onto wood pieces and then cut those pieces into smaller pieces for children to use to learn geography.

Maybe you'd like to be recognized as a puzzle master. If that is the case, think about participating online in the [US Puzzle Championship](#), a qualifier for the [World Puzzle Championship](#), which has been called the "Olympics of Logic". Want to test your reasoning skills ahead of time? Try these [ten difficult brainteasers](#).

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.

January 2009