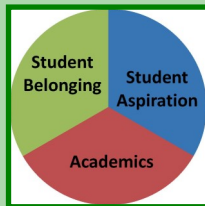




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
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 10, Issue 10

April 2020

Working Together for Virtual Learning



These have certainly been challenging days for NMPS families and staff since schools closed on March 16. Dr. Parker has said multiple times, “We are in this together ... and we really are. It takes all of us working together to create a meaningful experience for our students.” With schools closed at least through May 20, that challenge continues.



In a letter to parents on April 23, Dr. Parker thanked parents for their support of virtual learning. “We want to give our sincere thanks to you for your efforts regarding our District Learning Plan. We hope you are finding balance between home, work, and helping your child with online learning because your well

being is of the utmost importance. This distance learning has not been easy for any of us, which is why we have been so impressed with your efforts and ongoing feedback. It’s been hard, but we’re getting it done. We appreciate you!”

Since launching the online environment in mid-March, the district’s Leadership Team has been continuously working on ways to improve the student (and parent) experience. This included soliciting feedback from parents and teachers in survey form. One theme that echoed strongly in the survey responses is how much students miss their friends and the personal interactions they have with their teachers. This reinforced the ongoing work that the Leadership Team was doing regarding the use of live interactions and/or teaching.

This week, the district will begin to integrate the opportunity for live interactions with students in order to build community and support students in need of additional interaction and/or instructional support. These live interactions will be supplemental to what is already in place. “Live instruction can also be recorded and offered in an asynchronous manner and we will share the options with teachers on how to utilize the Google platform



to accomplish this,” says Dr. Parker. “We see this as an invitation to explore a new way of working and connecting; even though we are alone together, we are continuing to build off of the strong classroom community we established when students were in our care.”

We look forward to seeing how this next phase of distance learning evolves, and these last few weeks have shown us it surely will! In the meantime, in spite of the mandated closure and social distancing requirements, there has been no shortage of learning opportunities. Over the next few pages, we will be highlighting just some of the learning that has been taking place.

Where Have We Been? Where are We Going?

When schools closed, the district's focus immediately went to making sure all students would have an opportunity to learn in a virtual environment. Families were surveyed and our Technology Department worked tirelessly to supply Chromebooks to students in need. District administrators assembled learning resources to share through emails and on our website. Principals began sending home emails, almost daily, with updates and suggestions.



At the K-5 level, the focus was on the basics of reading, writing and math. Principals gave suggestions by grade level for simple ideas that could be done at home. HPS Principal Eric Williams and NES Principal Gwen Gallagher coordinated their suggestions to make sure all PK-2 grade students got the same message. In one of their first emails home, the principals had the following suggestions:

- For Preschool reading and writing: Have your child watch you write when you make a shopping list or a "what to do" list. Say the words aloud and carefully print each letter.
- For Kindergarten math students: Trace your foot and a friend's foot. Measure each of your feet with paperclips (or pieces of cereal). How much bigger is one foot than the other?
- For 1st Grade writing: Write a Review. Write a "Best of..." (ie: favorite Hot Wheel car / favorite sweater).
- For 2nd Grade Math: Sort the laundry into categories (by owner, by size, by color, by item type). What do you observe about the piles?

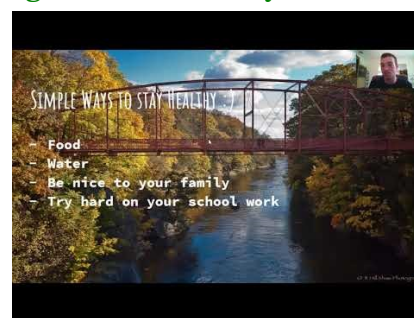
Mrs. Gallagher's daily emails also included reminders about the Northville C.A.R.E. theme of the month. For March, that was Integrity. For NES students, examples given include "Keeping my word" and "Doing what is right, even if no one is watching."

SNIS Principal Anne Bilko asked parents to carve out time for students to read and write every day. She encouraged students to keep a journal during this unusual time, saying that it may be a powerful remembrance years from now. In math, Mrs. Bilko told parents about posted sites where children could practice skills, and reminded parents that talking about

math can be powerful too. She suggested playing cards with a few adaptations. “WAR is a popular card game that can be adapted to improve math fluency. Have each player turn over two cards, add them, or multiply them, the highest number wins. Another choice is to play Go Fish for pairs that add to 10 or 20.”

Students in grades 6 through 12 were already well versed in the digital environment and the resources it offers, including the Google classroom. NMHS principal Greg Shugrue reminded students of the opportunity for specialized instruction through Khan Academy. SMS principal Chris Longo created [Doc L's Interim Resource Google Doc](#), a one stop spot for multiple learning links.

Unified Arts were not forgotten as all schools sent out links for health and wellness, art and music. Students were reminded that even in the midst of the pandemic simple pleasures like walking, dancing, listening to music and creating art can bring joy.



On March 25, the district officially launched formal Distance Learning. For PK-5 grades that consists of daily learning plans focused on Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies; twice weekly lesson plans for Music, Art, PE, as well as Library Media; and emails from guidance counselors that include Social Emotional Learning lessons from the Choose Love program. For Middle School and High School students, distance learning means accessing lessons through each of their teacher's Google Classroom in the areas of Science, Social Studies, Reading, Writing, Mathematics, World Language, P.E., Health, and other Unified Arts classes. Emails from guidance counselors include Social Emotional Learning lessons. That's a lot of lessons!

As we continue to report, it's been an evolution. NMHS Principal Greg Shugrue speaks for many of us in his message to students and parents, “With the newness of anything comes a bit of fear and anxiety. That's normal. Relax, breath, and thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding as we all start something very new. I'm confident in our teachers and I'm confident in all of you that we will gain comfort in this new norm of Distance Learning and persevere.”



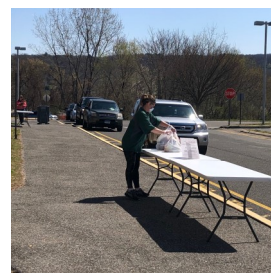
And persevere we have! In response to parent feedback about the number of emails they were receiving PK-2, NES and HPS developed grade level web sites where parents can go to view all lessons in one place, both past and present. NES has been doing virtual morning announcements and nightly read alouds, with guest readers. With the advent of live interactions this week at all our schools, many more opportunities are sure to follow!

Please, stay connected. Email, twitter and the district website are all valuable sources of information. If you have a question or concern, reach out to principals and/or district administrators. They are here, even if at a virtual social distance...

Working Together to Feed NMPS Students

NMPS Food & Nutrition Services

During the COVID-19 emergency school closure, the NMPS Food & Nutrition Services Department has been preparing and distributing breakfast and lunch meals to ANY student (18 and under) in need, even during our April spring break. The curbside pickup happens at SNIS on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 AM to 1 PM. Multiple meals are distributed at one time. Monday's pickup includes 4 meals, Wednesday's has 2 meals and Thursday's has 3 meals.



Nutrition is a top priority and all meals meet the Dietary Guidelines. All breakfasts include a milk, 100% fruit juice, a fresh or chilled fruit and breakfast items such as a bagel, banana bread or yogurt, cold cereal, muffin or string cheese. Lunches vary too and may consist of a sandwich, calzone, chicken tenders or pizza along with a milk, vegetables, and a fresh or chilled fruit. Breads are all whole grain, cereals are all whole grain & low sugar, and the milk and yogurt are low fat or non fat.

Since March 23rd, Food Services staff have served **8,010** meals! For sign-up information & menus visit <http://newmilfordps.org> and look for "Free Grab & Go Meals" in the top center. Remember, ANY student 18 and under is eligible. If you need further information, you may email Sandra Sullivan at sullivanasa@newmilfordps.org or Charlene Kirkwood at kirkwoodc@newmilfordps.org.



Camella's Cupboard

While Food Services was working through its approval process for meal distribution and getting set up, New Milford based **Camella's Cupboard**, a standing non-profit organization, stepped into action and began providing food for students in need on the first Friday school was out. Camella's Cupboard works all year long to provide food to ANY New Milford area child needing it for ANY reason. Every Friday, from 5:30-7:00 PM, parents can pick up a multi-day food bag from Camella's Cupboard.

"We've seen our numbers more than double since school was released for the COVID-19 crisis," states Angela Chastain, Camella's Cupboard founder and Executive Director. "New Milford residents began to reach out to us immediately to see how they could help. The community donation response has been tremendous. We couldn't do what we do without the support we receive."

Camella's Cupboard celebrated its 2nd anniversary on April 12th. They began with a summer lunch program and expanded into in-school pantries, a weekend and school break food program, and now COVID-19 crisis feeding. Students receive a multi-day food bag and each family unit receives fresh produce and family meal components. Since the COVID-19 crisis began, Camella's Cupboard has provided **13,538** meals to New Milford children. Mrs. Chastain speaks for the many volunteers when she says, "Serving New Milford families is our purpose and our passion!"



Anyone needing food may visit <http://www.camellascupboard.com> to sign up.

To donate, please visit <http://www.camellascupboard.com/donate>

Resources for Information and Assistance

Our district website: www.newmilfordps.org.

From the home page, you can go to individual schools as well.

Follow us on Twitter:

@NMHS_CT

@SMS_CT

@SNIS_CT

@NES_CT

@HPS_CT

@nmpps_supt

For individual school questions,
principal email addresses are listed below:

Mr. Greg Shugrue, New Milford High School shugrueg@newmilfordps.org

Dr. Chris Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School longoc@newmilfordps.org

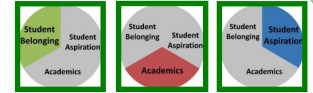
Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School bilkoa@newmilfordps.org

Mr. Eric Williams, Hill and Plain Elementary School williamse@newmilfordps.org

Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Northville Elementary School gallagherg@newmilfordps.org

For general questions,
suptoffice@newmilfordps.org

Social Emotional Learning Continues



NMPS adopted the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Enrichment Program at the beginning of this school year for students in grades PK-8. During the past several weeks while our schools have been closed, counselors have been collaborating with Dr. Len Tomasello (Dr. T), our Social Emotional Learning consultant, to deliver lessons to their students virtually. Dr. T says, “We believe it’s important that we make an effort to continue teaching our students to be more courageous, grateful, forgiving and compassionate, especially as we all deal with the coronavirus pandemic.”

During a typical week, the district’s Social Emotional Learning Team consults to create and share lesson ideas that are appropriate for each age level. “One of our goals was to develop lessons that students could do on their own and that require little to no adult supervision,” says Dr. T. “Having said that, we DO encourage family members to have conversations about the activities and experiences their children are having. For example, when the team sends a video to students, it may be very appropriate and enjoyable for families to view the video together.”

Social Emotional Learning has never been more needed.

Dr. T sums it up when he states, “While much of the recent media coverage of COVID-19 has been dominated by negative information, some of the broadcasts have chosen to show how we, and our neighbors, our doctors, nurses, first-responders, law enforcement personnel, and others have stepped up to manage this unprecedented health situation. These folks have



demonstrated a great deal of courage and compassion. We should feel grateful for the work they are doing. Courage, compassion in action and gratitude are three of the ‘ingredients’ in the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Enrichment Program. What wonderful examples these members of our communities are modeling for our children!! We encourage parents to talk with their children about other positive examples of courage, compassion and gratitude that are taking place in our community and within our homes.”

A Choose Love Prompt

The SMS School Counseling Department has been encouraging students to explore *The Choose Love Program*. Grade 8 students have been learning about courage, which is the first trait of the Choose Love Formula, and the need to find courage during these uncertain times. Students were asked "What Does It Mean To You To Have Courage?" and to reflect on the following:

- C - caring
- O - outgoing
- U - understanding of others
- R - respond well to angering situations
- A - able to accept something
- G - grow into the person you need to be
- E - even when things get tough persevere



Signs of Hope

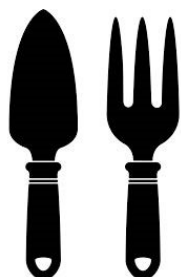
Students and staff will have a few welcome surprises when they return to their school buildings. The playgrounds at NES and SNIS have been getting a makeover. Think how nice it will be to see students using them when they return!



In celebration of Arbor Day, Shawn Emmons and his staff at Emmons Tree and Landscaping donated and planted trees on our school grounds. The trees are a mix of maples, dogwoods and crabapples. Can't wait to see them grow!



When you plant a tree, you plant hope ~ Lucy Larcom



The NES Plant Patch will be here in the fall! Volunteers Nancy Dahl and Claire Runyan will be planting as they usually would, over the month of May. The Plant Patch will be getting 280 seedlings (5 different kinds of cherry tomatoes, regular tomatoes, parsley, 3 different kinds of basil, 6 different kinds of spicy peppers, and 5 different kinds of sweet peppers).



Be on the lookout for demonstration videos that will be shared.





NMPS Students Are Winners in Recycling Contest

The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA) is a regional, governmental, waste management and recycling authority serving eleven municipalities in western Connecticut. HRRRA municipalities include Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, and Sherman. HRRRA staff members are frequent visitors to New Milford's schools, providing recycling education programs for our students.

Each year the HRRRA sponsors a billboard contest for students, designed to promote some aspect of community recycling. This year's contest subject was Glass. Students were tasked to design a billboard advertisement that encourages residents to recycle their glass separately from the mixed recycling stream. HRRRA received over 2000 entries from within the eleven member towns. Winners were invited to a Zoom Award Ceremony held on April 22, the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day! Over 116 people "attended" the virtual ceremony, including our District's program coordinator, SMS Social Studies teacher Keli Solomon.

We are pleased to announce that seven NMPS students were named place winners in the contest. Congratulations to NES students Gia Cartman, Eliza Bee Dahlberg, Payton Forschner, SNIS student Hailee Denton, and NMHS students Aili Seppa, Olivia Arasim, and Adarra Smith. Their work is featured below.



If you'd like to learn about glass recycling and why HRRRA wants glass separated, visit www.HRRRA.org.

Next year's NMPS calendar is out. Let's hope we can stick to it!

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2020 – 2021 School Calendar

August 2020 5 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

20 Teacher Work Day
21 Convocation/Prof. Dev.
24 Staff Meetings/K-5 Open House
25 Students Return

September 20 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

3 K-12 PD after school
7 Labor Day
28 Yom Kippur
Curriculum Night - date TBD by principal

October 21 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

1 K-12 PD after school
12 Columbus Day

November 16 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

2 Parent Conferences (see below)
3 Parent Conferences (see below)
5 K-12 PD after school
11 Veterans Day Observed
25-27 Thanksgiving Recess

December 16 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

3 K-12 PD after school
23-31 Holiday Recess

January 2021 19 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

1 Holiday Recess
7 K-12 PD after school
18 Martin Luther King Day

February 18 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

4 K-12 PD after school
15&16 Winter Recess

March 22 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

4 K-12 PD after school
10 Parent Conferences (see below)
11 Parent Conferences (see below)

April 16 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

2 Good Friday
12-16 Spring Recess

May 20 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

6 K-12 PD after school
31 Memorial Day

Spring evening event

June * 8 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

3 K-12 PD after school
10 Last Day of School (early dismissal for students)

* NMHS Graduation Date will be set by the Board of Education at its September 2020 Meeting.

- First Day of School
- Schools Closed
- Schools Closed for PD or Parent confs.
- Last Day of School
- X

 Contingency for snow days

181 Student Days Total
186 Teacher Days Total

After School PD Hours
K-5 3:25 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.
6-12 2:30 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.

Parent Conference Hours

November 2
K-5 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
6-12 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

November 3
K-12 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

March 10
K-5 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
6-12 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

March 11
K-12 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June 11, 14-18, 21-22 Snow days to be added at end of year (if needed).

Any additional days required will be taken from the April Spring Recess, beginning with April 16 and working back.

Any additional days required in excess of those indicated will be taken from the remaining days

As of April 17, 2020



New Milford Public Schools

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

Dr. Kerry Parker
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

Mr. Brandon Rush
Technology Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

Board of Education

Mrs. Angela C. Chastain
Chairperson

Mr. Joseph Failla
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Secretary

Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Pete Helmus

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mrs. Tammy McInerney

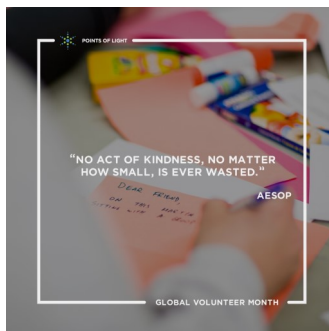
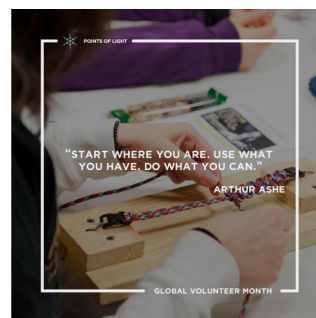
Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny

Mrs. Olga I. Rella

Global Volunteer Month

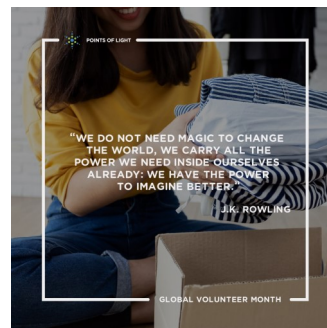


Each year in April, individuals and organizations across the world and in the United States celebrate Global Volunteer Month to honor the important impact volunteers have in our communities, and to encourage even more people to start volunteering. Now more than ever, people helping others is worth celebrating.



The website www.pointsoflight.org features daily Point of Light stories from across the United States and the world. Talk about inspiring! The website even provides a spot to make your own nomination of a worthy individual or cause.

Additionally, individuals are encouraged to post about their volunteer experiences on social media #LocalLight or to share stories about others who are uplifting our community in ways to inspire others.



Thank you volunteers for all you do!

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.

April