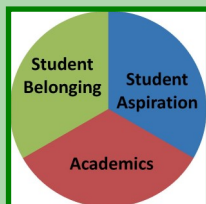




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



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 11, Issue 2

August 2020

Reopening New Milford Public Schools

On August 28th, New Milford Public Schools staff officially began the 20-21 school year with the district's annual convocation welcome and announcement of the New Milford Teacher of the Year (TOTY). Staff gathered in person at their various schools and met remotely as one united group to hear the announcement.

Former Teachers of the Year Joan Conn and Kathy Shemeley built the suspense prior to the big reveal by asking staff a series of questions to see if they matched up to this year's TOTY.

- Have you ever carved a pumpkin to create a jack o lantern then placed it in a container to observe the decomposition process?
- Have you flown in an airplane? In a helicopter?
- Are you married to a veteran?
- Have you ever done hydroponic gardening?
- Are you born and bred in CT? Lived in three countries (United States, France and Iceland) and ten different states?
- Have you held teacher certification simultaneously in four different states?
- Assisted with the NMHS musical?
- Do you enjoy science and incorporate it into other curriculum areas?

The staff member who answered yes to all of the above is this year's TOTY. Go to page 3 to see who that person is!

Following the TOTY announcement, staff began a full day of professional development and planning for students' return on September 8th under the Hybrid Model of Instruction. That plan was detailed in [NMPS Parent/Guardian Guidance Document for Remote and In-Person Learning Programming](#), sent to all parents on August 20th. Individual plans with more school specific details went out shortly thereafter. A survey was distributed that same week for planning purposes, asking parents/guardians to indicate whether their students would be attending in-person learning under the Hybrid Model or choosing temporary remote instruction.

The district followed up with a series of district-wide and school specific "Q and A" Zoom sessions. The sessions ran from August 24-27

and touched on all areas of planning. [Recordings can be viewed on the district website here.](#) Parents and staff asked questions about day to day school operations, as well as the big picture areas of instruction, health, facilities, food services and transportation.

Throughout the many conversations, what became clear is that the 20-21 school year will be different from any before. While health metrics will ultimately determine much of the schedule, Interim Superintendent Paul Smotas, in a letter to stakeholders, says, “We have tried to anticipate as many problem areas as possible and to provide the resources to accommodate every scenario that could occur. We will review our successes or missteps on a daily and weekly basis and adjust our plan accordingly. We hope that at some point this year that we can return to full in-person teaching and learning. We will follow the science; advice from the Connecticut Department of Education; the Commissioner of Public Health and we hope to learn from the successes of neighboring towns and school districts. The art and science of teaching is changing right in front of us and it will change for the better.”

Summer Amid COVID Keeps Facilities Department Busy

You would think that with schools closed for summer, the NMPS Facilities Department could take a deep breath and recharge. In fact, summer is the department’s busiest time. Every summer, custodians systematically clean schools from top to bottom. Outside, maintainers clear courtyards and playgrounds and perform any needed tree work.

Each year, annual contracted services take place during the summer so as not to disrupt the school day. These include:

- Cleaning all school boilers so they are ready for fall start up
- Pumping and cleaning all septic tanks, grease traps and chemical tanks
- Testing, inspecting and servicing all gym wall doors
- Steam cleaning and tagging the kitchen hoods at all schools
- Testing all emergency lights and repairing or replacing as needed
- Inspecting all smoke, sprinkler and fire equipment
- Testing and tagging all fire extinguishers and replacing as needed

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the workload tremendously. Staff have moved furniture, repositioned rooms, and repurposed spaces as needed. To assist with social distancing, signage and dividers have been installed. Air filters have been changed in all schools; water systems flushed; paper towel dispensers and hand sanitizer stations installed; and water fountains are being retrofitted to bottle filling stations. All staff are being trained on the special cleaning required to help keep our buildings safe, healthy places for our students and staff.

Facilities Director Kevin Munrett says “Ours schools never have a quiet day Facilities-wise but this year has been non-stop. I’m so proud of the work our staff does every day. They have truly stepped up to do what needs to be done.”

Congratulations to New Milford's Teacher of the Year Susan Brofford!!



K-5 Science Enrichment teacher Susan Brofford is New Milford's Teacher of the Year for 20-21. The selection of Mrs. Brofford was announced at the district's annual convocation on August 28th. Former teachers of the year Kathy Shemeley and Joan Conn made the introduction by video, applauding Susan's energy, adaptability, flexibility and professionalism.

Mrs. Brofford worked first as an instructional tutor for New Milford Public Schools and then was hired in 2008 as a Grade 1 teacher at Northville Elementary School. In 2015, she moved to the new position of K-5 Science Enrichment teacher. In nominating Mrs. Brofford, one of her colleagues said, "Susan has been a pioneer in the K-5 science curriculum, blazing a new trail for colleagues and students alike. Since this role was brand new, she had to build it from the ground up."

Mrs. Conn states, "Susan's mantra is *If you find a job you love, you will never work a day in your life* and her love of teaching is evident. She is always striving to expand horizons to benefit our school system by enriching and molding our children one student at a time. Her kindness to students, colleagues and parents is always evident."

Mrs. Conn went on to share a quote from William Arthur Ward which she said epitomizes this year's TOTY, "*The mediocre teacher tells, good teachers explain, superior teachers demonstrate, and a great teacher inspires.*" Susan certainly inspires all of us."

Mrs. Brofford's colleagues were able to cheer her selection in person at SNIS. Susan shared a montage of photos from her many years in New Milford and then spoke to the whole district via zoom. She said she was humbled and honored to receive the award among so many deserving candidates, and that it confirms that what she does makes a difference. She reminisced about her years in New Milford, giving special recognition to her family, the colleagues and staff members who have supported her along the way, and to her first group of first graders who were in this year's COVID graduating Class of 2020.

In closing, Mrs. Brofford offered encouragement to her colleagues:

"Finishing the 19-20 school year and starting 20-21 has forced us into unknown territory and challenges we could have never predicted or even imagined. It's truly a scary time for teachers, and meeting the needs of our students seems to be a super-human feat. Mr. Rogers once said 'anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero' but you have helped and will continue to help many children every single day. You my friends are not just heroes, you are superheroes. So now, it's time to don our masks, literally, tie on our capes and most importantly remember, we make a difference."

Stay Connected...



One of the best sources for information about New Milford Public School events and happenings is our website: <http://www.newmilfordps.org>

From the home page, you can visit websites of the individual schools, see a calendar of events, email staff using the staff directory, download district forms and more.

Can't find your answer on the website?

You can always call the Central Office or individual schools. Phone numbers are listed on page 1 of this newsletter.



Like your news faster?

Customize our [School Messenger](#) service for important alerts and district emails.



Are you a twitter fan? All our schools (and many staff members) tweet! Follow them at:

@NMHS_CT

@SMS_CT

@SNIS_CT

@NES_CT

@HPS_CT

@nmps_supt

Sign up for the ParentPlus Portal

This [online tool](#) allows you to obtain information specific to your child from any device that has internet access. Depending on the grade level, you can access information such as your child's schedule, homework, grades, and attendance.

PlusPortals
Login

Want to know what's happening at the district level?

Attend Board of Education meetings or watch through live streaming or video recording. Links to the schedule, plus the minutes of all Sub-Committee and full Board meetings that have taken place, are posted [on our website](#) under the Board of Education tab.



REMEMBER: Staying informed works both ways. Please make certain that your child's school has your most up-to-date contact information by completing the back to school forms distributed at the beginning of the school year and by providing any needed updates throughout the year.



Welcome to School Breakfast & School Lunch 20-21

As we enter the 20-21 school year, please remember that School Breakfast and School Lunch are available to all K-12 students, both in-person and remote learners.

In-person school meals will continue as they have in the past with a variety of lunch choices daily: a hot meal, a cold meal, salads, sandwiches, along with a selection of low fat/fat free milk, and colorful portions of fresh fruits and vegetables. There have been modifications made in the cafeteria for your students' safety. For example, all utensils will be individually wrapped, all fruits and vegetables will either be wrapped or in a single use container with a lid, spot markers will be used on the floors through all serving lines for social distancing and scanners will be used at the cashier checkout to avoid students touching PIN pads. Sanitation always has been and will continue to be our top priority.

Curbside Meals for remote learners will be available and may be picked up on Wednesdays at SNIS.

Cohort A students can pick up meals for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Cohort B students can pick up meals for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
Five day remote learners can pick up meals for all five days

For more information about Curbside Meals, including the menu, sign ups and pick up details, go to <https://www.newmilfordps.org/curbsidemeals> or visit the Food and Nutrition tab on the district website. Curbside Meals will be a combination of fresh and frozen foods that families can prepare at home. In order for meals to be prepared and ready for the Wednesday pickup, we ask that you **please sign up in advance**.

Parents and guardians can pick up meals for their students. Children do not need to be present but must be an active NMPS student. The cost of Curbside Meals is the same as in school meals.

Free Eligible Students: No Charge
Reduced Eligible Students: \$.30 for Breakfast & \$.40 for Lunch
Paid Students Grades K-5: \$1.40 for Breakfast & \$2.35 for Lunch
Paid Students Grades 6-12: \$1.75 for Breakfast & \$2.60 for Lunch

The time of pickup for Curbside Meals will be 8 AM to 9 AM each Wednesday.

For your convenience, an easy online payment system is offered to fund and view your student's meal account at [MySchoolBucks.com](https://www.myschoolbucks.com). Payments can also be made with cash or a check.

Free & Reduced Meal Applications Made Easy

NEW this school year, you can now apply for Free & Reduced meal benefits online from the privacy of your own home or anywhere with an internet connection. Paper applications for Free & Reduced priced school meals will no longer be distributed.

New Milford Public Schools
Food & Nutrition Department

MY SCHOOL Apps

Apply for Free & Reduced Meal Benefits Online!

- ✓ Available anywhere
- ✓ Easy to use
- ✓ Private & Secure



No more paper applications to complete and return to the school office. Apply for meal benefits online from the privacy of your home, or anywhere with an internet connection. Visit www.MyschoolApps.com

Questions? Call the Food & Nutrition Office 860-354-3712

The online application is an easy process. Once completed, your application will go directly to the Food & Nutrition Office. Returning the application to the school will no longer be a worry. Visit <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application> to apply now!

For more information visit the Food and Nutrition tab on the district website or call the Food & Nutrition Office at 860-354-3712.

School Bus Routes are now online and may be viewed on the district website under Transportation [here](#).



We ask for your patience with bus time pick up and drop off during the first few days of school as drivers and students settle into their routines and protocols. Please remember, all students must wear masks on the bus and practice social distancing as instructed.

CSDE Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and State Department of Public Health (DPH) have collaborated to provide school districts with guidance and protocols for responding to specific COVID-19 scenarios that may occur with school reopening for the 2020–21 school year.

This document, [Addendum 5](#), addresses issues when a student or staff person has or develops: possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19; a diagnosis of COVID-19; or exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. School district leaders are encouraged to use this as a guide, in consultation with public health experts, including school nurses, school medical advisors, local health directors and in consideration of all specific circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Addendum 5

Adapt, Advance, Achieve:
Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together
Connecticut State Department of Education



Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts

August 6, 2020



The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and State Department of Public Health (DPH) have collaborated to provide school districts with guidance and protocols for responding to specific COVID-19 scenarios that may occur with school reopening for the 2020–21 school year. This guidance complements the Containment Plan (p. 23) requirement of *Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*, which instructs school districts to develop written protocols for containment and immediate response related to symptoms, diagnosis of, or exposure to the virus. Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) informs the specific scenarios and actions that follow. CDC guidance and public health data are evolving and therefore, this guidance may be updated accordingly.

This document addresses issues when a student or staff person has or develops: possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19; a diagnosis of COVID-19; or exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. School district leaders are encouraged to use this as a guide, in consultation with public health experts, including school nurses, school medical advisors, local health directors and in consideration of all specific circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Addendum 5: Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts

2

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result	Isolation/Quarantine <small>Isolation – when you are experiencing symptoms or have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19. Quarantine – when you have been exposed but you are not experiencing symptoms.</small>
Individual has COVID-19 symptoms ¹ but has NOT had close contact ² to a person diagnosed with COVID-19	If at home: stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested. If at school: students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), stay in the isolation room (with adult supervision), until picked up to go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If symptoms arise on the bus, students should remain masked and follow the remaining measures listed above upon arrival to school. They must not be sent home on the bus. If at school: staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If a staff or student is ill enough to require transport to a healthcare facility, notify EMS that COVID-19 is a concern.	Individual tests ³ negative	Return to school once there are no symptoms for 24 hours.
		Individual tests positive	Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school immediately, notify personal close contacts, assist the school in contact tracing efforts ⁴ , and answer phone calls from public health officials/contact tracing staff. Stay in self-isolation ⁵ for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other COVID-19 symptoms.
		Individual is not tested	Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms. Can return to school earlier if obtains note from healthcare provider with alternate diagnosis.

Addendum 5: Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts

3

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result	Isolation/Quarantine <small>Isolation – when you are experiencing symptoms or have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19. Quarantine – when you have been exposed but you are not experiencing symptoms.</small>
Individual has COVID-19 symptoms ¹ AND had close contact ² to a person diagnosed with COVID-19	If at home: stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested. If at school: students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), stay in the isolation room (with adult supervision), until picked up to go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If symptoms arise on the bus, students should remain masked and follow the remaining measures listed above upon arrival to school. They must not be sent home on the bus. If at school: staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If a staff or student is ill enough to require transport to a healthcare facility, notify EMS that COVID-19 is a concern.	Individual tests negative	Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.
		Individual tests positive	Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist public health and the school in contact tracing efforts. Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.
		Individual is not tested	Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.

Addendum 5: Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts

4

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result	Isolation/Quarantine <small>Isolation – when you are experiencing symptoms or have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19. Quarantine – when you have been exposed but you are not experiencing symptoms.</small>
Individual does not have COVID-19 symptoms BUT had close contact ² to someone diagnosed with COVID-19	If at home: stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested. If at school: students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), be picked up to go home, consult a health care provider, and get tested. Students who do not have symptoms may remain in the health room until they are picked up, they do not have to be sent to the isolation room. They must not be sent home on the bus. If at school: staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested.	Individual tests negative	Remain home in self-quarantine ⁶ for 14 days from last exposure to the person diagnosed with COVID-19.
		Individual tests positive	Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist public health and the school in contact tracing efforts. Stay home until 10 days have passed since date of the positive COVID-19 test.
		Individual is not tested	Remain home in self-quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to the person diagnosed with COVID-19.

Addendum 5: Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts

5

End notes

- 1 Key COVID-19 signs and symptoms are:** feeling feverish, measured temp 100.4 F or more, chills, uncontrolled new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell. There are other more nonspecific signs and symptoms. For a full list, see CDC Web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- 2 Close contact:** Spending at least 15 minutes within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19, or a direct exposure to possibly infected droplets of saliva or nasal mucus (e.g., begin sneezed or coughed on in the face). See CDC web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
- 3 COVID-19 test for school/work attendance:** This is a viral test, NOT an antibody test. (see CDC information on COVID-19 tests at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>).
- 4 Contact tracing:** A public health intervention in which the contacts of a person with a communicable disease are identified, and possibly tested, quarantined or isolated to interrupt the transmission of the virus in a population. <https://portal.ct.gov/CoronavirusCenter/CT>
- 5 Self-isolation:** Individual with signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive test, stays home until no longer infectious for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other COVID-19 symptoms. See CDC web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>
- 6 Fever:** Measured temperature of 100.4 F or higher



New Milford Public Schools

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

Dr. Paul Smotas
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

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

Resources for Students and Families



A primary resource is [Our Schools!](#) Please reach out to your child's school if you have concerns, academic or social/emotional. Phone numbers and administrators' names are on the front page of this newsletter.

[Camella's Cupboard](#) provides food to ANY New Milford area child needing it for ANY reason - whether or not they receive free or reduced lunches during the school year.

[New Milford Social Services Resource Guide](#)

[New Milford Youth Agency](#)

[New Milford Public Library E-Resources](#)

[COVID-19 Resources for Families and Educators \(CSDE\)](#)

[COVID-19 \("Coronavirus"\) Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#)

[The Three Rs of Learning from Home: Tips for Stressed-out Families](#)

[200 Free Kids Educational Resources: Video Lessons, Apps, Books, Websites & More](#)

August 2020

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.