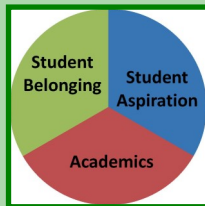




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
Ms. Linda Scoralick, Asst. Principal



Shaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204
Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal
Mr. Kevin Best, 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
Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 11, Issue 6

December 2020

NMPS To Go Remote January 4–8

NMPS data shows that the planned week of remote learning following Thanksgiving was very successful as a mitigation strategy for New Milford Public Schools. Therefore, due to the effectiveness of the five day remote period following the Thanksgiving holiday, **the district will be placed on remote learning for the period of January 4-8, with Cohort A students returning in person on January 11.** This gives families and staff who may be traveling during the holiday break time to obtain a PCR test and to receive the results prior to students returning to school.

Please let your school principal know if your family has plans to travel out of the state/country over the break by using the link to this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4pz6i_jfLOEU3wddoBoJUQecQOvZRDnncwvDoPWIfMFFq6A/viewform.

Please be advised that if you are planning on traveling with your son or daughter to either an “Affected State” or an “Affected Country” for more than 24 hours during the break, we will require a negative COVID-19 test before your son or daughter may return to in-person learning. Pursuant to Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 9I, an “Affected State” is defined as a state, *other than New York, New Jersey, or Rhode Island*, with a positive case rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents, or higher than a 10% test positivity rate over a seven-day rolling average, and an “Affected Country” is defined as a country for which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice.

It is important that you check with the list of Affected States and Affected Countries prior to travel as this list changes based on changing COVID-19 conditions. The most up to date list of Affected States can be found here <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>. The most up to date list of Affected Countries can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html#travel-1>.

Note: the test must have been taken within 72 hours of your return to Connecticut, or upon your arrival in Connecticut. Only results for

nucleic acid COVID-19 tests, such as reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests, shall be accepted.

You are required to send in your child's results to the nurse's office prior to returning your child to in-person learning for either cohort. Test results and all other medical information relating to your child will be maintained in confidence by the District as mandated by law. Once your child has been cleared to return to school by the nurse, he/she may return if he/she is symptom free. While awaiting results, please keep your child home. If you elect not to get such a COVID-19 test for your child prior to the scheduled return to school, your child may participate as a remote learner during the required 14-day quarantine.

Thank you for helping us to keep New Milford Public Schools safe for all.

Administrative Assignment Changes

At a special meeting on December 8, 2020, the New Milford Board of Education approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Milford School Administrators Association to enable changes to administrative assignments.



Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, currently Assistant Principal for Northville Elementary School and Schaghticoke Middle School, will become Interim Assistant Superintendent for the district. Mrs. Calabrese has worked for New Milford Public Schools since July 2019. She is a seasoned educator, having taught previously in Watertown, Southbury and New Britain.

Mrs. Calabrese attended Central CT State University where she earned her degree in Mathematics-Science-Geography with a concentration in Elementary Education, and a Master of Science and 6th year degree in Educational Leadership. She holds an 092 certification as an Intermediate Administrator/Supervisor.

Mr. Kevin Best, currently Assistant Principal at New Milford High School, will shift assignment and take over for Mrs. Calabrese, sharing his time between Northville Elementary and Schaghticoke Middle Schools. Mrs. Calabrese and Mr. Best began their new assignments on December 10, 2020.



Speaking about the two administrators, Interim Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo said, "Catherine Calabrese and Kevin Best exhibit the requisite leadership skills and abilities to bring continuity to the work in their respective positions. They are dynamic leaders and will work hard to continue to support our educators, staff, families and children during this difficult time. I am thrilled to welcome them to their respective new schools/positions and look forward to working with them in this new capacity."

NMPS "Stars" of the Month

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, we would like to continue to publicly recognize NMPS staff members for the good work they do to positively impact our students and/or the community. Parents, students, and fellow staff members are invited to [complete a short online form](#) to nominate a New Milford Public Schools staff member: whether it be a teacher, guidance counselor, nurse, paraeducator, school psychologist, secretary, social worker, administrator, cafeteria worker, custodian, coach or another support person of your choice. You are welcome to make a nomination at any time and for as many deserving staff members as you wish. From all the forms submitted, honorees will be randomly selected each month for public recognition by the Board of Education and they will receive a "star" lapel pin as a small symbol in recognition of their many star qualities.



This year's first group of honorees is long overdue. Last year, they were nominated and selected as NMPS "Stars" for the month of March 2020. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic intervened and no public recognition took place. To rectify that, these staff were named "Stars" for this December. Though the December BOE meeting was virtual, each "Star" was recognized by slide and congratulated based on his/her nominee's words.

Celebrating NMPS Stars of the Month



Sarah E. Herring

SNIS Special Education Teacher

Sarah is the consummate professional. She is always positive and willing to dig in and work hard on any issue. She is devoted to her students and works to help them meet her high expectations. Her positivity and hard work make her a huge asset at SNIS.

Celebrating NMPS Stars of the Month



Dianne Johnson

SNIS Grade 5 Teacher

Dianne sets a high standard for her students, but gives them every tool they need to be successful. She helps her students gain a combination of confidence, self-worth and determination which make her students feel like they can accomplish even difficult tasks.

Celebrating NMPS Stars of the Month



Yvonne Lynch

SNIS Special Education Teacher

Yvonne is an extremely supportive case manager/Special Ed teacher. She meets regularly with general education teachers and is available for a quick chat in passing. She shares ideas and resources in a helpful, friendly way.

Celebrating NMPS Stars of the Month



Henry Marshall

NMHS Custodian

Henry always does what he needs to do and then goes up and beyond to be the best that he can. We are so lucky to include him in our high school family.

Celebrating NMPS Stars of the Month



Keith Nold

HPS Custodian

Keith is a ray of sunshine. He is always so helpful and willing to assist the staff in any way. His positive attitude is contagious and always goes above and beyond to make our day better. So happy we have him at our school.

Celebrating NMPS Stars of the Month



Jennifer Titus

NMHS Speech and Language Pathologist

Jennifer is passionate about her profession as a speech-language pathologist and always has the students' best interest at heart. She is also keenly aware of the latest research and programs that are applicable to our students.

Feeding New Milford's Children

The Food and Nutrition Services Department has been hard at work feeding New Milford's children 18 years and under for FREE. The contactless curbside pick-up takes place every Wednesday at Sarah Noble Intermediate School from 8 AM to 10 AM. Thanks to the dedicated food service employees, approximately 8,000 nutritious meals were given to families on December 2nd alone. Since the start of the school year, a total of 66,576 meals have been distributed. Families receive complete balanced breakfasts and lunches for the week to help support growing healthy children. Meals include fresh fruit, vegetables, whole grains, protein sources and low fat milk.



The response from the community has been overwhelmingly:

- ♦ *I can't tell you how much my children look forward to our pickup on Wednesday mornings. My son, who is in 4th grade, has said to me many times that it makes him feel like things are back to "normal" when he gets to have the bagels from school or the chicken patty for lunch. Both my children used to eat lunch twice a week and breakfast once a week at school. So being able to give them something that they are used to getting at school is just awesome and makes them feel "normal".*
- ♦ *I just want to thank you so much for all that you are doing for the kids! You ladies are so organized and so hard-working! I hope you all know how appreciated you really are! I get tears in my eyes every week as I pull up and see you all working so hard for the kids, like angels!!*
- ♦ *My daughter is full remote. You wouldn't believe how excited she is to have the school lunches. She looks forward to seeing what familiar food she'll get that she misses from school, and I love how independent it makes her because she can prepare all of it by herself, being in middle school. Her brother's in college and when he's home visiting he is envious of some of his favorites from school!*

Meals are available **FREE to ALL** New Milford families with children 18 years and under. This will continue until the end of the 20-21 school year. Please sign up at <https://www.newmilfordps.org/curbsidemeals> or call 860-354-3712 for further information.



**It's going to be a busy
new year!
Please join us...**

**January 7th
6 PM**

**Restorative Practices:
Building
Better Relationships**

**(Click on title above to enter
webex presentation.)**

New Milford Public Schools

NMPS Parent Virtual Event



**NMPS Schools, in collaboration with NMPS Schoolwide
PTO and the New Milford Youth Agency, Present
Dr. Jo Ann Frieberg and Ms. Patricia Ciccone, C.A.G.S., L.P.C.
Thursday, January 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM**

Dr. Jo Ann Frieberg and Ms. Patricia Ciccone, C.A.G.S., L.P.C. will be conducting a virtual presentation for all New Milford families on Thursday, January 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.. Make sure you don't miss out on this awesome opportunity to meet these amazing presenters and what they are offering our families.



Dr. Jo Ann Frieberg



Patricia Ciccone, C.A.G.S., L.P.C.

Why is New Milford School District embracing Restorative Practices? A look at the current landscape and busting the myths about what Restorative Practices is and what it is not.

Please join us using the link below:

<https://schoolclimateconsultantsllc.my.webex.com/meet/SCC>

NMPS OPEN FORUM

**Supporting Families in Different Learning Models
"Planning for the Future"**



*The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause stress for both our families and schools
as we all navigate the variety of different learning models.*

*Join Interim Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo and other district administrators
for an open discussion about the challenges of the present environment
and start the conversation about future plans.*

January 14, 2021

7:00 PM

Via Zoom Virtual Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91284130488?pwd=Y1dXQTNkUUUWUJFT21SVDJ0S0pRdz09>

Meeting ID: 912 8413 0488

Passcode: 216424

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,91284130488#,,,,,0#,,216424# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,91284130488#,,,,,0#,,216424# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 912 8413 0488

Passcode: 216424

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/91284130488?pwd=Y1dXQTNkUUUWUJFT21SVDJ0S0pRdz09>

**January 14th
7 PM**

**Supporting Families
in Different Learning
Models
"Planning for the Future"**

Join Zoom Meeting

**[https://zoom.us/j/91284130488?
pwd=Y1dXQTNkUUUWUJFT21SVDJ0S0pRdz09](https://zoom.us/j/91284130488?pwd=Y1dXQTNkUUUWUJFT21SVDJ0S0pRdz09)**

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+13126266799,,91284130488#,,,,,0#,,216424# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 912 8413 0488

Passcode: 216424

**Find your local number: [https://
zoom.us/j/91284130488?pwd=Y1dXQTNkUUUWUJFT21SVDJ0S0pRdz09](https://zoom.us/j/91284130488?pwd=Y1dXQTNkUUUWUJFT21SVDJ0S0pRdz09)**

Parent Partnership Initiative: Caregiver Mondays

CAREGIVER MONDAY

WHEN
December 14
7pm

WHERE
Google Meet
<https://meet.google.com/gh-uggh-ssst>


Schaghticoke Middle School

Topics:
Feeling the value of Reading, Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies
Finding the value across all content areas - specifically guiding, wait time and practice

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PLEASE JOIN OUR INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES FOR A SERIES OF CAREGIVER MONDAYS. THESE MEETINGS WILL HELP ALL CAREGIVERS INFORMATION ON HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN IN THE VIRTUAL, HYBRID OR IN-CLASS SETTING.

PRESENTERS
Kerry Stewart
Kerry Stacey
MSW Instructional Coaches



On select Mondays October through February, our Elementary and Middle School instructional coaches are providing opportunities for caregivers to learn about specific elements of instruction. Each meeting runs for approximately twenty minutes per grade level on select Mondays for grades K-8. Topics focus on information that is timely and relevant to the learning taking place in your child's classroom, whether he or she is in-person or participating in learning remotely. So far, six sessions have been held. Session recordings can be found here:

[October 26: HPS/NES](#)
[November 9: SNIS](#)
[November 16: SMS](#)
[November 30: HPS/NES](#)
[December 7: SNIS](#)
[December 14: SMS](#)

Future sessions are scheduled for:

January 11: HPS/NES
 January 25: SNIS
 February 1: SMS



NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY



NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY Parent Support Seminar

Join us for this **FREE & VIRTUAL** conversation. This workshop is designed for parents to have a safe place to gain knowledge and a better understanding of their children. A great chance to receive tools and tips and know...

YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

Sara Wells, LMSW & Jason O'Connor, LMSW, Director of The Youth Agency, will facilitate and have a Q & A available after the seminar.

Please join us and share your ...
EXPERIENCES, CONCERNS, ISSUES, & ADVICE



DISCUSSION POINTS

Childhood Depression & Anxiety

Living through a Pandemic while raising children

Warning Signs that your child needs help

Tools and Tips & Helpful Resources

Tuesday, January 19th
7:00-8:00pm

Pre-register @
www.myyouthagency.com

for additional information
contact Sara Wells, LMSW
swells@newmilford.org
860-219-2030

**January 19th
7 PM**

**Share your experiences,
concerns, issues and advice
with other parents.**

**Learn helpful tools and tips and
see what resources are available.**

Pre-register @
www.myyouthagency.com

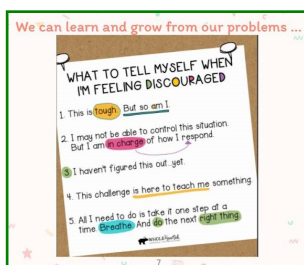
News from Our Schools

Northville Elementary School

We ended November with lots of gratitude in our hearts. We are grateful for our staff, our students, and our families. Mrs. Morin decided to support our community for the Thanksgiving holiday and wanted to put together seven baskets. She reached out to our staff with a list of items and by the end of the day there was nothing left to purchase. Mrs. Morin created a basket with the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner including the turkey and an additional \$50 gift certificate donated by an anonymous staff member.

We needed to have a little fun with the staff at the end of November, so Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Calabrese surprised the staff and played 10 at 10. At 10 AM, the 10th caller to call Mrs. Gallagher's office won the gift certificate JoJo's Deli graciously donated. Mrs. Mooney is our first NES Winner.

Our C.A.R.E.S. assembly was all about ways students can problem solve and when there's a problem, what you can say. You can say: I wonder... What if... Let's try...



Mrs. Nissenbaum, our school psychologist; Mrs. Tarsa, our guidance counselor; and Mrs. Morin, our social worker; all joined in to share alternative ways to problem solve too.

Students earned C.A.R.E.S. coins during their time in remote learning and then back in-person at NES and they were treated to a directed drawing activity with Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Calabrese.

December started out strong during our first full week of remote learning for all our students. There were technical issues but we are happy to report that everyone persevered and successfully made it through the week. We want to thank all our families and caregivers for the dedication to the students and staff during this time.

Hill and Plain Elementary School

While we had limited days in school for the month of December, the students and staff made the most of them. Thank you to our PTO who ran our annual Holiday Store outside in the cold this year. They put together an amazing little Christmas village at the front of the building and even added an area to take holiday pictures. They also sponsored ugly sweater days for both our cohort A and B students.



Inside the building, we focused on compassion for the month of December. Our morning announcements and Mrs. Sanchez' guidance lessons taught students how to show compassion and why it is

important. Students filled out ways they could show compassion on paper light bulbs and these were hung in the main hallway as a reminder to show compassion every day.

On behalf of the staff at Hill and Plain we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday break and Happy New Year!

Sarah Noble Intermediate School

At SNIS, our school pledge to be respectful, responsible, honest, safe, and kind is at the heart of all we do. During the holidays, we put our pledge into action to serve our community. SNIS students and staff truly demonstrate compassion in action.

This year with cohorting, our annual Breast Cancer awareness and fundraising campaign went several months and culminated with staff and students wearing lots of pink for SNIS Pink Days in December! Mariann Schirizzo, our Health teacher, leads the way, educating and coordinating our fundraising. This year we were able to send nearly one thousand dollars to Ann's Place in Danbury. View [SNIS Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign 2020 staff pictures](#).

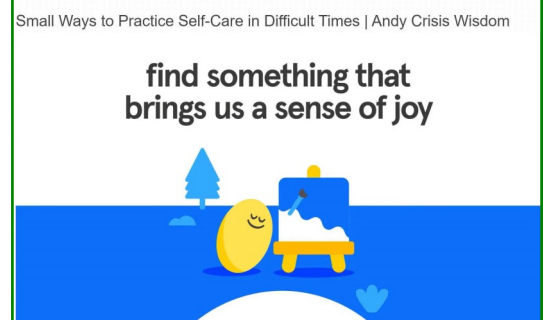


Each year in November, our families and staff sponsor several families from our community and provide them with a Thanksgiving feast basket. Social worker Alicia Getz leads the way and facilitates as staff members sign up to donate different components. The result is baskets overflowing with everything necessary for a great Thanksgiving meal!

After Thanksgiving, the generosity continues with holiday baskets created for families. Alicia Getz creates a bulletin board of mittens with the needs of our families and our staff responds by signing up for a mitten to sponsor; this combined with family donations leads to a plethora of donations. The end result brings holiday joy to families in our community.

Schaghticoke Middle School

The SMS Advisory program has focused on social emotional learning since the beginning of this school year. Teachers have utilize activities created by our school counselors, social workers, and psychologists. The activities have formed a foundation to build positive relationships and influence healthy decision making.



The year started off with a focus on health and safety, then moved on to positive relationships, mindfulness and empathy. This fall into winter, topics have shifted to gratitude, kindness and self-care during holiday stress. SMS teachers and counselors are well aware that this year the holiday season may look different given the complications caused by COVID-19. Students may not be able to physically visit with family and friends or do the same activities that they are used to, causing stress and worry. The December lessons have focused on what students can do when they are feeling stressed this holiday season or any time of the year. If you'd like a small peek at what students are learning, take a few minutes to watch this video: *Showing Up for Yourself* <https://video.link/w/OgLxb>

New Milford High School

NMHS Student-Athletes Dominate in the Fall Athletic Season



All of our NMHS student-athletes and coaches deserve a huge pat on the back for their hard work this fall sports season. Besides managing Hybrid and Remote Learning, COVID restrictions, limited spectators, and rigorous training and practice schedules, we had some amazing athletic team accomplishments.

First, congratulations to all of our Fall SWC Championship winning teams: Varsity Girls Soccer, Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country, and Varsity Field Hockey. In addition, there were two other teams that advanced to the finals in the SWC Tournaments: Varsity Boys Soccer and Varsity Girls Volleyball. Our Varsity Swimmers and Divers had some amazing performances over the course of the season and in the SWC Championships, and our Football team was able to compete in four 7 v 7 games against fellow SWC schools. We are extremely grateful to have been able to get the Fall season in.



Way to go all Green Wave athletes!

Instant Decision Week Yields 97% Acceptance Rate for NMHS Seniors

The 2020 NMHS Instant Decision Week for seniors has come to a close, with all applications being processed virtually by admissions reps from ten different schools including Western, Central and Southern Connecticut State Universities, Mercy College, Iona College, Naugatuck Valley Community College, the University of Hartford, Sacred Heart University and Western New England University.



The event generated on-the-spot acceptances for 97% of those applicants, with the remaining applicants being wait-listed until after midterm. For the admitted students, they won't have to wait any longer to find out whether or not they've been accepted. For the wait-listed students, meeting the rep face-to-face virtually and making that personal connection allows the student to stand out individually as more than just

grades on a transcript, or scores in a report when their application goes before the school's Admissions Committee after the close of first semester. It also provides the wait-listed student with an opportunity to discuss alternate options for admission to the school, through a different program, as a transfer student, and the like.

Jana Kmec, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Western New England University, expressed how beneficial the meetings were with the applicants. After discussing post-high school plans with the WNEU applicants, she was able to make adjustments to their programs and provide a personalized experience, something which is not feasible for an electronic applicant.

NMHS Marching Band & Guard Continue to Amaze with Fall Show



Working together to maintain COVID restrictions, NMHS Band and Guard students were able to put together an "Earth, Wind and Fire" show this fall. NMHS Band Director Mr. Syzdek was extremely proud of the students' accomplishments and shared a video of the final performance they gave for parents. <https://youtu.be/yDYblj8qp6s>

First Episode of Green Wave TV Released!

The first episode of Green Wave TV for 2020-21 has been released! The episode not only includes a new theme, but also an Avatar parody, an important PSA about the deaf and hard of hearing experience during COVID, a cooking show sketch, Spirit Week 2020 highlights, and a horror-themed 'found footage' short film.



Proud of his students hard work on the episode, Mr. Amenta, NMHS Video Production Teacher states, "It's been a much longer and harder process due to the hybrid model, but the students pulled it off." Well done Green Wave! <https://youtu.be/lTnKGLHzs8o>

To read more about all the NMHS happenings and upcoming events, check out the full edition of the New Milford High School eNews Blast, published monthly and posted on our website here: <https://www.smores.com/gzujs>


New Milford Public Schools

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

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Interim Superintendent

Mrs. Catherine Calabrese
Interim Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Kevin Munrett
Facilities Director

Mr. Anthony Giovannone
Fiscal Services & Operations
Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

Mrs. Catherine Gabianelli
Human Resources Director

Mrs. Laura Olson
Pupil Personnel &
Special Services Director

Mr. Brandon Rush
Technology 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



***“For last year’s words belong
to last year’s language.
And next year’s words
await another voice.
What we call the beginning
is often the end
And to make an end
is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from.”
~ T.S. Elliot***



***Wishing you a New Year
filled with
inspiration and joy.***



December 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.