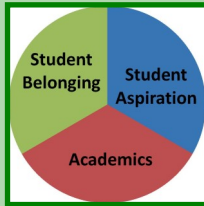




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School

860-350-6647

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
Ms. Linda Scoralick, Asst. Principal
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 Corvello, 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 2

August 2018



Are you ready to start the 2018-19 School Year?

Open Houses/Walkthroughs Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Grades K-2	HPS/NES	12:30-1:30
Grades 3-5	SNIS	1:30-3:00
Grades 6-8	SMS	10:00-11:30

First Day of School for Students: Wednesday, August 29, 2018

NMHS and SMS:

7:35 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

HPS, NES, and SNIS:

8:50 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

BOE Appoints Interim Superintendent of Schools



At a special meeting on August 2, 2018, the New Milford Board of Education authorized BOE Chairperson David Lawson to execute an agreement with Dr. Stephen Tracy to serve as Interim Superintendent of New Milford Public Schools. Dr. Tracy will guide the district while the Board begins its search for a new superintendent.

Dr. Tracy is no stranger to New Milford, having served as the district's Superintendent of Schools from November 1985 to October 1993. He has an extensive background in education, serving as the Senior Vice President at Edison Schools from October 1993 to September 2007; Superintendent of Schools for Derby, CT from 2008 to July 2012; and Superintendent of Schools for Unified District #2, which is responsible for the education of students in foster and residential care in CT, from July 2012 to June 2015. Most recently, Dr. Tracy has served as an Interim Superintendent for Fairfield Public Schools and for New London Public Schools.

Board of Education Chairperson David Lawson said, "We are pleased that Dr. Tracy will be returning to New Milford. He brings a very strong skill set and has the experience to lead the district in this time of transition."

HPS Principal Named

At a special Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, August 8, 2018, New Milford Public Schools Superintendent Mr. Joshua Smith recommended, and the Board of Education approved, the appointment of Mrs. Patricia Corvello to serve as Interim Principal at Hill and Plain Elementary School beginning on August 9, 2018.

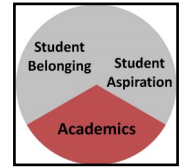
Mrs. Corvello previously served as Principal at Plantsville Elementary School in Southington from 2008 to 2014, when she retired. During that time, she also served as the TEAM District Coordinator. Prior to taking the leadership role in Southington, Mrs. Corvello worked for the Watertown Public Schools from 1979 to 2008. She began as a teacher, moved to various district-wide coordinator positions, and served as Principal at Judson Elementary School.



Mrs. Corvello's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts from Salve Regina College; a Master of Science degree, Reading Consultant Grades K-12, from WCSU; and her 6th year professional diploma in Administration and Supervision from SCSU. She holds an 092 certification in Intermediate Administration and Supervision.

2018 Summer Bridge Program Finds Success

The third successful year of the Summer Bridge Program at Sarah Noble Intermediate School began on July 23 and ended on August 9. The Summer Bridge Program gives opportunities for students entering grades three, four, and five to learn and practice skills in both reading and math in preparation for the upcoming school year.



In reading, all grade levels practiced skills in identifying the main idea and supporting details in non-fiction articles and fictional texts. In math, the focus skills ranged from adding and subtracting using multiple digits for the incoming third graders to multiplication and division of multiple digits for the incoming fourth and fifth graders. Once the students took their pre-assessments on the first day, the teachers of each grade taught practice strategies to improve those skills.

In practicing reading strategies, incoming third graders in Ms. DeBarber's class read an article about bees and then used a questioning technique to help determine the main idea. For example, students began with one word and then asked themselves questions such as "what does this teach you?" to begin to develop a main idea sentence. For math, the incoming third grade students practiced adding and subtracting multiple digits by breaking them down into smaller parts to answer the equations.



Incoming fourth graders in Ms. Giudice's class read an article about unique birds and then created graphic organizers in groups to identify the main idea and supporting details before presenting their work to the rest of the class. In solving multiplication and division problems, students practiced strategies using fact families, number lines, and repeated subtraction.



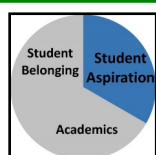
Ms. Livingstone's incoming fifth graders read an article about the lost colony of Roanoke and practiced an annotating strategy. For each of the paragraphs in the article, students identified the main idea and then synthesized their notes to determine an overall main idea along with supporting details. In math, students practiced a strategy of using partial quotients to solve long division word problems.

The feedback from the students was all positive and reflective of their teachers. One incoming fourth grader remarked, "I got better in math because I was able to practice my fact families." Another incoming fourth grader added, "We're already writing summaries that we would be doing in fourth grade." On the last day, another student said, "I didn't know much about multiplication but now I think it is fun."



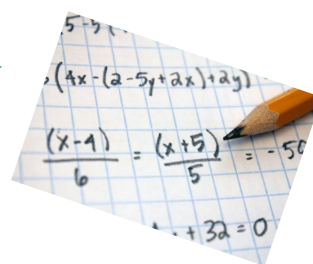


The final data speaks to the success of the Summer Bridge Program. Throughout the three weeks of the program, average attendance remained strong above 80% and all students demonstrated growth by the close of the program. In reading, 88% of the students who attended the program improved by at least one grade level on the reading progression from their pre-assessments, and 38% improved by two grade levels. The results in math were even stronger. Every student demonstrated growth in mastery of grade level skills, and 83% of students scored above 80% mastery in their final assessments.



Getting Ready for Algebra

In addition to the Summer Bridge Program, New Milford Public Schools offered an Algebra Readiness course this summer to incoming eighth grade students who had shown progress in Math 7 and who were interested in taking Algebra in the fall. This is the second year that the district has offered the course which is designed to expose students to the critical units of the Pre-Algebra curriculum in order to ensure preparation for their potential entrance to Algebra as eighth graders. The course, taught by certified teacher Sarah Herring, was offered in two sessions to accommodate summer schedules. At the end of the session, students needed to demonstrate 80% mastery of the concepts on an Algebra Readiness assessment in order to be placed in Algebra 8 for the 2018-19 school year.



Bus Routes for 2018-19



Bus routes for 2018-19 can be viewed [online at the district website](#). 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 routes.



Mark Your Calendar

Curriculum Night, Grades K-2
September 26, 2018
(HPS, NES) 5:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

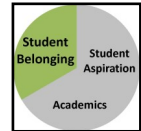
Curriculum Night, Grades 3-5
September 20, 2018
(SNIS) 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

Open House, Grades 6-8
September 13, 2018
(SMS) 6:00 p.m.—7:45 p.m.

Open House, Grades 9-12
September 12, 2018
(NMHS) 6:15 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Interested in Volunteering?

The Board of Education recognizes that volunteers can make many valuable contributions to our schools. The Board supports a volunteer program that encourages community residents to take an active role to become school volunteers subject to suitable regulations and safeguards.



The New Milford Public Schools recognizes that just about any volunteer situation may result in direct contact with students. Our obligation to take appropriate measures to keep our children safe is one of our primary concerns. We require criminal history checks, at no cost to you, of all adults who wish to act as volunteers in our schools or chaperones on our field trips.

In order to volunteer, whether in the classroom, school or on a field trip, it is necessary for you to be fingerprinted. This takes place through the district's Human Resources department. From September through May, two dates per month are generally offered. Specific fingerprinting dates, and additional information, will be made available through the school office once school begins and will also be posted on the district website.

- ♦ If you have already been fingerprinted and have volunteered each year, it is not necessary for you to be fingerprinted again. You will still need to sign up with your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year.
- ♦ If you have never volunteered before, or have not done so annually, fingerprinting will be necessary. You will need to sign up with your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year and will subsequently receive information about fingerprinting. It is recommended that you sign up earlier rather than later in the year to ensure that you will be able to be fingerprinted in time for the event or activity that you may be interested in volunteering for during the year.

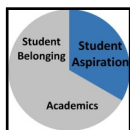
We look forward to having you as volunteers!

Did you know?

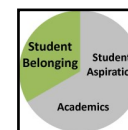
The Corporation for National and Community Service collects data through two supplements to the Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (see <https://www.nationalservice.gov/vcla>).

Their most recently published data shows overall, nationally in 2015:

- * 24.9% of residents volunteer
- * 62.6 million volunteers
- * 7.9 billion hours of service
- * \$184 billion of service contributed



Eagle Scout Projects Enhance School Facilities



Two New Milford Public School students working on their Eagle Scout projects are helping to enhance our facilities this summer. Current NMHS senior Thomas King is converting two courtyards at Northville Elementary School into outdoor classroom learning environments. Thomas says, “The spaces are designed to include features such as rearrangeable seating, outdoor chalk/whiteboards, birdhouses, tables, a digital weather station, and sun shading.” In addition to the main project, Thomas is refurbishing flower beds and memorial gardens.

Michael Tarby, who graduated from New Milford High School in June, is constructing signs for the NMHS athletic complex as his Eagle Scout project. One sign will offer a general welcome at the stadium entrance, while the other is designed as a record board. Michael also plans to add landscaping around the welcome sign, including trees, flowers and the green wave logo constructed out of garden edging and landscaping pebbles.



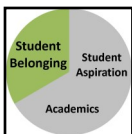
Both scouts hope to have the projects completed by the end of the summer. They are welcome additions to previous Eagle Scout projects such as a play wall for SNIS, a storage shed for NES playground equipment, and “buddy benches” made for our K-5 playgrounds.

Celebrating NMPS Staff



The NMPS Stars of the Month recognition program is back. This is the third year for this program where parents, students and fellow staff members are invited to [complete a short online form](#) to nominate a NMPS staff member 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, six honorees will be selected each month, one from each school and one non-school specific honoree. All honorees will be invited to attend the Board of Education monthly meeting for public congratulations where they will receive a star lapel pin as a small symbol in recognition of their “star” qualities. In addition, thanks to our continuing partnership with Ingersoll Automotive of Danbury, one lucky honoree each month will be gifted at random with a courtesy car to drive for the month! You can see a listing of previous years’ winners on the [Staff Recognition page](#) of the district website.



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. For security purposes, parents must [sign up to receive a personalized web access code for account log in](#).

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 [home page](#).

Prefer your news from the comfort of your couch?

Watch Educational Access TV on cable channel 194. A schedule of monthly Board of Education meetings and other special programs can be found on the [district website](#). You can view episodes of *Green Wave TV*, New Milford High School's student video production, on their [youtube channel](#).

Want to attend a high school athletic event?

Visit www.casciac.org for up to date schedules and to sign up for alerts about changes in schedule.

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 sent home at the beginning of the school year and by providing any needed updates throughout the year.

Welcome to School Breakfast and School Lunch

"Back to School" is here again and what does every parent need more of? Time! The NMPS Food and Nutrition Services Department is here to help. We asked Mrs. Sandra Sullivan, the program's director, to provide an overview of this year's program:

Our school meal program is made for students and their parents. Not only are our school meals delicious and nutritious, they're also convenient and affordable for you. Our friendly food service staff is here to serve your children the nutrition they need to succeed in school.



Breakfast is available to all students every morning before school. The cost is \$1.40 for grades K–5, \$1.75 for grades 6–12, 30 cents for reduced students and no charge for free students. Cereal, muffins, yogurt, juice, fruit and milk are just some of the selections.

There is a wide variety of lunch choices daily from a hot meal, cold meal, salads and sandwiches. Students are offered a selection of low fat and fat free milk, colorful portions of fresh fruits and vegetables and a variety of whole grains and lean proteins. The cost is \$2.35 for grades K–5 and \$2.60/\$3.10 for grades 6–12, 40 cents for reduced students and no charge for free students. Our [full menu](#) can be viewed on the district website under the Food and Nutrition Services tab. You can follow Food Services on Twitter too @NMPSFoodService.



A la carte snacks are also available for purchase. All snacks meet strict nutrition guidelines. Choices can include muffins, fruit, yogurt, baked chips, popcorn, frozen desserts or a whole grain cookie. If you have concerns about your child's purchases, please call the cafeteria to discuss how limits may be placed on their account. Concerned about allergies?? Labels of all the food we serve are readily available for viewing.

For your convenience an easy [online payment system](#) is offered to fund and view your student's meal account at MySchoolBucks.com. Payments can also be made with cash or a check in the cafeteria.



Information on how to apply for [Free and Reduced Lunch](#) will be included in the district's back to school packets. If you have any questions regarding our breakfast or lunch program, please call Food Services at 860-354-3712. We look forward to serving your children in our cafeterias!



New Milford Public Schools

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

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

Ms. Roberta Pratt
Technology Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

Board of Education

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Chairperson

Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Angela C. Chastain
Secretary

Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Bill Dahl

Mr. Joseph Failla

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. J.T. Schemm

50 Questions to ask your kids instead of “How was your day?”

1. What made you laugh today?
2. Can you tell me about a time when you were kind to someone today?
3. Were you or anyone you know unkind today? What happened?
4. Does everyone in your class have a friend at lunchtime?
5. What book did your teacher read to you today?
6. What's the word/book of the week?
7. Did anyone make you laugh today?
8. Did anyone cry today?
9. What did you do that was creative?
10. What's the most popular activity at lunchtime?
11. What is the best thing that happened in your day?
12. Did you help anyone today?
13. Did you say “thank you” to anyone today?
14. Who did you have lunch with?
15. What made you laugh?
16. Did your teacher say anything you didn't understand?
17. Who inspired you today?
18. What was the high and the low point of your day?
19. What was your least favorite part of the day?
20. Was anyone away today?
21. Did you feel unsafe at any time?
22. Did you learn anything that surprised you today?
23. What's something that happened that made you think?
24. What do you know today that you didn't know yesterday?
25. What did you find challenging today?
26. How did someone fill your bucket today?
27. How did you fill someone else's bucket?
28. What did you like in your lunch? Anything you didn't like?
29. How would you rate your day from 1 to 10?
30. Did anyone get into trouble today?
31. How were you brave today?
32. What questions did you ask in class today?
33. What are you looking forward to tomorrow?
34. What are you reading?
35. What was the hardest rule to follow today?
36. Teach me something I don't already know.
37. If you could change something about your day, what would it be?
38. Is there anything on your mind you'd like to talk about?
39. What made your teacher smile today?
40. What made your teacher cross?
41. How would you describe the sort of person you were today?
42. What made you feel happy?
43. What made you feel loved?
44. What made you feel proud?
45. What made you feel worried?
46. What would you like to achieve at school before the holidays?
47. If you could swap desks with someone at school, who would you choose and why?
48. What is your favorite area at school?
49. If you could be the teacher for a day, what would you teach everyone?
50. If you were the principal for a day, what rules would you make?

Retrieved from SchoolMum <https://www.schoolmum.net/parenting/50-questions-ask-kids-instead-day/> on August 10, 2018

August brilliance

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.