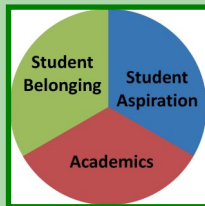




New Milford Public Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406  
[www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org)



**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

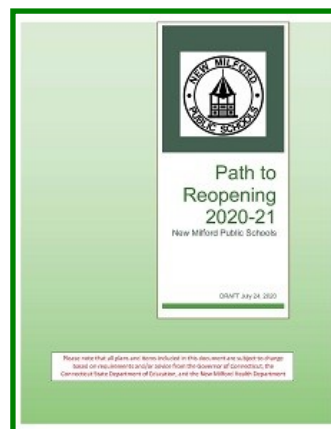
# Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 11, Issue 1

July 2020

## District Releases Draft of NMPS Path to Reopening 20-21

On June 29, 2020, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) released [\*Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together\*](#). This Fall Reopening Model states that local educational agencies (LEAs), such as New Milford Public Schools, "should plan to have all students, in all districts, return to schoolhouses for fulltime instruction at the beginning of 2020–2021, so long as public health data continues to support this model. This model will be supported with more intensive mitigation strategies and specific monitoring, containment and class cancellation plans. In addition to full-time instruction plans as indicated above, LEAs must be prepared to modify their plans to support a partial reopening or to allow for scaling back at a future date if the public health data changes."



All LEAs were required to submit their individual plans to the CSDE by July 24, 2020. Our district's plan, *NMPS Path to Reopening 2020-21* was made public in draft form on July 17, 2020 and presented to the BOE on July 21, 2020. It may be viewed on the NMPS district website [here](#). The plan presents three scenarios for the continuum of learning, based on the level of COVID-19 spread in the schools, community, or the state: In-Person Learning, Hybrid Learning and Remote

Learning. A central belief in reopening is that the children of New Milford need to be connected in person once again to our schools' academics, activities, arts, and athletics led in person by their teachers, coaches, and mentors. As the schools reopen in the fall, the plan is to phase in all aspects of school life in the safest and most appropriate manner.

*NMPS Path to Reopening 2020-21* was presented as a draft, as a means to communicate with stakeholders the initial plans of New Milford Public Schools in response to the expectations from the State regarding the reopening of schools. The section of the document entitled *Guidelines for Reopening* aligns the required and recommended guidelines from the CSDE with district areas of focus. The Guidelines

are meant to be shared with staff, families, and community members in order to provide clarity for the contents of the *Path to Reopening 2020-21*. Any requirements or length of time for the various protocols in the Guidelines will be adjusted based on expectations from the State of Connecticut and local health officials (New Milford Health Department).

At the July 21, 2020 Board of Education meeting, several members of the public commented on the Plan. Board members raised their own questions and ultimately approved the draft to be sent to the State on July 24. Members stressed that the Plan is a draft work in progress with important conversations still needing to take place.

Follow up Zoom forums have been scheduled, with the first for staff taking place on July 29, and the first for parents to be held August 5th at 7 PM. The Zoom platform <https://zoom.us/j/94866576834?pwd=a296SmhYZnkzamVpdFc5d0JFbk9Vdz09> is limited to 1000 participants, so the parent meeting will also be streamed on YouTube Live at [https://youtu.be/y9\\_6BaxE4TU](https://youtu.be/y9_6BaxE4TU).

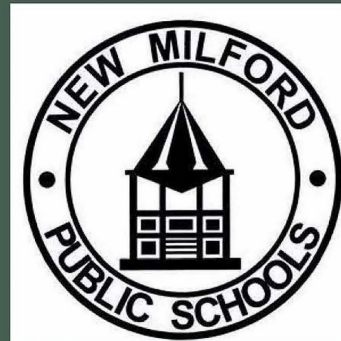
**Join us for a Zoom Forum  
to discuss the NMPS  
Path to Reopening 2020-21  
Wednesday, August 5, 2020  
7 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://zoom.us/j/94866576834?  
pwd=a296SmhYZnkzamVpdFc5d0JFbk9V  
dz09](https://zoom.us/j/94866576834?pwd=a296SmhYZnkzamVpdFc5d0JFbk9Vdz09)

Meeting ID: 948 6657 6834  
Passcode: 555003  
One tap mobile  
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3# US (Germantown)  
+13126266799,,94866576834#,,,,,0#,,55500  
3# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
Meeting ID: 948 6657 6834 Passcode:  
555003

**Watch via YouTube Live:**  
[https://youtu.be/y9\\_6BaxE4TU](https://youtu.be/y9_6BaxE4TU)



**Path to  
Reopening  
2020-21**  
New Milford Public Schools

DRAFT July 24, 2020

## Dr. Paul Smotas Named Interim Superintendent for NMPS



At a Special Meeting on July 28th, the New Milford Board of Education approved an agreement with Dr. Paul Smotas to serve as Interim Superintendent for New Milford Public Schools. Dr. Smotas is a seasoned educator with over 40 years' experience. He began his teaching career in Southington Public Schools where he was a teacher, Business Manager and a Curriculum Director. He was an Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Vernon, Branford, and East Lyme, where he also served as Superintendent. He retired from the Superintendent position in 2009. Since then, Dr. Smotas has held Interim Superintendent positions in several districts including Coventry, Stonington, New Hartford and Stafford.

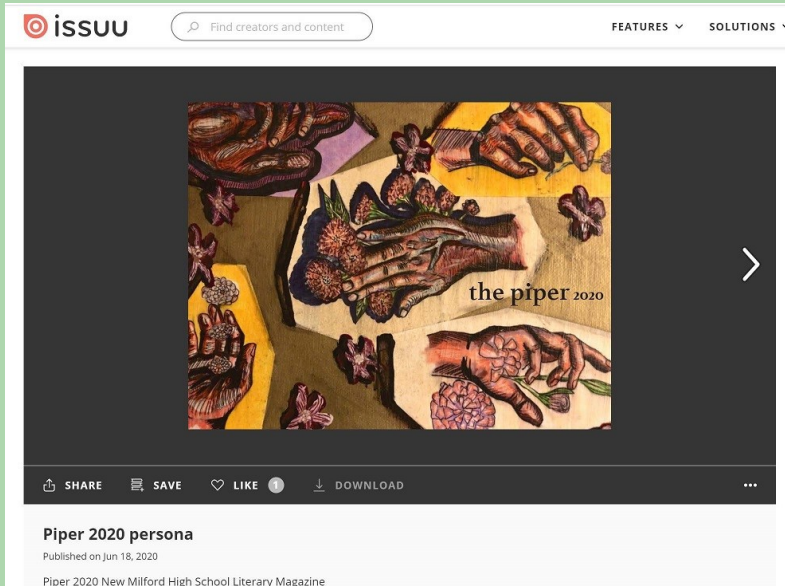
Dr. Smotas holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences and a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Central CT State University; a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering from the University of New Haven; and his 6th year diploma in Educational Administration and Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from UConn. He has served as an Adjunct Professor for the University of New Haven's School of Business, UConn's School of Education, Sacred Heart University's School of Education and WCSU's School of Business.

Board of Education Chairperson, Mrs. Angela Chastain, says "We were excited to find an Interim Superintendent with the experience and qualifications of Dr. Paul Smotas. We look forward to his leadership to navigate the district through these unprecedented times."

## Read all about it! *The Piper* Publishes Online Version

The New Milford High School literary magazine, *The Piper*, received the rank of Superior from the National Council of Teachers of English for its 2019 edition, a recognition it held the previous year as well.

This year, due to the closing of schools in March, the 2020 edition of *The Piper* was completed and published online. Click [here](#) to view the work of our talented student writers and artists.



## New School Year? Time for an Upgrade!

The New Milford Public Schools website is getting an upgrade within the next few weeks. You'll find it at the same address: [www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org), but with a new look. Stay tuned.





## 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**

## Staying focused on students, families, and community

**Young people with strong  
relationships are more  
resilient in the face of  
stress and trauma.**



Families dealing with adversity are better equipped to mitigate the negative impact of stressful events when they have robust parent-child relationships.

If young people living in high-stressed families have strong developmental relationships with their parents, they are...

- \* **21 times more likely to manage their emotions well.**
- \* **17 times more likely to take personal responsibility for their actions.**
- \* **5 times more likely to be good at making and keeping plans.**

Here are ways for children and adults to manage stress together and increase resiliency to adversity.

- \* **Get Moving:** All forms of exercise count! Walk. Yoga. Stretch. Dance. Getting your body moving can help ease anxiety.
- \* **Go Outside:** New Milford has so many wonderful places to visit. Visit the Peacocks at Harrybrooke, Eleanor the donkey at Pratt Nature Center, or bring along your dog to Sega Meadows. Don't forget your own backyard!
- \* **Eat well and Together:** Food is fuel for your body and mind. Take the time to eat at least one meal a day, together, at the table, unplugged. If you are struggling with food please contact New Milford Social Services, (860) 355-6079
- \* **Play:** Board Games. Cards. Puzzles. When is the last time you played a great game of Monopoly or Battleship?
- \* **Breathe:** So simple and so worth it. Sit up straight, eyes closed. Slowly inhale through your nose, feeling the breath start in your abdomen and work its way to the top of your head. Release the breathe slowly through your mouth. Three big deep breathes, several times a day will help relieve stress.
- \* **Be Present:** Put the phone down and step away from the screen. Spending time in the moment helps you feel less tense.
- \* **Crank Up the Music:** Tune in to some relaxing nature sounds or better yet, rock out to your favorite tunes. You will be surprised at how many favorite songs you will have in common.
- \* **Laugh:** A good belly laugh together will help lighten the load.
- \* **Create:** Color. Paint. Build. Pick up a creative care package from Village Center for the Arts. You don't need to be Picasso to be an artist.
- \* **Stay Connected:** Video Chat with friends and family. You are not alone.
- \* **Be Grateful:** We all have things to be grateful for. Take a moment each day to acknowledge them. You can even write them down in a list or a journal.

**"Nothing—nothing—has more impact in the life of a child than positive relationships."**

—Peter L. Benson, PHD (1946-2011) Creator of the Developmental Assets Framework



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Coalition for Awareness  
and New Beginnings

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.

July reminder