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**New Milford High School**  
 860-350-6647

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal  
 Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal  
 Mrs. 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. Paula Kelleher, 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 8, Issue 9

March 2018

## Next Generation Accountability Report 2016-17 Results Released

According to information provided by the CT State Department of Education (CSDE), "Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System is a broad set of 12 indicators that help tell the story of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers and life. The system moves beyond test scores and graduation rates and instead provides a more holistic, multifactor perspective of district and school performance and incorporates student growth over time. It was developed through extensive consultation with district and school leaders, Connecticut educators, state and national experts, CSDE staff, and many others. The system was conceived and developed under ESEA Flexibility and approved by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) on August 6, 2015. It was later included as part of Connecticut's state plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)."

This model, initially implemented in March 2016, has two main differences from previous models per the CSDE, "First, in addition to measuring academic achievement, this system also focuses on student growth over time. Measuring growth provides a more accurate picture than just looking at a snapshot in time of student performance. The second big change is that this accountability system includes additional key indicators, such as chronic absenteeism, physical fitness and arts access. Research tells us that students who attend school on a daily basis and maintain a healthy lifestyle are more likely to graduate and succeed in college. Access to an engaging arts curriculum creates a more well-rounded educational experience."

The twelve indicators measured are: (1.) Academic achievement status measured by state assessments (2.) Academic growth (3.) Assessment participation rate (4.) Chronic absenteeism (5.) Preparation for post secondary and career readiness – coursework (6.) Preparation for post secondary and career readiness – exams (7.) Graduation – on track in ninth grade (8.) Graduation – four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate – all students (9.) Graduation – six-year adjusted cohort graduation rate – high needs (10.) Post secondary entrance rate – all students, college enrollment (11.) Physical fitness and (12.) Arts access.

**Next Generation Accountability Report: 2016-17**

Choose a District  
New Milford School District

No.	Indicator	Index/Rate*	Target	Points Earned	Max Points	% Points Earned	State Avg Index/Rate
1a	ELA Performance Index - All Students	67.0	75	44.7	50	89.4%	67.2
1b	ELA Performance Index - High Needs Students	57.3	75	38.2	50	76.5%	55.9
1c	Math Performance Index - All Students	64.0	75	42.5	50	85.3%	62.2
1d	Math Performance Index - High Needs Students	53.9	75	35.0	50	72.0%	50.5
1e	Science Performance Index - All Students	58.1	75	38.8	50	77.6%	55.3
1f	Science Performance Index - High Needs Students	49.1	75	32.2	50	65.4%	45.2
2a	ELA Avg. Percentage of Growth Target Achieved - All Students	53.0%	100	53.0	100	53.0%	55.6%
2b	ELA Avg. Percentage of Growth Target Achieved - High Needs Students	49.3%	100	49.3	100	49.3%	49.8%
2c	Math Avg. Percentage of Growth Target Achieved - All Students	58.7%	100	58.7	100	58.7%	62.7%
2d	Math Avg. Percentage of Growth Target Achieved - High Needs Students	54.3%	100	54.3	100	54.3%	57.7%
4a	Chronic Absenteeism - All Students	6.7%	<6.5%	49.0	50	98.0%	9.8%
4b	Chronic Absenteeism - High Needs Students	12.0%	<6.5%	38.0	50	76.0%	13.8%
5	Preparation for CCR - All passing exams	68.2%	70%	45.5	50	91.0%	66.7%
6	Preparation for CCR - % passing exams	53.0%	70%	37.0	50	74.0%	43.0%
7	On-track to High School Graduation	97.2%	94%	50.0	50	100.0%	87.8%
8	Four Year Graduation All Students (2014 Cohort)	91.5%	84%	97.4	100	97.4%	87.4%
9	Four Year Graduation - High Needs Students (2014 Cohort)	81.0%	84%	89.2	100	89.2%	82.0%
10	Postsecondary Entrance (Class of 2016)	78.3%	70%	100.0	100	100.0%	72.0%
11	Physical Fitness (estimated pass rate) and (Fitness rate)	90.8%	45.3%	70%	25.0	57.8%	92.8%
12	Academic Achievement	41.0%	60%	14.7	50	29.4%	30.5%

\*Standard deviation is used in calculations. Values rounded to 1 decimal are displayed.

Gap Indicator	High Needs Rate*	High Needs Rate	State Gap (High - Low)	Gap in District?
Accountability Gap Size Outlook				
ELA Performance Index Gap	71.0	57.3	13.7	13.7
Math Performance Index Gap	69.1	53.9	15.2	15.2
Science Performance Index Gap	62.2	49.1	13.1	13.1
Four Year Graduation Rate Gap (2014 Cohort)	94.0%	81.0%	13.0%	13.0%

\*The four year high needs rate exceeds the state target (79.7% for graduation rate and 76% for graduation rate). After the ultimate target is displayed and used for gap calculations. \*% of on-track to high school. The state high school on-track target is 87.8%.

Participation Rate	Rate
ELA - All Students	90.7%
ELA - High Needs Students	90.8%
Math - All Students	91.5%
Math - High Needs Students	90.2%
Science - All Students	91.5%
Science - High Needs Students	90.5%

This is the third year that statistics have been reported under the system. Assistant Superintendent of Schools Alisha DiCorpo says there are several areas to highlight for New Milford Public Schools. “Our ELA, Science and Math performance overall for all students and high needs is at or outperforms the state average. We are within range of the state for average growth in ELA for all students and high needs. We are also within range of the state for all students in Math

achieving their growth target, and we outperformed the state average for students with high needs. The percentage of students passing exams (Indicator 6) exceeded the state average. The four year Graduation All Students (2016 Cohort) exceeds the state, we were at 91.5%, the state is at 87.4%; and 97.2% are on-track to graduate high school, exceeding the state average of 87.8%. We are also exceeding the state in Postsecondary entrance by 6.3%.”

Ms. DiCorpo says there are many factors contributing to these successes. “The implementation of the Columbia Units of Study in ELA and the Exemplars, Investigations, and Connected Math programs provide us with a focus on student growth over the course of units within standards. Science units are being implemented in all classrooms which are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We continue to support all teachers with the professional development required to help children reach these rigorous standards. Our teachers continually review data to better understand student needs. Co-teaching supports students in classrooms so that they can achieve their academic goals. This contributes to students with high needs outperforming the state.” Superintendent Joshua Smith echoes Ms. DiCorpo when highlighting the work district teachers are doing to implement the changes in our Math and Literacy programs. “Their good work is paying dividends.”

“At the high school level”, Ms. DiCorpo says, “we closely monitor student achievement and intervene as early as possible so that students stay on track to graduate. We supply intervention as early as grade 9 based on student need in the areas of Math and ELA. We provide opportunities for students through the creation of new college level courses and open enrollment in AP courses for students throughout their high school experience, as we prepare all students for both college and career readiness.”

Looking forward, Ms. DiCorpo points to the district’s continued focus on attendance. “We are forming a partnership with the Youth Agency and working with administration and staff to help support students struggling with attendance. Although we have outperformed the state for all students and high needs students, we want the number of students who are chronically absent to decrease.”

To see New Milford’s district and school results in depth, go to <http://edsight.ct.gov/SASPortal/main.do>



## Second Graders are Sugar Makers



Second graders at both Northville and Hill and Plain Schools visited the Pratt Nature Center this month where they "traveled through time" to learn about sugar making in the Native American, Colonial, and Civil War Eras. The trip happened across multiple days as Pratt Center staff worked with two classes at a time for a truly hands-on experience. The students safely used an auger to drill tap holes and experienced collecting buckets of sap from maple trees. They saw a demonstration of how modern day tubing is used to collect sap more efficiently. Classes then traveled to the Great Brook Sugarhouse at Sullivan Farm. Here, the students got a look at a modern day sugar house and had the opportunity to taste fresh maple syrup from the finishing pan.

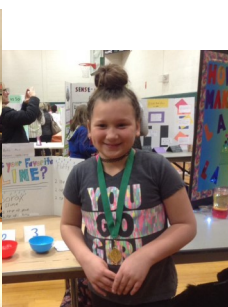
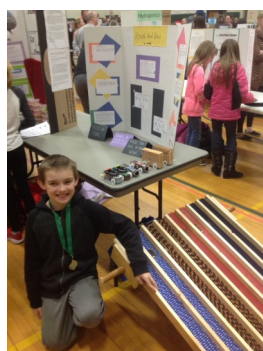


## Family Science Nights

Family Science Nights took place this month on March 15 for SNIS students and on March 22 for our K-2 students. The events have become an annual collaboration between the schools, New Milford PTO and K-5 Science Enrichment Teacher Mrs. Susan Brofford.

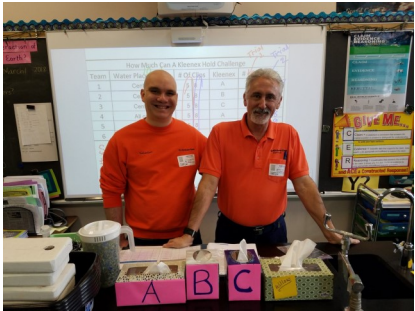


This year approximately 75 students participated at the K-2 level and over 90 students presented projects in grades 3-5. In addition to the exhibitors, a full house of students and families showed up to see the presentations and do STEM activities. Several NMHS students, a number of teachers, and several administrators attended to lend support and praise.



## Kimberly-Clark Volunteers Visit Science Classes

On March 16, volunteers from Kimberly-Clark in New Milford visited Schaghticoke Middle School to share an investigation with Mrs. Allison's grade 6 science students, who tested the strength of various types of Kleenex. After a brief, informative presentation made by Kimberly-Clark college interns, all five of Mrs. Allison's classes observed qualities of Kleenex such as scent, thickness/ply, and texture. Then, students used specialized equipment to clip a single Kleenex to a stand and add a prescribed amount of water. Lastly, students counted marbles, one by one, to find out how many marbles a type of Kleenex can hold.



Mrs. Allison says, "This investigation lent itself to investigative techniques such as emphasizing the difference between qualitative (descriptive) and quantitative (numerical) data as well as analyzing data on a class chart. Students found the investigation to be fun and informative."

Following the event, students wrote thank you notes to the KC volunteers, including comments on what they learned from the lesson. Here are just a few:

- ◆ 40% of all Kleenex used in North America is made in New Milford.
- ◆ A Kleenex is weaker if you put water in the middle only compared to all over.
- ◆ Kimberly-Clark tissues are made very differently from each other, so people can use which tissue fits them.
- ◆ Kleenex type "C" is very durable because my group used it and it lasted until 107 marbles broke it.
- ◆ Testing is a good thing to do before you sell a product.
- ◆ Thank you for teaching me that extremely light items can hold much weight.
- ◆ Thank you for making Kleenex to be soft and durable for our sick days.



Mrs. Allison whole-heartedly concurs with the students' comments. She states, "Some of the KC volunteers have come regularly for the last five years. The students find the Kleenex investigations to be a valuable experience and they benefit from thinking like engineers during KC's 'E-week' investigations."

To see more of what goes on in Mrs. Allison's classroom, follow her on Twitter @MrsAllisonnmps and #Team6White.



## SMS Drama Club In Action



This week, Schaghticoke Middle School's Drama Club, The SURGE Theater Company, proudly presented *Tales From Five Continents* by Claudia Haas and Richard Cash as this year's production. The play is about a storyteller, the mysterious and wise Naha, who weaves fables and stories for a group of children at the playground. The fabulous journey takes audience members to Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Europe.



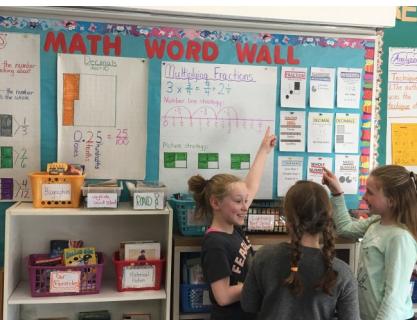
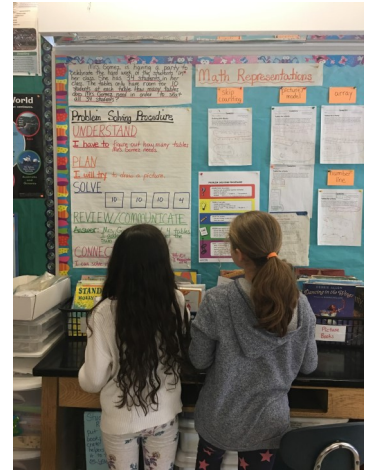
Co-directors and SMS teachers Diana Beddows, Gina Bernard, and Samantha Gati-Tisi are so proud of this student-led production. "Students have shown great leadership in all aspects of this production including creating their own costumes, coming in on weekends to make the set (with a group of dedicated parents), and bringing life to this wonderful show," says Mrs. Gati-Tisi.

The co-directors all agree that the journey has been unforgettable and inspiring, highlighted by much laughter and fun! Rehearsals have included theater and movement games, blocking scenes, creating costumes, and painting sets. The weather was not always cooperative, but the company kept positive and pulled together to create a beautiful show! They want to thank all the parents, students, and staff who have supported the production and made it all possible.



## Visualizing Math with the Math Word Wall

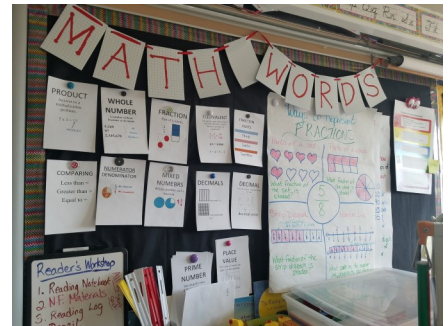
During Math classes at Sarah Noble Intermediate School, students can always look up to find key vocabulary explained on a visual math word wall. Math coach Cortni Muir created visual word wall posters aligned to each unit for teachers to display. For each math vocabulary word, there is a definition plus a visual representation. Research shows that visual word walls increase student performance and understanding. Students need to use new vocabulary words in multiple contexts over time in order to move them into their long term memory. In addition, teachers display anchor charts for each unit to remind students of key lesson concepts and strategy steps.



Across each year, students use the “problem solving procedure” with the five steps: understand, plan, solve, review, and connect. The Exemplars math program provides problem solving procedure color-coded posters, word problems, rubrics, and exemplar papers to help students improve their skills in all five problem solving areas. Students can review these resources on wall anchor charts and/or notebook charts. The rubrics help them assess their progress and set

goals, such as improving their use of math vocabulary in their communication and developing a repertoire of strategies to use flexibly in their problem solving.

SNIS Grade 4 teachers Carrie Allen and Dana Wheeler use math word walls extensively in their fourth grade classrooms. “We have found that the word walls help the students to remember key concepts and ideas from each unit. It allows the students to understand the vocabulary that matches the unit we are currently working on.”



**Let's Light It Up  
Blue!**

"Shine a Light on Autism  
Awareness"

**Monday, April 2nd**

Please wear blue to show your  
support!

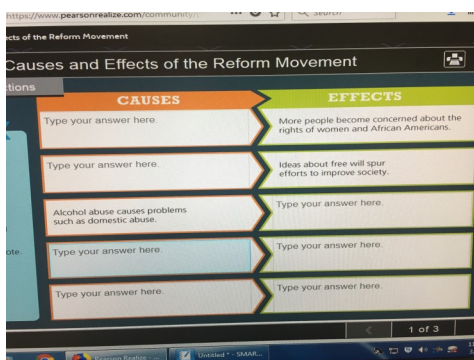
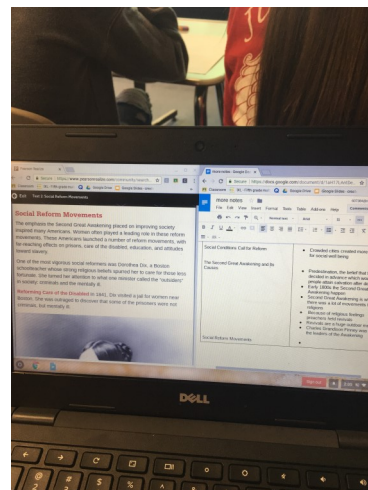
April 2nd has been designated by the United Nations as World Autism Awareness Day. Annually, all New Milford Public Schools participate in the national campaign for Autism Awareness.

Designed to visually raise awareness of autism, the “Light It Up Blue!” campaign encourages participants to wear blue on April 2nd as a show of solidarity and support.



## Textbooks in the Digital Age

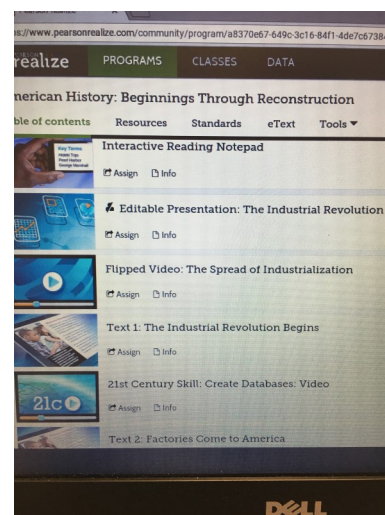
After 26 years of using the same civics textbook, Schaghticoke Middle School's 8th grade Social Studies department recently acquired a new Board of Education approved student textbook. The text aligns resources with the new US History curriculum which was written in grades 6-8 over the summer of 2017, and incorporates updated Connecticut Social Studies state frameworks, national standards, and 21st century skills. As part of reviewing the textbook, teachers and staff have been exploring the book's online digital access with great success. In January, the 8th grade Social Studies teachers, along with special education teachers and an occupational therapist spent time training via webinar with Pearson Publishing to learn more about the online platform and how it could enhance the flipped classroom concept, differentiate texts through a variety of options, and present students with a supported online text and related interactive resources. Jen Okoski, an 8th grade special education teacher noted, "The digital interactive features of this text allow different types of learners to access the curriculum more independently in a more meaningful way."



Being able to set up classes and assign work through Pearson Easy Bridge, whether reading a section of text or completing a cause and effect chart post-reading, provides students with the opportunity to respond to the content in real time. Students can submit responses electronically to a variety of content linked interactive material, including critical thinking responses to open-ended questions, interactive timelines, and 3-D models, just to name a few.

"My students were able to use a 3-D model of a cotton gin and a flipped video on the impact of the Industrial Revolution in the South to enhance the text which is especially important for our visual and auditory learners," said SMS Social Studies teacher Tracy Olmsted. Her students have also taken the initiative to read the text and take Cornell notes simultaneously, supporting skills which will be helpful in their transition to high school.

This resource is a win for both students and teachers as Social Studies teacher Sean Mahon observed, "The students have a new level of engagement in their learning with the ability to access the online text. The digital 3-D models and brief videos are great introduction and conclusion activities."



## NMHS DECA Club Shines

On March 6th, New Milford High School DECA (Distributive Education Club of America) members traveled to the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT for the Connecticut State DECA Competition. DECA is a club that consists of business students who compete on the state and national level to demonstrate their skills on business topics. The members competed with more than 1,200 students from around the state. Mrs. Deb Knipple, NMHS Business teacher and DECA advisor, said she is proud of the students' hard work and accomplishments.

Of the 42 NMHS DECA members that participated, 14 students qualified for nationals in the following categories:



*8 students took first, second and third place, a sweep for International Business Plan Team Event: Matthew Clarke, Kieth Manaog and Taha Rao (first place); Brianna LeRose and Alicia Leno (second place); Vincent Rago, James Lewis and Jacob Berendsohn (third place)*  
*2 students took third place for Independent Business Plan Team Event: Kayla Foster and Victoria Schmidt*  
*1 student took second place for Startup Business Plan Event: Emilia Tesoriero*  
*3 students took second place for Franchise Business Plan Team Event: Mykenzee Baier, Madisyn Martinelli and Kallie Johnson*

DECA prepares emerging business leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high school and colleges around the globe. Students compete in a formal setting on the state level and gain experience with academic competition as well as professional behavior and expectations. The competitions enhance the preparation for college and careers by providing programs that integrate into the classroom. Students use skills and applications learned in the classroom to demonstrate their knowledge of the subject. The state competition is a way they can demonstrate their skills in developing business plans,



communication, interviewing, and interpersonal skills. Students also have the opportunity to earn college scholarships when competing at state and national levels.

Congratulations also to DECA members Davin Roberts and Olivia Thalassinis, whose work as co-managers resulted in its being awarded Gold Certification as a School Based Enterprise (SBE), a first for New Milford High School.



## NMHS Students: Artists on the Rise

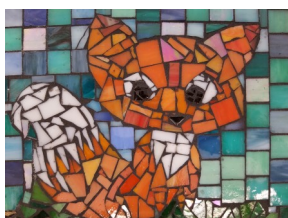
Fifteen NMHS students have had artwork accepted into the 3rd annual juried student art show at the Brookfield Craft Center which runs from March 10-31. The exhibition, *Artists on the Rise*, is open to all high school students in the Greater Danbury area who design and create their own work in any of the following categories: Clay/Ceramic, Photography, Fiber, Glass, Jewelry, Mixed Media (2D), Mixed Media (3D), Painting, Drawing, Metal, Wood, and Video. Congratulations to the students, whose names are listed with their artwork.



Nicholas Arlands  
Overgrown



Emma Street  
Glass Bottle



Cassandra Way  
Little Red Fox



Jenna Epstein  
Sunny Day



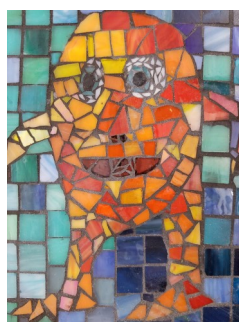
Fiona Alexander  
Under Covers



Liam Lacey  
Hide & Seek



Karolina Zimny  
Indian Elephant



Jefferson Vieira  
Orange Guy



Michaela Zegarelli  
Spring Feelings



Maya Addison  
La Petite Mort



Kristen Kornhaas  
House on a Hill



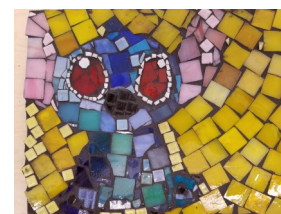
Katherine Clawson  
Through Space & Time



Colleen Ryan  
Blood Orange



Hunter Sloane  
Shark Box



Justin Forero  
Stitch



Additional congratulations to Emma Street whose sculpture work, *Octopus*, was accepted into the National K12 Ceramic Exhibition held this year in Pittsburg, PA.

## National Nutrition Month



It's a sure sign of spring when our Food Services Department begins sending their daily tips for National Nutrition Month®, a nutrition education and information campaign created annually in March by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The campaign focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

"Go Further with Food" is the theme for 2018, and its importance is timely for many reasons. Whether it's starting the day off right with a healthy breakfast or fueling before an athletic event, the foods you choose can make a difference. NMPS staff have been receiving daily tips, a few of which are shared below.

### Eat right

Eating right doesn't have to be complicated — simply begin to shift to healthier food and beverage choices. These recommendations from the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* can help get you started. Emphasize fruit, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat or fat-free milk and milk products. Include lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs and nuts. Minimize saturated fats, trans fats, salt (sodium) and added sugars.

### Boost Your Memory

The best menu for boosting memory and brain function encourages good blood flow to the brain. Research found the Mediterranean Diet helps keep aging brains sharp. Eat your veggies. Getting adequate vegetables, especially cruciferous ones including broccoli, cabbage and dark leafy greens, may help improve memory. Be sweet on berries and cherries. Berries especially dark ones such as blackberries, blueberries and cherries. Get adequate omega-3 fatty acids. Seafood, algae and fatty fish — including salmon, bluefin tuna, sardines and herring. Work in walnuts. Well known for a positive impact on heart health, walnuts also may improve cognitive function.

### Drink Plenty of Refreshing Water

Water does the body good. It helps your muscles and brain stay hydrated for optimal physical and mental performance. How much water you need depends on your size and activity level; larger, more active people need more fluids. Drink enough for your urine to be mostly colorless and odor-free.

### Avoid Food Fights With Your Children

**Make Regularly Scheduled Meals a Family Priority:** Take the time to sit down and eat with your child. **Avoid Pressuring or Forcing Children to Eat:** Kids like foods less if they are forced to eat them. **Model the Habits You Want Children to Develop:** They learn how to behave at the table by watching their most important role model, you. **Enjoy the Foods You Want Your Children to Enjoy:** If you want a child to eat green vegetables, you eat green vegetables. **Create a Relaxed Atmosphere for Meal Times:** This means turning off the TV and handheld devices. **Have Realistic Expectations for Meal Time Behavior:** It takes time for children to master new skills, which includes table manners.

This year for the first time, Food Services has been tweeting the tips as well. If you aren't a follower yet, it's not too late to take a look at all the good suggestions. Visit @NMPSFoodService on Twitter.







## Congratulations to the New Milford Public School “Stars” for the month of March!

**Florence Hottes**  
**Michelle Klee**  
**Erin Moriarty**  
**Tracy Nevins**  
**Sandra Sullivan**  
**Konnie Tlasky**



Special congratulations to **Florence Hottes** who will drive the  
Ingersoll Auto of Danbury NMPS courtesy car.

Don't forget to visit the district website to  
[submit your staff nomination](#).



**March is  
Board  
Appreciation  
Month**

Thank you to Board of Education members Angela Chastain, Bill Dahl, Joseph Failla,  
Wendy Faulenbach, David Lawson, Brian McCauley, Tammy McInerney, Eileen Monaghan,  
and J.T. Schemm for your volunteer service to New Milford Public Schools.


**New Milford Public Schools**

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**Mr. Joshua Smith**  
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

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Assistant Secretary

**Mr. Bill Dahl**

**Mr. Joseph Failla**

**Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach**

**Mr. Brian McCauley**

**Mr. J.T. Schemm**

## The NMHS All School Musical

**Don't miss out!**  
**Performances continue April 6 and 7**

**New Milford High School  
All-School Musical 2018 Presents**

Book by Rupert Holmes  
Music by John Kander  
Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Original Book and Concept  
by Peter Stone  
Additional Lyrics by  
John Kander and  
Rupert Holmes

**THE MUSICAL  
COMEDY WHODUNIT  
CURTAINS**

*from the creators of  
"Cabaret" & "Chicago"*

**Performances at New Milford High School Theatre**

Friday, March 23 at 7:00  
Saturday, March 24 at 7:00  
Sunday, March 25 at 3:00  
Friday, April 6 at 7:00  
Saturday, April 7 at 2:00 and 7:00

Tickets for \$10 per person are available at the high school box office or  
call (860) 350-6647 x1552. Online at <https://nmhsct.booktix.com/>  
Credit cards now accepted with \$1.50 fee per ticket

CURTAINS is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by: Theatrical Rights Worldwide,  
1180 Avenue of the Americas, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10036, (800) 378-9728 www.theatricalrightsworldwide.com

**Order online or call the Box Office at  
(860) 350-6647 ext. 1552**

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.

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