



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



New Milford High School
860-350-6647

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Ass't. Principal
Dr. Christopher Longo, Ass't. Principal
Mr. Eric Williams, Ass't. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204

Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Ass't. Principal
Dr. Len Tomasello, Transition Administrator



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
Mrs. Emily Gervasio, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Ass't. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School
860-354-5430

Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Ass't. Principal



Northville Elementary School
860-355-3713

Mr. Susan Murray, Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Ass't. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 6, Issue 2

Back to School 2015

Back to School: It's Not Just for Students!

Students and parents are not the only ones back to school this August. After settling in to classrooms, New Milford Public Schools staff held their annual convocation on August 20th. Superintendent JeanAnn Paddyfote welcomed the group, introduced new staff, and shared a short video of students' ["Favorite Part of School"](#), a nice reminder to all of just why they teach. The convocation continued with the introduction of New Milford's 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year. Following the meeting, district staff continued with professional development, staff meetings and student welcome activities—all while eagerly waiting for their students to return on August 24th.

~Introducing New Milford's 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year ~

Jennifer Singer



Each year, parents, students and fellow staff members are invited to nominate a teacher for selection as New Milford's Teacher of the Year. The nominee must have taught in the district for five or more years and have demonstrated continued excellence of performance during his/her tenure. A Selection Committee then considers all the nominees based on the following guidelines:

- Demonstrated ability to inspire enthusiasm and motivation for learning in students.
- Demonstrated use of effective teaching techniques, flexibility of style, innovation, and creativity.
- Caring relationships with students.
- Demonstrated commitment to continuing professional growth and development.
- Respect and admiration of students, colleagues, parents, and administration.
- Personal philosophy and goals.
- Ability to articulate ideas clearly.

The Committee was pleased to select **Mrs. Jennifer Singer**, a Grade 3 teacher at SNIS, as this year's New Milford Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Singer's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Political

Science with a Minor in Psychology from Fairfield University and a Master's Degree of Education from the University of Bridgeport.

Mrs. Singer (then Miss McStravick) started her teaching career in New Milford where she served as a student intern and then as a student teacher at Hill and Plain School. Recommendations even then spoke of her capacity to become an exceptional teacher. Mentors described Jen as an able, enthusiastic and creative student teacher with a true natural gift for teaching. One HPS teacher remarked that Jen "instinctively knew just which students needed help and how to help them and demonstrated a nurturing and caring attitude with all the children." Another stated "it is already clear that Jennifer will be a rare talent as a teacher."

It is no wonder then that when an opening arose mid-year for a grade 4 teacher, Jen was hired. Now some eighteen years later, Mrs. Singer has also taught grade 2 and, most recently, grade 3 students at HPS. This year, she has moved with her fellow grade 3 teachers to SNIS.

Throughout the years, Mrs. Singer has shared her professional expertise at both the building and district level. She has been involved in curriculum and professional development initiatives, has served on her school's Character Education Committee, and has been a PTO teacher representative. She has also served as a mentor to several colleagues.

SNIS Principal Anne Bilko says "Jen is a wonderful choice for this year's Teacher of the Year. She is a passionate educator who sets high expectations for students and works tirelessly to see them meet with success. She is a consummate professional, both in the classroom and out."

Here are a few of the thoughts that Mrs. Singer shared with her fellow teachers at convocation as they prepared to start a new school year:



"We change young lives every day and truly make the world a better place. Your influence on your students each year cannot be measured, but know that each and every one of us leaves a piece of ourselves with them. Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they possibly can be. Be that champion this year. I am so grateful to work with the children of New Milford and I feel very honored to be named New Milford's Teacher of the Year."



Please join us in welcoming NMPS New Staff



Ms. Nancy Alexander

Chemistry teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Alexander's educational background includes a BS in Chemistry from UConn and an MS in Environmental Education from SCSU. She has taught high school chemistry previously in Waterbury and Thomaston schools. Ms. Alexander is also an adjunct chemistry professor at Naugatuck Community College.

Mr. Alessandro Amenta

English teacher, New Milford High School

Mr. Amenta is a recent graduate of UConn where he received his BA in English with a Minor in Dramatic Arts and his MA in Curriculum and Instruction. He did his student teaching at Rockville High School in Vernon where he also served as a student intern in charge of the school's spring musical.



Mr. Michael Brennan

Technology Education teacher, New Milford High School

Mr. Brennan received his BS in Technology Education from Rhode Island College and has additional credits in Project Lead the Way. He has taught previously in public schools in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Ms. Linda Cervone

Mathematics teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Cervone may be a familiar face to some as she served as a long term substitute mathematics teacher at NMHS during the 2014-2015 school year. Her educational background includes a BS in Mathematics from CCSU.



Mr. Thomas Ferrell

Paraeducator, New Milford High School

Mr. Ferrell has his BA in Psychology from the University of New Hampshire and is currently working on his Educational Counseling degree. For the past several years, he has served as a coach in the NMHS wrestling and football programs.



Mrs. Janet Fleet

Accounting/Data Specialist, District-wide

Mrs. Fleet has completed Accounting and General Business course study through Krissler Business Institute and has previously worked as a fiscal administrator in the Barkhamsted and Norfolk elementary school districts.

Mr. Mark Grant

Health/PE teacher, New Milford High School

Mr. Grant is another familiar face having been a substitute teacher at NMHS for the past three years and the JV Baseball coach. His educational background includes a BS in Physical Education from Springfield College.



Mrs. Nicole Heering

Reading Intervention teacher, Hill and Plain School

Mrs. Heering received her BS in Elementary Education and MA in Curriculum and Instruction from UConn. She has previously taught in the Windham public schools as a Grade 2, Grade 4, and reading intervention teacher.

Mr. Brad Holderbach

Social Studies teacher, New Milford High School

Mr. Holderbach worked at GE Capital for many years as a senior financial analyst before deciding to pursue a teaching career. He received his BS in Economics from UConn and his MS in Secondary Education from Grand Canyon University. Mr. Holderbach previously taught Social Studies and Business at Weston High School.



Mrs. Kimberly Hopp

Secretary-Payroll, District-wide

Mrs. Hopp has worked previously as an office manager/bookkeeper for an architectural design firm, as a payroll clerk, and as an elementary school secretary in the Norwalk public schools.

Ms. Tara Jugler

Social Worker, New Milford High School

Ms. Jugler's educational background includes a BA in Psychology/Mass Communications from Iona College and a MSW from SCSU. She has previously worked as a case manager/counselor for Ability Beyond and in several long term social work positions at various grade levels in the Danbury public schools.





Mrs. Charlene Kirkwood

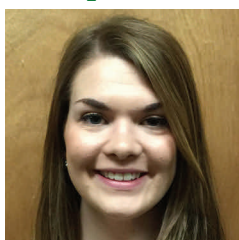
Secretary-Food Services, District-wide

Mrs. Kirkwood previously worked for Nestle Foods in a variety of roles including lab technician, product development technician and associate specialist.

Mrs. Maureen Lavoie

Special Education teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Lavoie worked ten years in the private business sector before embarking on a career change and earning her MS in Students with Disabilities from Touro College. She has previously worked in New York state as an adjunct business professor, and as an adult education and special education teacher.



Ms. Megan Lull

Paraeducator, Schaghticoke Middle School

Ms. Lull is a recent graduate from UConn where she received her BA in Psychology and Human Development/Family Studies.

Ms. Samantha Main

Grade 2 teacher, Northville Elementary School

Ms. Main received her BS in Elementary Education and MA in Curriculum and Instruction from UConn. She has been working in the Hartford schools as a long term substitute and in their elementary summer school program.



Mrs. Kristen Mars

Computer Based Instruction teacher, District-wide

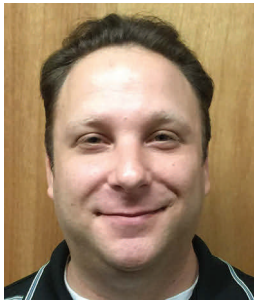
Mrs. Mars has worked previously for the New Milford public schools as a tutor at SMS and NES. She received her BA in Psychology from the University of Maryland and her MS in Special Education from the College of New Rochelle.

Ms. Caitlyn McKeown

Social Worker, Hill and Plain School and Northville Elementary School

Ms. McKeown received her BS in Human Services and her MS in Social Service in Clinical Social Work from the University of Delaware. While earning her degree, Ms. McKeown worked in therapeutic foster care and at a children's crisis center.





Mr. David Mirto

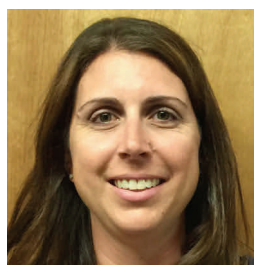
Business teacher, New Milford High School

Mr. Mirto has his BBA in Marketing and MBA in Business Administration from WCSU as well as an MSE in Education from the University in Bridgeport. He has previously worked as a Business teacher in Waterbury and Naugatuck and at Goodwin College and as an adjunct professor at Post University.

Mrs. Cortni Muir

K-6 Math Coach, District-wide

Mrs. Muir received her BS in Elementary Education and Communication with a concentration in math from WCSU and her Master's of Education in Curriculum and Design with concentration on Implementing Common Core Math Standards K-6 from American College of Education. Mrs. Muir previously worked as a Grade 4,5 Math/ELA teacher at St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown and most recently as a Math teacher and Math Coach at St. Mary School in Bethel.



Mrs. Corinne Palmer

Social Studies teacher, New Milford High School

Mrs. Palmer received her BA in History from Widener University and her MEd in Education from Cabrini College. She is a well-traveled educator having taught Social Studies in West Virginia, Language Arts in Pennsylvania, and English as an adjunct professor in New Jersey.

Ms. Sarah Peters

Library Media Specialist, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Peters is a veteran school librarian/media specialist with over twelve years of experience at all grade levels, including six at the elementary level. Ms. Peters received her BA in English from Trinity College and her MS in Library and Information Science from Simmons College. She attended the Elementary Teacher Certification Program at the University of St. Thomas. Ms. Peters comes to New Milford from the Cheshire school district.



Mr. Ryan Rebstock

Paraeducator, New Milford High School

Mr. Rebstock received his BA in English from the University of New Hampshire. He has previously worked as a substitute teacher in New Milford and as a counselor for the Wellspring Foundation.



Mrs. Elizabeth (Lisa) Reilly

Paraeducator, New Milford High School

Mrs. Reilly has worked as a substitute in the New Milford schools for many years. She has also been a special education tutor at New Milford High School, an Adult Education teacher in New Milford and a summer school teacher in Brookfield.

Mrs. Stephanie Sagaria

Grade 1 teacher, Northville Elementary School

Mrs. Sagaria received her BSW in Social Work from WCSU and her MA in Elementary Education from Sacred Heart University. She has previously worked in the Norwich and New Haven schools and as a tutor at NES in 2012.



Ms. Marney Salamone

EXCEL teacher, Hill and Plain School

Ms. Salamone received her BA in Psychology and Early Childhood Education from ECSU and her Masters in Special Education from Grand Canyon University. She has previously worked as a preschool special education teacher and as a Birth to Three special education teacher for the East Hartford schools.

Mrs. Korin Santovasi

Computer Education teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Santovasi has previously worked as a Business and Technology teacher in Region 12. She has her BS in Accounting from SCSU and her MSED in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport.



Ms. Cali Scott

Speech Language Pathologist, Northville Elementary School

Ms. Scott has her MS in Speech and Language Pathology from New York Medical College as well as a BA in French from Hobart & William Smith College. She is a recent graduate who did internships at Westchester Medical Center and for Easter Seals while in school.

Mr. Paul Shim

Music teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mr. Shim received his BA in Music and BS in Music Education from UConn and his Masters in Music from Ithaca College. A recent graduate, Mr. Shim has previously worked as a teaching assistant, a music camp instructor, and as a grad assistant at Ithaca College.





Ms. Karyn Skinner

Project Lead the Way teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Ms. Skinner's educational background includes an AAS in Graphic Communications from Mohawk Valley Community College and a BS in Visual Arts Education from SUNY New Paltz. She has previously worked as a computer technology teacher in the West Hartford public schools and has served as Digital Media Program Specialist for Education Connection.

Ms. Skinner is also a freelance graphic designer.

Mrs. Jennifer Sommerer

Spanish teacher, New Milford High School

Mrs. Sommerer previously worked as a Spanish teacher in Region 1 and as an international logistics specialist for corporations. She received her BA in Spanish from the University of Georgia and her MA in Spanish from the University of Ohio, Bowling Green.



Mrs. Nicole Szigeti

Grade 4 teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Szigeti taught elementary school in New Milford before moving to Texas. Her most recent teaching experiences are at the Forman School in Litchfield and as a substitute teacher and tutor in the New Milford Public Schools. She received her BA in Elementary Education from the University of Iowa and has Master level coursework in Literacy Studies from the University of Texas at Arlington.



Mrs. Donna Tillman

Paraeducator, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Tillman received her AS in Science from the University of Bridgeport. She has previously worked as a substitute in New Milford and as a student care worker for Education Connection.



Mrs. Margaret White

School counselor, New Milford High School

Mrs. White has a BA in Psychology from the College of the Holy Cross and an MS in Educational Counseling from Fordham University. She has previously worked for the Salvation Army as an HIV Services clinical case manager and as a guidance counselor in schools in New York and at Ridgefield High School.





Mrs. Clare Zimmitti

Science teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Zimmitti spent many years as a research scientist for Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals before entering the education field through the Alternate Route to Certification. She received her BA in Biology from WCSU and her MS in Immunology and Microbiology from New York Medical College. She has previously taught in the Redding and Shelton schools.

Ms. Barbara Zulkeski

District Data Administrator, District-wide

Ms. Zulkeski received her AS in General Banking from the American Institute of Banking and her AS in Database Administration from FiServ. She has many years of experience in the technology field having worked previously for the Torrington and Newtown Boards of Education, the Town of Waterbury, Wellspring Foundation and N-Tech Systems.



SMS Welcomes New Assistant Principal



Mrs. Kerri Adakonis was named Assistant Principal at Schaghticoke Middle School for the 2015-16 school year. Mrs. Adakonis is a familiar face in the district having worked as an Administrative Intern at Sarah Noble Intermediate School since 2012. As a member of Sarah Noble's administrative team, Mrs. Adakonis was involved in student placement and scheduling, discipline, special education, and planning of special school events.

Prior to coming to New Milford, Mrs. Adakonis worked in the Fairfield Public Schools as a fourth and fifth grade teacher and most recently as the district's Instructional Improvement teacher. She also served two years as the district's Principal of Elementary Summer School.

Mrs. Adakonis' educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of CT, and a Master of Arts and Teaching and Certificate of Advanced Studies in Administration from Sacred Heart University. She holds certifications as a Professional Educator PreK-8 and Intermediate Administrator Supervisor from the State of Connecticut.

Welcome Back from the Food and Nutrition Services Department

The Food and Nutrition Services Department is happy to be serving students this year in newly decorated cafeterias at all schools:



The Country Café at NES
The Hungry Lion Café at HPS
The Eco Café at SNIS
The Get Up & Go Café at SMS
The Café Green Wave at NMHS



NEWS FLASH.....

The Breakfast Program is now offered to ALL students in grades K – 12!!

The menu includes: bagels, assorted muffins, assorted cereal, string cheese, yogurt, fruit juice, fresh fruit and milk choices that include skim, 1% and fat free chocolate.

The price of the breakfast is: \$ 1.40 grades K -5

\$ 1.75 grades 6 -12

\$ 0.30 for all students who qualify for reduced price meals

No Charge for all students who qualify for free meals

Please look for our breakfast and lunch menus on the district website under the [Food and Nutrition Services tab](#).

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?

Sign up for 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:

@NMHS_CT

@SMS_CT

@SNIS_CT

@NES_CT

@HPS_CT

@nmpps_supt



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

Attend Board of Education meetings. Links to the schedule and 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 even see episodes of *Wave TV*, New Milford High School's student video production.

Want to attend a high school athletic event?

Visit ciacsports.com 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.



New Milford Public Schools

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

Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Superintendent

Mr. Joshua Smith
Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Human Resources Director

Mr. John Calhoun
Facilities Manager

Mr. Jay Hubelbank
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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Chairperson

Mr. Dave Littlefield
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Secretary

Mr. David A. Lawson
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Robert Coppola

Mr. David R. Shaffer

Mrs. Daniele Shook

Mr. John W. Spatola

Mrs. Theresa Volinski

Developing Good Homework and Study Habits

*As the new school year begins, we offer these suggestions
from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
for developing good homework and study habits.*

- Create an environment that is conducive to doing homework. Children need a consistent work space in their bedroom or another part of the home that is quiet, without distractions, and promotes study.
- Schedule ample time for homework.
- Establish a household rule that the TV and other electronic distractions stay off during homework time.
- Supervise computer and Internet use.
- Be available to answer questions and offer assistance, but never do a child's homework for him or her.
- Take steps to help alleviate eye fatigue, neck fatigue and brain fatigue while studying. It may be helpful to close the books for a few minutes, stretch, and take a break periodically when it will not be too disruptive.
- Some children need help organizing their homework. Checklists, timers, and parental supervision can help overcome homework problems.
- If your child is having difficulty focusing on or completing homework, discuss this with your child's teacher, school counselor, or health care provider.

See more Back to School Tips from AAP [here](#).

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.

Back to School