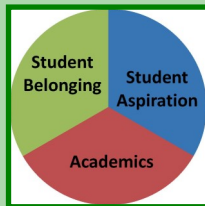




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
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

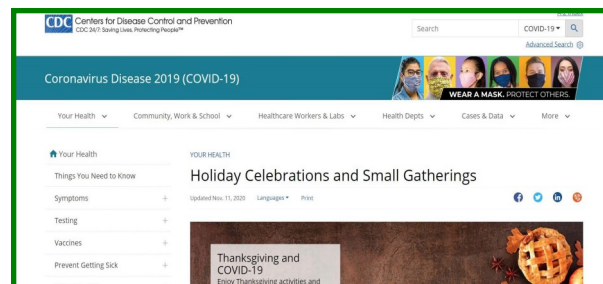
Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Principal
Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 11, Issue 5

November 2020

Helping to Keep Our Schools Safe



In an abundance of caution surrounding holiday travel, the New Milford Board of Education supported the joint recommendation of the New Milford Health Director, the District Medical

Advisor, and Interim Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo to move to **full remote learning for the week of November 30, 2020 through December 4, 2020**. 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 note 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 November break, the district requires 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/are symptom free. While awaiting your child's results, please keep them home. If you are going to travel, please visit the CDC website where you can find guidance related to travel prior to, during, and after your trip.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#thanksgiving>

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



Extended until June 30, 2021!!

FREE!!

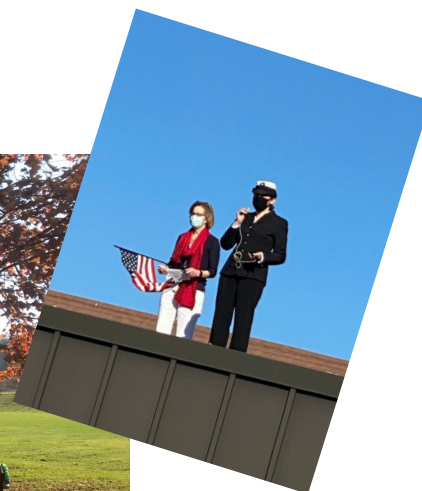


**FREE Breakfast and Lunch
for ALL New Milford Students**

The USDA has now extended **until June 30, 2021**
FREE breakfast and lunch for any child 18 years or younger.
This applies to ALL students who attend New Milford Public Schools,
regardless of current paid, or free and reduced lunch status,
both in person and through the Curbside Meals program.

Veterans Are Not Forgotten

COVID-19 social distancing restrictions prohibited our schools' traditional annual Veterans Day events. Instead, district staff and students held smaller gatherings, sent cards, and took to social media to give thanks.



Parent Partnership Initiative: Caregiver Mondays



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, three sessions have been held. Session recordings can be found here:

HPS and NES Caregiver Monday session

SNIS Caregiver Monday session

SMS Caregiver Monday session

Future sessions are scheduled for:

November 30: HPS/NES

December 7: SNIS

December 14: NMHS

January 11: HPS/NES

January 25: SNIS

February 1: NMHS



Parent 2 Parent Workshop



FREE workshop for parents , run by parents, and co-facilitated by Sara Wells, LMSW, to learn about and share your :
EXPERIENCES, CONCERNS, ISSUES, & HELPFUL TIPS



TOPICS INCLUDE :
~How do I parent a home schooled child without
"losing my mind"?

~Can anyone else relate to my struggles?

~How do I deal with a child who has anxiety due to living in this pandemic?

~How can I be good to myself?

Location : The Maxx
Date : 1st Wednesday of the month starting 11/4/20
@ 6:30pm—7:30pm
refreshments provided
*masks required at all times



For more information please contact Sara Wells, LMSW
860.210.2030 or swells@newmilford.org
Registration required : www.myyouthagency.com

December Update

FREE Parent 2 Parent Workshop on Wednesday, December 2nd from 6:30-7:30 PM at The Maxx, 88 Railroad Street. Registration is required for this free workshop at MyYouthAgency.com.

For more information, contact the Youth Agency at (860) 210-2030 or email Natalie Rodriguez, Youth Advocate, at NRodriguez@NewMilford.org. To find out more about the Youth Agency's services, visit their website at Youthagency.org.

NMPS Welcomes New Human Resources Director



The New Milford Board of Education has appointed Mrs. Catherine Gabianelli as Human Resources Director for New Milford Public Schools. Mrs. Gabianelli's appointment follows the retirement of HR Director Ms. Ellamae Baldelli.

Mrs. Gabianelli has been employed in the human resources field for a large portion of her working career, including starting a department from scratch. She has established expertise in recruitment, employee relations, benefits, training/development, policies and procedures.

Most recently, Mrs. Gabianelli worked as the Human Resources Manager for High Watch Recovery Center in Kent. Previous jobs include Regional Human Resources Manager for Newport Academy in Bethlehem and LesserEvil Healthy Brands in Danbury. She has also previously worked in Human Resources as the Volunteer Services Manager for Western CT Health Network. Mrs. Gabianelli earned her Bachelor Degree in Business Management/ Psychology from Sacred Heart University and Certificate in Human Resource Management from Fairfield University.

Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Gabianelli to New Milford Public Schools.

Sending Best Wishes in Retirement

At the end of October, Ms. Ellamae Baldelli retired from her current position of Human Resources Director for New Milford Public Schools. At that time, Ms. Baldelli was in her 49th year of service to the district. That will be a record hard to break indeed!

Ms. Baldelli began her teaching career in 1970 as a student teacher for Grade 6 Mathematics at John Pettibone School when it housed grades 5-8. From 1971-1999, Ms. Baldelli taught Mathematics for Grade 6 for nine years, Grade 7 for three years, Grade 8 for thirteen years, and Grade 4 for three years.



In 1999, Ms. Baldelli was named an Assistant Principal at New Milford High School. She became Principal in 2001. She tried out retirement for the first time in 2005 before NMPS came calling again. This time, Ms. Baldelli was named Principal at SNIS. In 2008, she moved to her final position of Human Resources Director.

Needless to say, Ms. Baldelli's tenure touched students, parents and staff alike. Students became parents, sometimes colleagues, and she had reached the point where new hires would sometimes say that she had taught their mother or father. With the current COVID climate, the district was unable to host the sendoff she deserves. Instead, we can only wish her many, many happy, healthy years in retirement.

News from Our Schools

Northville Elementary School

We would like to start by thanking our families for attending our Parent Teacher Conferences at the start of November. We were able to share our students' strengths and areas to grow. Thank you to our P.T.O. too. Members have been very busy since the start of the school year and we've had four fundraisers to date.

Students earned their C.A.R.E. coins in October for making progress in their attendance during Google Meets and celebrated at the beginning of November with a school wide obstacle course! It was enjoyed by Cohort A and B students and remote learners were encouraged to create an obstacle course at home and submit pictures of their fun.



For Veterans Day we celebrated honoring those who have served in our military. To ALL the Veterans, we say thank you! Thank you for your sacrifices, for your sense of duty, and for your service. Our nation and NES salutes you, especially our own Mrs. Healy, a veteran of the Navy! Our celebration included Mrs. Healy, Mrs. Gallagher, and Mrs. Lakoff directed the assembly from NES's roof. Mrs. Lakoff serenaded staff and students with the Star Spangled Banner. Finally, we recognized our NES family members through a virtual [Wall of Honor](#).



Teachers are continuing to challenge themselves by learning new ways to incorporate technology into everyday teaching and learning. Here is a class trying out Google Meet Writing Partnerships for students. This is after teachers attended sessions and learned from Lisa, our staff developer who modeled at our Teachers College Writing Professional Development Workshop.



Hill and Plain Elementary School



Hill and Plain has been focusing on gratitude this month. Each morning, our announcements focus on the different ways to express gratitude and how it is important to have an "attitude of gratitude" to help spread positivity during these difficult times. To put this into action, Hill and Plain held a food drive that helped support New Milford Social Services. Thank you to all who donated and we are grateful for our community services we have in place to help those in need. We hope everyone has the safest and most enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday possible.

Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Sarah Noble honored Veterans throughout the week of Veterans Day. Staff and students wore red, white and blue during both Cohort A and B days and musical selections were played on the intercom each morning. Families and staff members contributed pictures to the school's traditional "SNIS Honors Our Veterans" wall to honor both veterans and active duty family members. To pay tribute, classes stopped by the Wall of Honor as they transitioned through the school lobby.

Assistant Principal Jennifer Chmielewski noted that, "In lieu of our traditional ceremony, we created a virtual slideshow for teachers to share with their in-person and remote learners. Students listened to the Star Spangled Banner while viewing photographs across America and learned about the various branches of the Armed Forces. Fifth grade student speakers shared historical quotes and facts and expressed gratitude for veterans. Although we greatly missed having veterans visit the school, we are glad that we were able to honor them."

The first-ever SNIS Fall Bake Off took place this year with 24 students participating in the contest. Entries included everything from cookies and cakes to sandwiches and chicken nuggets. All dishes looked delicious and students were excited to see their picture on display in the LMC. In order to participate, students chose any recipe from one of the library's cookbooks and submitted a picture of the finished product by November 20th. Three lucky winners were chosen along with two honorable mentions. To thank students for participating and doing such a great job, each can choose a book from the library. We look forward to even more entries for the Spring Bake Off in 2021! Congrats to the Winners: Cole Mack (Grade 3), Ava Cartman (Grade 3), Crystal Rojas (Grade 5); and Honorable Mentions: Elizabeth Beaumont (Grade 5) and Annabella Barragan (Grade 5).



Schaghticoke Middle School



On November 6th and 9th, the New Milford Police Department coordinated with the 8th Grade Science department to have a visit from the department's UH-1H "Huey" helicopter from Stratford PD on Friday and on Monday the OH-58 "Kiowa" helicopter from New Milford PD. The craft was piloted by Tom O'Halloran, volunteer Flight officer, and Lt. Earl Wheeler, NMPD helicopter. The visit was to demonstrate Newton's Law of Action and Reaction as it relates to the dynamics of helicopter flight. This visit culminated the end of a unit of study on Contact Forces and led into the next unit on Sound. Captain Wilcoxin presented to students how flight occurs in a helicopter, how it maneuvers, what

causes the sound, propeller dynamics, what the craft is used for and many other interesting facts. Students in Mrs. Foss's, Mr. Ferguson's, and Ms. Gall's 8th grade in-person classes were able to go up to and into the craft and ask questions.

Dr. Longo continues to offer all SMS students an invite to a wake-up morning Chat with the Principal. Students are invited via email and a Google Meet link in students' Google Calendar. Students can attend to ask questions, share interests, and/or suggest any improvements for SMS.

SMS will have Photo Make-up/ Retake Days the week of Dec. 14th. More information to be sent out by Dr. Longo in the future. There will also be an opportunity for full remote students to come for pictures after school hours. Stay tuned.

New Milford High School

Even wearing masks *BOTH* the white and green cohorts rocked the NMHS Spirit Week 2020 celebration, proving once again that the Green Wave RULES! Check out the awesome Spirit Week video created by Mrs. Cerra, NMHS Library Media Specialist, [here](#).



Instant Decision Week is November 30th through December 4th. Admissions representatives from the following schools will be meeting with interested seniors who find out immediately if they've been accepted: Iona College, University of New Haven, Western CT State University, Mercy College, Naugatuck Valley Community College, Central CT State University, Southern CT State University, University of Hartford, Sacred Heart University and Western New England University.



The Class of 2021 Grad Party Committee Needs Your Help. For 25 years the NMHS Grad Party has hosted an all-night substance free party for graduating Seniors. Entertainment, food, drink, games and prizes are all included and there is NO charge for the students to participate. This past June, COVID forced a very different, yet memorable Graduation and Grad Party to be planned. The Grad Party Committee's participation included the sponsorship and/or co-sponsorship of the Senior Banners on the Green, Senior Memorabilia Posters, Individual Senior Photo Lawn Signs, decorating the HS campus with beautiful balloon sculptures and banners, 3 photo op stations, gifting each Senior with a stainless steel tumbler and a virtual Grad Party that included prizes for all the participants. All of this was made possible from their fundraising efforts. In the face of continued uncertainty, the Grad Party remains committed to fundraising efforts to plan a memorable night for the Class of 2021 and beyond through the introduction of the New Milford Grad Party Merchandise Store at www.imagesultd.net/nmhsgradparty. They offer delivery and pick up options and personalization on many of the products.



New Milford Public Schools

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

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Interim 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

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 of New Milford but we need your help!

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 at its monthly meeting and they will receive a "star" lapel pin as a small symbol in recognition of their many star qualities.

*Appreciation can make a day,
even change a life.
Your willingness to put it into words
is all that is necessary.
- Margaret Cousins*

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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.