

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. Raymond Manka, 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 12, Issue 3

September 2021

Letting Students Take the Lead

A note from Assistant Superintendent Holly Hollander

The start of the year is always a special time - ask any educator - but this year's opening was indeed a special one. There was a special energy, one made up of the excitement in coming back together for in-person instruction as well as the anticipation of what the school year would bring us - new memories, opportunities, and experiences.

The past school year afforded us the chance to be reminded of the importance of human connections associated with teaching and learning. Our commitment to students and families last year was unwavering. We were reminded that connections are critical to learning. Students and teachers alike want and need a sense of belonging, and above all else, they are crucial to supporting student success.

Students are at the center of our work. However, we know that no amount of increased instructional time will address any loss in learning that may have occurred due to COVID if we don't include students as partners in their learning. With the relationships we build with students and the positive classroom and school communities we create, students will be asked to take risks needed to accelerate their learning. They must be active participants in the learning process.

How will we do this? One way is by knowing our students - socially, emotionally, and academically. Another way, and perhaps more importantly, is by helping students understand themselves. This is accomplished through the following ways:

- Providing students with challenging and meaningful tasks that require stick-to-it-ness and perseverance.
- Helping students set goals for themselves and understand the pathways they can take to reach their goals.
- Providing students with feedback that helps them to not only know where they are performing but specificity to improve what they do.
- Explicitly teaching students self-regulation skills or ways to address challenges, set priorities, and reflect on their performance.

COVID taught us we are not in this alone. This certainly applied to the challenges we all faced last school year. It also applies to the future. Students, to fully achieve, must take the lead in their learning and know that they are not in this alone. As educators, we have the honor of walking next to our students, supporting their growth and celebrating their successes.

News from Our Schools

Northville Elementary School



We hit the ground running on August 25th here at Northville School, and we've had a wonderful, fun-filled first few weeks! The children are acclimating to the routines of their school day and we are all beginning to feel a bit of normalcy return. Our motto for 2021 is "Nothing Can Stop Us!" though we had to switch gears to accommodate the first school closure of the year due to the residual rainfall of Hurricane Ida, which created the town flooding that kept us home for a day. So far,

here at NES, we've managed to persevere and muddle through the "puddles" of life with grace and continued optimism.

We have some new staff members in our building this year, and we've welcomed them with friendly and "familial" NES support. In addition to the new "adult" faces, we've enjoyed our bright and smiley new and returning "little" faces too. Each day those smiles remind us why we are here - to educate and mentor the students in our charge as best we possibly can.

We began the year with a fun "Welcome Back" assembly outside on the black top, which included our NES "CARES" Expectations: Cooperate, Act Responsibly, Respect, Encourage, and Safety. After Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Calabrese read the morning announcements, we enjoyed music, dancing, and lots of encouraging cheers. For educators, there is nothing better than the sound of children expressing their excitement about a new school year!

We would like to take a moment to wish our colleagues throughout the district a very happy, healthy, productive, and successful year. We hope that everyone is able to rejoice in the triumphs and deftly navigate the expected (and unexpected) challenges this year will surely bring. We are confident that our collective dedication, communication, and positive attitude at every level will inspire our students to stay curious, ask questions, enjoy coming to school each day, and learn, learn!

Hill and Plain Elementary School

The start of the school year has been a busy time at Hill and Plain. It was so nice to start the school year off with all of our students coming to school together for full days. The children are doing a great job adjusting to new routines and by now are getting comfortable with the numerous transitions that happen in an elementary school.



Thank you to all of those parents who attended our virtual Meet the Teacher/Open House event and our Curriculum Night event this past month. Our teachers were excited to share with you their classroom setups and expectations. We hope to continue to see parents attend school functions as the school year moves forward, such as parent conferences in early November. Hill and Plain would like to say thank you to our amazing PTO. They organized a staff breakfast for us at the start of the school year and planned an amazing Fall Festival earlier this month that was a blast. The dunk tank, farm animals, hay maze and other activities were a nice way to kick off the school year and come together as a school community.



This past month in school we have been talking about our Choose Love program in our guidance classes and our morning announcements. The program focuses on compassion in action, gratitude, forgiveness and courage. We have been providing an overview of each character trait with examples and will continue to focus on these throughout the school year in a variety of ways.

Sarah Noble Intermediate School

SNIS is off to a great start. Staff and students spent the first days getting to know each other. It has been a pleasure to have everybody 'all in' and students' positivity and excitement at being in school with their friends is palpable as we start to get back to business as usual.









Our intramurals are up and running, literally. This past week we started our Fall Fitness Intramurals and more than 100 SNIS students are up and running first thing in the morning with Mrs. Brooks and Mr. Mumma!

Schaghticoke Middle School

This school year SMS is developing a new Peer Leaders group of students who exemplify the school expectations of SURGE. The plan is to have students take on leadership roles in the building and act as liaisons between the staff, school, and administration and the students. All staff are in the process of submitting nominations.

SMS Fall sports are underway. These include Soccer, Boys and Girls Cross Country and Field hockey. Well 100 athletes are participating, with games and meets running through the end of October.



The SMS Advisory Period 2021-22 is underway. Advisory staff presented this <u>Support Staff intro video</u>. All students were asked to join the Counseling Corner. There is also a Google Form for students to request an appointment. Advisors have also shared ice breakers and lessons on "What is Kindness" and the "Zones of Regulation".

New Milford High School

The NMHS scheduled Activity periods and Wingman periods returned this month. Spirit Week is taking place September 27 – October 2. NMHS staff and students have worked hard to arrange a week of fun spirited "theme days" along with a pep rally and dance. Activities are in full swing.





Student Job Opening: New Milford Youth Agency Video Production Staff is seeking one or two students to help make educational videos, PSAs, and podcasts. If you like to work with others and have any skills in front or behind the camera, contact Stacey









Ms. Priya Abraham

Special Education paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Abraham has worked as a camp counselor for Southbury Parks and Recreation and for camps in Maine and Pennsylvania.

Ms. Stephanie Acheson

French teacher, New Milford High School

A New Milford High School graduate, Ms. Acheson is now a seasoned educator with fourteen years experience teaching middle school and high school French in MA. She holds her BA in French Language and Literature from Boston University and her MA in Education from Portland State University.





Ms. Trisha Ambrogio

Kindergarten teacher, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Ms. Ambrogio most recently worked as a tutor at SNIS. She previously taught in Brookfield and Danbury public schools. She has her BA in Social Sciences from WCSU and MS in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport.

Mrs. Michelli Anatolio

Social Worker, Hill and Plain and Northville Elementary Schools

Mrs. Anatolio has previously worked as a program director for Danbury Youth Services and as a case manager for the Center for Safer Communities in Danbury. She is proficient in Spanish and Portuguese as well as English. She received her BS in Social Work with a Spanish minor from WCSU and her MS in Social Work from Sacred Heart University.





Mrs. Heather Badaracco

Special Education teacher, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Mrs. Badaracco has over 17 years experience as a Special Education teacher, including a previous stint in New Milford from 2008-19. She holds a BS from WCSU and MS in Special Education with a concentration in Autism from SCSU.

Mr. Lawrence Badaracco

Special Education teacher, Litchfield Hills Transition Center

Mr. Badaracco is returning to New Milford Public Schools where he previously worked as a special education teacher from 2010-2018. He holds a BS in History from WCSU and an MS in Special Education from CCSU.





Ms. Jessica Bates

Special Education paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Bates is an NMHS graduate and has worked as a preschool teacher at childcare centers in New Milford. She has an AS in Early Childhood Education from Naugatuck Valley Community College.



Food Services, New Milford High School

Mrs. Burns is a former teacher, back in the school setting in a different role.



Ms. Melissa Buturla

Special Education paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Buturla has worked previously as a daycare provider and nanny.



Grade 1 teacher, Northville Elementary School

Ms. Christensen has taught grade 3 at St. Joseph School in NY since 2017. She holds a BA in Psychology from WCSU and an MS in Teaching and Learning, Elementary Education, from Colorado State University.





Ms. Shelby Church

Spanish teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Church is a recent college graduate who interned with Cheshire and Wolcott public schools. She has a BA in Spanish from SCSU and her MAT in Spanish Education from Quinnipiac.

Ms. Stephanie Delaurentiis

Excel teacher, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Ms. Delaurentiis has previously worked at The Bronx School for Continuous Learners as a special education teacher K-2. She holds a BA in English Literature and MS in Special Education and Early Childhood Education from CUNY.



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Mr. Daniel Delia

Enrichment teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate/Schaghticoke Middle Schools

Mr. Delia has taught grades 5 and 6. Most recently he was the NGSS/STEM and Enrichment teacher for Cromwell schools. He holds a BS in CPA Accounting from Syracuse University and an MA in Teaching with a concentration in Elementary

Education K-6 from Sacred Heart University.

Mrs. Elizabeth DePalma

Special Education paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

An NMHS graduate, Mrs. DePalma has worked previously as a substitute paraeducator at SNIS.





Ms. Sarah Desrosiers

Science teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Desrosiers is a recent college graduate who worked as a long term substitute for Newtown public schools in 8th grade Science. She holds a BS in Environment Science and Technical Theatre from Muhlenberg College and her MA in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of CT.

Mrs. Megan Dey

Social Studies teacher, New Milford High School

Mrs. Dey is returning to New Milford High School where she previously worked as a Social Studies teacher from 2011-2016, primarily teaching Global Studies and Modern America. She has a BA in Kinesiology from New England College, an MS in Exercise Science from the University of New Hampshire, and an MEd in Curriculum and Instruction Social Studies from Keene State College.





Mr. Kriston Ervin

School Counselor, New Milford High School

A recent college graduate who interned with Cheshire and Wolcott public schools, Mr. Ervin earned his BA in Psychological Sciences from CCSU and his MA in School Counseling from Seton Hall University. He has served as a peer mentor with the

Autism Spectrum Resource Center and as an RA for the Wesleyan University Youth Arts Program.

Mr. David Flynn

Special Education paraeducator, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mr. Flynn has worked previously as a substitute paraeducator for New Milford Public Schools, including at SMS.





Mrs. Mary Anne Furfaro

Special Education teacher, New Milford High School

Mrs. Furfaro worked as a special education teacher at NMHS for six years before taking a position with the Bedford Central School District. She holds a BA in Government with a minor in Economics from Hamilton College and her Masters of Profes-

sional Studies, Childhood and Special Education, from Manhattanville College.

Mr. Dennis Gonzalez

Spanish teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mr. Gonzalez earned his BA in Spanish from WCSU and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Texas. A recent graduate of the Alternate Route to Certification program, Mr. Gonzalez has previously taught in the Spanish Language Development program in New Britain. He has worked as a building substitute at SMS.





Ms. Kelly Gray

School Counselor, Hill and Plain and Northville Elementary Schools

Ms. Gray has been working in New Milford Public Schools as a student care worker through EdAdvance. She is a Registered Behavior Technician. Ms. Gray holds a BS in

Early Childhood Development and Education from the University of Delaware and her Masters of Education in Elementary School Counseling from Wilmington College.



Mr. Richard Grudzwick

Special Education paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mr. Grudzwick is an NMHS graduate who has worked at the Regional YMCA of Western CT as a counselor. He is currently enrolled at CCSU as a PE undergraduate with a minor in Psychology.

Mr. Nicholas Guastaferro

Special Education paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mr. Guastaferro previously worked as a paraeducator in Region 14. He has a BA in Literature from SUNY Purchase.





Mrs. Kelly Harding

Math/Literacy Interventionist, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Harding has previously worked as a grade 5 teacher for Bethel schools. She earned her BS in Early Childhood Education from the University of Rhode Island and an MS in B-6 Literacy Education and Special Education from Wagner College.

Mrs. Mary Haynes

Music teacher, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Mrs. Haynes is an experienced educator, sharing music with young learners for over twenty years, and a certified music therapist. She holds a BMUS in Music Therapy and Music Education from the University of Georgia.





Mrs. Elizabeth Holton

Kindergarten teacher, Hill and Plain Elementary School

An NMHS graduate, Mrs. Holton has worked for Norwalk schools as a kindergarten teacher, as a reading specialist in Darien, as a literacy tutor in Region 12 and as a grade 5 teacher for St. Joseph School in Brookfield. She earned her BA in Elemen-

tary Education and American Studies from Manhattanville College and an MS in Reading Education from WCSU.

Mr. Nicholas Jones

Grade 3 teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mr. Jones has worked previously for Southington, Cheshire and Manchester schools. He holds a BS in Elementary/Special Education from the University of Hartford and an MS in Special Education from the University of St. Joseph.





Mrs. Susan Klimowich

Math/Literacy Interventionist, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mrs. Klimowich has worked at HPS and SNIS as a tutor and as a grade 1 teacher in NYC. She holds a BA in Elementary and Early Childhood Education and Sociology and an MS in Education: Elementary and Early Childhood Education and Children's

Literature from Queens College.



Mrs. Stephanie Kubisek School Counselor, New Milford High School

Mrs. Kubisek has over twenty years experience in education, having previously worked as a high school counselor in Litchfield and Brookfield and as an assistant principal and principal in Litchfield. She has a BA in Sociology and Applied Social

Relations from ECSU, her MA in School Counseling from Fairfield University, and her 6th year diploma in Educational Leadership from Quinnipiac University.

Ms. Yvonne Lazzaro

Mathematics teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Lazzaro is a veteran educator with extensive secondary mathematics teaching experience, having taught for over sixteen years in MA and CT schools. She earned her BA in Mathematical Sciences and MA in Mathematical Teaching from Western New England College.





Mrs. Elizabeth LetoGrade 2 teacher, Northville Elementary School

Mrs. Leto comes to New Milford from the Danbury public schools where she has taught both grades 1 and 3. She earned her BA in Communications, Human Relations from WCSU and her MS in Elementary Education from the University

of Bridgeport.

Ms. Kathleen M. Lewis

Grade 4 teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Lewis is an NMHS graduate. She has worked as a tutor and long term substitute for New Milford Public Schools. She holds a BA in History from Mount St. Mary College and an MA in Autism Spectrum Disorders from Grand Canyon University.





Mr. Nicholas Manciero

Mathematics teacher/Department Chair, New Milford High School

Mr. Manciero has taught in Stratford, Fairfield, New Haven and East Haven schools. He holds a BA in Mathematics from UConn, and completed the Alternate Route to Certification Program in 2014. He earned his MA in Educational Technology from

Sacred Heart University.

Mr. Scott Mason

Math Interventionist, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mr. Mason holds CT certification in Elementary Education, Middle School Math and Music for Grades PK-12. He has a BM and MM in Studio Composition from SUNY Purchase and his 6th year certificate in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport.





Mrs. Deborah Meeker School Nurse, New Milford High School

Mrs. Meeker has worked previously for Watertown schools as a nurse, for River Glen Health Care in Southbury, and for Litchfield County Orthopedic.



Mr. Phillip Passero

Special Education paraeducator, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Mr. Passero has a BA in History from Hartwick College. He has worked as a substitute paraeducator for New Milford Public Schools.

Mrs. Anna Pelillo

Special Education paraeducator, Northville Elementary School

Mrs. Pelillo has worked as a substitute for New Milford Public Schools.





Ms. Kaitlyn Pierce

Mathematics teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Pierce is a recent University of CT graduate where she earned her BA in Mathematics, BS in Education and MA in Curriculum and Instruction, Secondary Mathematics. She completed her student teaching in Coventry schools and did a

Masters internship in Windsor.

Mrs. Stefanie Pilla

Grade 2 teacher, Northville Elementary School

Mrs. Pilla previously taught grades 2 and 3 in Darien public schools. Most recently, she has worked as a long term substitute for New Milford Public Schools. She earned her BA in English and MAT in Elementary Education from Sacred Heart University.





Ms. Ann Plude

Food Services worker, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Plude has enjoyed time with children as a nanny, daycare teacher and at Ability Beyond Disability.

Ms. Hannah Redstone

Grade 1 teacher, Hill and Plain Elementary School

Ms. Redstone is a recent college graduate who completed her internship and student teaching in Newtown, where she also substituted grades K-4. She holds a BA in Justice and Law Administration from WCSU, and an MA in Elementary Education from Sacred Heart University. She has previously worked as a daycare teacher and as a long term substitute for New Milford Public Schools.





Ms. Morgan Roberts

School Counselor, Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Roberts completed her internship in school counseling at Newtown High School. She has a BA in Psychology from Tulane University and a Masters in Counseling and Guidance, with a concentration in School Counseling K-12,

from New York University.

Ms. Cheryl Sarli

Special Education paraeducator, Northville Elementary School

Ms. Sarli has worked at Kindercare and the Montessori School.

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Ms. Amber SchlemmerEnglish teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Schlemmer is a recent college graduate who completed her student teaching at The Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School in New Haven. She has a BA in English from ECSU and her MAT in Secondary English Education from CCSU.

Ms. Shayna Silvestri

BCBA, Schaghticoke Middle School and New Milford High School

Ms. Silvestri is aBoard Certified Behavior Analyst. She has previously worked as a senior behavioral analyst and as a life skills instructor. She has a BS in Communication Disorders from Springfield College and an MS in Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis from the University of St. Joseph.

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Mr. Adam Simmons

Computer Tech 1, Hill and Plain and Northville Elementary Schools

Mr. Simmons is a graduate of New Milford High School. He previously worked as a Help Desk Support Specialist for Ability Beyond and as a University Assistant for the Information Technology and Innovation Department at WCSU. He holds a BS in

Justice and Law Administration from WCSU. Mr. Simmons has certifications in A+ and Security +.



English teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Skhreli is a recent college grad who student taught in Wilton and has worked as a long term substitute in Trumbull. She has a BA in Marketing with an English minor from Providence College and her MAT in Secondary English from Sacred Heart University.





Mr. Michael Tessier

English teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

Mr. Tessier has previously worked as an access school teacher for EdAdvance and as a Tech Integration and Curriculum Coach in CA schools. He holds a BA in Radio/Television/Film from San Jose State University and his Teaching Credential in Eng-

lish from the National University in San Jose.

Mr. Christopher Testani

Math/Literacy Interventionist, Northville Elementary School

Mr. Testani previously worked for Shelton schools as a grade 2 and 3 teacher. He holds a BS in Psychology from Sacred Heart University and an MS in Education and 6th year degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Bridgeport.



Ms. Amy Wheeler

Art teacher, Hill and Plain Elementary School

An NMHS graduate, Ms. Wheeler has six years' experience as a classroom teacher in Norwalk Public Schools. With a passion for art, she holds a BFA from WCSU and an MS in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport.





Mrs. Suzanne Woodage

Special Education paraeducator, New Milford High School

Mrs. Woodage is a graduate of New Milford High School, who most recently worked at EdAdvance. She has an AS in Early Childhood from NVCC and a BA in Social Work from WCSU.

Ms. Erin Wooley

Kindergarten teacher, Northville Elementary School

Ms. Wooley previously worked at the Goddard School as a Lead Teacher for PreK. She earned her BS from Ohio State University with a dual major in Early Childhood Education and Visual Impairment. She has worked as a long term substitute for New Milford Public Schools.





Ms. Marcy Zacchea

Science teacher, New Milford High School

Ms. Zacchea is a seasoned educator with over twenty years experience teaching science in middle and high school settings in NY state and CT. She has a BA in Biology and MS in Science Education from Long Island University.



Please join us in welcoming all our new staff!



Nominate a NMPS Star of the Month for 2021-22!



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.



New Milford Public Schools

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

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo Superintendent

Ms. Holly Hollander Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Matthew Cunningham Facilities Director

Mrs. Catherine Gabianelli Human Resources Director

Mr. Anthony Giovannone Fiscal Services & Operations Director

Mrs. Laura Olson Pupil Personnel & Special Services Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan Food Services Director

Board of Education

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Chairperson

Mr. Joseph Failla Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Tammy McInerney Assistant Secretary

Mr. Eric Hansell

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Mr. Brian McCauley

Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan

Mrs. Olga I. Rella

Ms. Leslie Sarich



"Good neighbors make great neighborhoods."

Establish the mindset of a good neighbor with these five pillars for building great neighborhoods.

The Good Neighbor Mindset

- **1. Connection.** Introduce yourself and connect with others in your neighborhood. It's simply starts by saying "hello."
- **2. Invitation.** Invite neighbors to join you for a meal or something fun. Gather around a table because the latin word "*communitas*" means the spirit of community and it's measured by the number of meals shared together.
- **3. Celebration**. When it comes to birthdays, anniversaries or milestone moments in the lives of others, cheer them on and don't miss out on congratulating them.
- **4. Awareness.** Keep your eyes and ears open. Stay attentive to the safety and security of the people and homes nearby. We are safer and stronger together.
- **5. Availability.** Availability is the highest benefit of good neighbors who truly care and look out for one another. When needed, show up to help and support others living around you.

Source: www.NationalGoodNeighborDay.com

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.