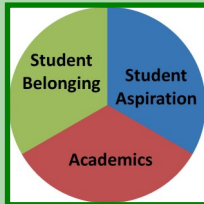




New Milford Public Schools
25 Sunny Valley Road
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647

Mr. Raymond Manka, Principal
Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
Dr. Megan Dwyer, Asst. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204

Ms. Linda Scoralick, Principal
Mr. Michael Boucher, Asst. Principal
Mr. Frank Jawdzik, Asst. Principal
Ms. Shannon Surreira, 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
Ms. Shannon Surreira, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 13, Issue 7

January / February 2023

STEM FOR ALL

STEM for ALL is happening from kindergarten through fifth grade in NMPS. "Strengthening STEM skills is critical for both short-term innovation as we overcome the impacts of COVID-19 and for preparing students to address future challenges in a complex, interconnected world." (<https://www.ed.gov/stem>) Mrs. Bonnell rotates between Hill and Plain, Northville, and Sarah Noble, focusing on STEM habits of mind. The habits include communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity while including STEM hands-on content.

Kindergarten through second grade moved through lessons focusing on "authentic problems." For example, first and Second-grade students identified the lunch tray as a school problem. Students discussed issues with carrying lunch, items falling off, the tray breaking, and the styrofoam not being okay for the environment. They experimented with different materials, created mini prototypes, and presented their ideas using reasoning from observations and testing. Kindergarten students collaborated and engineered traps during December to try and catch the missing Gingerbread Man at both elementary schools.

There have been a variety of lesson rotations at SNIS. Fifth grade focused on authentic problem-solving using biomimicry to invent, and the top inventors competed in a Junior Shark Tank-style competition. Throughout the year, fifth graders are learning to code using block-based coding beginning computational thinking. Third grade is currently collaborating on making cardboard arcade games that will result in a twelve-class setup of a full-functioning arcade for students to play! Fourth grade is problem-solving a simple problem in a complex way using simple machines, also known as Rube Goldberg machines. Engagement is high, and creativity is flowing.

Applause to all K-5 students for their critical thinking skills and innovation. STEM for ALL is a necessity and a prodigious opportunity.



News from Our Schools



Hill and Plain Elementary School

Hill and Plain hopes all of our families have had a great start to 2023! We kicked off the new year with some fun thanks to our amazing PTO. January's focus for our monthly school spirit day was pajama day. Students loved coming to school in their comfy pj's. Many of our Hill and Plain families came out for a great night of Bingo, which was sponsored by our

PTO. Students had a blast and many of them were able to leave the event with a prize thanks to the generosity of our PTO.

This month students began taking the second iReady diagnostic. This information will help our teachers and support staff understand our students' growth and help guide instruction moving forward.

This month we have had a school wide focus on perseverance. Students are receiving lessons on perseverance in their guidance class and we have been focusing on examples of perseverance in our morning announcements and practicing morning positive affirmations to help start our day off with a positive mindset in order to increase our ability to persevere in a variety of situations.



Northville Elementary School

Happy 2023! Children and staff returned to Northville School happy, well rested, and ready to learn!



Townwide Pajama Day was so much fun! Office staff coordinated with Nessy the Cow Slippers. The children and staff loved the novelty of wearing PJ's to school! We were comfy and cozy all day. Town wide PTO "Spirit Days" certainly do just what they are designed to do - brighten our spirits and add camaraderie and fun to our school day. When school is a fun place to be, children are more successful academically.

Our January C.A.R.E.S. assembly focused on perseverance. We talked about the importance of persevering through challenging situations instead of giving up or dwelling inside negativity.



At Northville we are also doing a school read aloud Petey and Pru and the Hullabaloo by Ammi-Joan Paquette. Students have been encouraged to look up and use interesting (and bigger) words in their writing assignments in order to increase their vocabularies.

Cooperation is our home theme for January. We've encouraged all our families to remind their children to use the C.A.R.E.S. expectations both at school and home. January's focus is on COOPERATE. We've asked parents and caregivers to send us a note to add to our bulletin board when their children demonstrate cooperative behavior at home. We also give them a shout-out during our morning announcements!



In Mrs. Waldman's art class, the students had fun creating art and building things from magnetic shape tiles. This is a great example of how STEM and Art activities can be combined.

Also in art, our NES students celebrated Chinese New Year! Here are a few kids from Mrs. Pilla's Second Grade class enjoying



the art activity.

Do you believe the farmers or the groundhog? This year, the Farmer's Almanac predicted a milder winter, with very little snow and warmer temperatures. So far, other than a few cold snaps here and there, the prediction is proving true! In contrast, on Groundhog Day, Punxatawny Phil saw his shadow and boldly predicted six more weeks of winter. As we trudge through February, we will find out which prediction is correct.

Sarah Noble Intermediate School



Martin's Big Words!

Fifth graders recently celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr during W.I.N. After reading aloud Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport, the students discussed the author's purpose of focusing on Martin Luther King Jr.'s words. The students compared and contrasted the words Martin Luther King Jr. heard and the words he used.



Students then brainstormed lists of powerful words including examples found in the book. In their groups, the students wrote these words on cups and

Schaghticoke Middle School

The Music Department at SMS has been very busy recently! December 21st marked the first chorus concert of the year. Performances were held for students in chorus for grades 6, 7, and 8. In addition to the chorus concert in December, on January 18th the Orchestra, Jazz Band, and Voices Ensemble all had a chance to perform. It is clear from both concerts, as well as from our December 14th Band concert, that students and staff have been working very hard since the beginning of the year, and that we have many talented musicians at SMS. Kudos to all of our students, Mrs. Beddows, Mr. Polhemus, and Mr. Gregory for your outstanding work and dedication!

During the month of December, SMS was proud to participate in the CIAC Youth Leadership Summit for Unified Sports. During this summit, students heard from a keynote speaker whose message focused on inspiring kindness in schools and how students can be part of meaningful change in their schools. This leadership summit is part of our larger Unified Sports program. Many thanks to all of our student leaders and Mrs. Fino for your hard work and dedication to inclusion at SMS!

New Milford High School



The student led program, Wingman, completed it's 4th activity period with a lesson on:

- ♦ *Reflecting and sharing thoughts to improve school climate.*
- ♦ *Working collectively to complete a task.*
- ♦ *Setting personal goals for the new year.*

The students worked collectively to “untangle” themselves from a human knot: Students reflected after the activity on how communication, listening and problem solving together supported their achieving the task of becoming untangled.

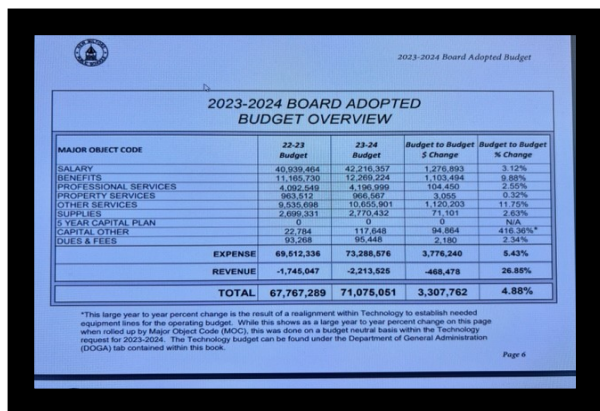
The Wingman Program continues to thrive at NMHS with students learning and promoting inclusivity and empathy in the classroom, hallways and community.

LOOK UP, LOOK OUT, LOOK AFTER!



District Wide

BOE Adopts 2023-24 Education Budget



2023-2024 Board Adopted Budget

2023-2024 BOARD ADOPTED BUDGET OVERVIEW

MAJOR OBJECT CODE	22-23 Budget	23-24 Budget	Budget to Budget \$ Change	Budget to Budget % Change
SALARY	40,939,464	42,216,357	1,276,893	3.12%
BENEFITS	11,185,730	12,265,254	1,105,484	9.88%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	4,082,648	4,190,999	108,450	2.55%
PROPERTY SERVICES	953,512	966,467	12,955	1.36%
OTHER SERVICES	9,535,098	10,655,901	1,120,803	11.75%
SUPPLIES	2,699,531	2,715,432	15,901	0.59%
5 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN	0	0	0	N/A
CAPITAL OTHER	22,784	117,645	94,864	416.50%*
DUES & FEES	93,208	95,448	2,150	2.34%
EXPENSE	69,612,336	73,288,576	3,776,240	5.43%
REVENUE	-1,745,047	-2,213,525	-468,478	-26.85%
TOTAL	67,767,289	71,075,051	3,307,762	4.88%

*This large year to year percent change is the result of a realignment within Technology to establish needed equipment lines for the operating budget. While this shows as a large year to year percent change on this page when rolled up by Major Object Code (MOC), this was done on a budget neutral basis within the Technology request for 2023-2024. The Technology budget can be found under the Department of General Administration (DGA) tab contained within this book.

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New Milford Public Schools Interim Superintendent Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote presented the Superintendent's Proposed 2023-24 Education Budget to the New Milford Board of Education for consideration on the evenings of January 17, 18, 24 and 26 in public session. The 2023-24 Superintendent's Budget, as proposed, was \$71,175,030 which is an increase of \$3,404,741 or 5.03% over the current year's budget.

The 2023-2024 Superintendent's Proposed Budget is \$71,175,030 which is an increase of \$3,404,741 or 5.03% over the current year's budget. The proposed increase of \$3,404,741 includes the following: an increase of \$1,276,893 in salaries, an increase of \$995,998 in health insurance, and an increase of \$930,016 in total transportation costs. These expenses total \$3,202,907 or 4.72% of the 5.03% increase. This proposed budget request is the result of a collaborative effort with district administrators and building principals. The process began in October, and continued through several layers of review before being finalized as the Superintendent's Proposed Budget in January 2023. Dr. Paddyfote states "The collective efforts of all District administrators to work toward a common vision for New Milford Public Schools has made this process invaluable. While the budget is presented under my name, it is the product of the hard work and partnership of the District Leadership Team."

The Board of Education's Adopted budget, as approved on January 26, 2023, was finalized at \$71,075,051, which represents a 4.88% increase over the current year's budget. Budget documents and video recordings of the workshops and the four evenings of presentations and deliberations can be found under the Budget tab on the district website [here](#).

Board of Education Chairperson Pete Helmus says, "This Board of Education Adopted budget supports and maintains the instructional programs and the needed staffing levels to continue the district's focus on instructional improvement, expanded mental health services, career pathways and access to programs. A primary focus in our budget deliberations was centralized around the following question: Does this budget conform to our mission statement and our towns values in regards to delivery of educational services to our constituents. As a board and as can be seen by the unanimous vote, we feel those conditions are met. The Board of Education appreciates the continuous collaboration with the town's legislative body as we consistently look together for efficiencies that help us maintain the highest levels of fiscal responsibility, maintain our buildings infrastructure, at the same time as delivering the educational services that meet the needs of our students."

NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY

Hey Dads and Kids... Join us for



At the Maxx, 94 Railroad Street, New Milford



Monday, February 13th
6:00 – 7:00 PM

**Come enjoy a light dinner with your child(ren)
and learn all about the All Pro Dads program.**

Please use this QR code to register.
Participation is free but registration is required.



For more information contact:
Brian Hambrook at
bhambrook@newmilford.org
or (860) 210-2030

Open to Fathers of children grades K-5

All Pro Dad's Day is a monthly gathering of fathers and their kids
with the simple purpose of growing closer to each other while
enjoying dinner and participating in meaningful activities.

This meeting is brought to you by the New Milford Youth Agency and
Families Network of Western CT, Inc.



Career Firefighter

What does it take?

Save the Date: April 11, 2023

Field Trip to Danbury Fire Department Headquarters



What does a firefighter do?

- Protect lives and property
- Perform rescues and first aid
- Inspect buildings
- Educate the community
- Respond to disasters

Join us to meet career and volunteer firefighters and learn what it is like behind the scenes!

The New Milford Youth Agency and

Water Witch Hose Company #2

invite you to explore a career as a firefighter!

Transportation and lunch provided

New Milford High School Students 9-12 grade

For more info: Skabasakalian@newmilford.org



The New Milford Youth Agency cordially invites NMHS LGBTQIA + Allies to ...



a night to remember

@ The Maxx : 94 Railroad Street, New Milford, CT

Saturday, April 29th, 2023
six o'clock - ten o'clock in the evening

semi-formal, dinner & dancing
ticket prices \$15.00

registration required @ <https://www.nmyouthagency.com>

for more information please contact
Sara Wendrow
swendrow@newmilford.org or 860-210-2030

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

MEETINGS ARE THE SECOND
MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
5:30-6:30 AT THE MAXX

THE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD IS A
COLLECTION OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
THAT REPRESENT A VARIETY OF INTERESTS
AND BACKGROUNDS. DISCUSSIONS ARE ABOUT
YOUTH ISSUES. THESE STUDENTS SERVE THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS A RESOURCE FOR
FOR DIRECTION AND PLANNING.

COME JOIN US!

CONTACT MLEO@NEWMILFORD.ORG
(860) 210-2030

My Safe Place

A PLACE WHERE
NEURODIVERSE CHILDREN
AND CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL
NEEDS, ALONG WITH THEIR
FAMILIES, CAN COME TO FIND
THEIR COMMUNITY!

1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month
from 5:30-7:30 @ The Maxx
94 Railroad St.

Contact Maria at mleo@newmilford.org
(860) 210-2030 for more information



New Milford Public Schools

25 Sunny Valley Rd
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406

<https://www.newmilfordps.org/>

Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote

Interim Superintendent

Ms. Holly Hollander

Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Matthew Cunningham

Facilities Director

Mr. Anthony Giovannone

Fiscal Services & Operations Director

Mrs. Laura Olson

Pupil Personnel &
Special Services Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan

Food Services Director

Mr. Jeffrey Turner

Technology Director

Board of Education

Mr. Pete Helmus

Chairperson

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Leslie Sarich

Secretary

Mrs. Tammy McInerney

Assistant Secretary

Mr. Eric Hansell

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. Tom O'Brien

Mrs. Olga I. Rella

37 Days Until Spring!



At “press time”, it is a beautiful, sunny 52 degree morning (*captured above by SMS 6th grade student*). But we all know February won’t be this mild every day.

The quickest way to hear about any needed delays and cancellations is to keep your phone handy, watch your email, text alerts, and follow us on twitter (@nmps_supt). New Milford Public Schools also posts information about schedule changes on the district website and through the local television channels.

Most importantly, please remember to make sure to keep your contact information up to date with your child’s school.

To read Dr. Paddyfote’s back to school letter about procedures for closing schools due to inclement weather, [click 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.