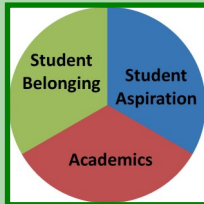




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647

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



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204

Ms. Linda Scoralick, Interim Principal
Mr. Michael Boucher, 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 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. Pat Colello, Interim Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 12, Issue 11

May 2022

Congratulations to the NMPS Building Based Teachers of the Year!!

On May 11th, Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo visited schools to surprise teachers who had been chosen as their building based teacher of the year. These honorees were selected by their peers from over 160 nomination forms submitted by staff, parents, community members and students. Eighty-eight educators were nominated in all. Ms. DiCorpo was joined by TOTY Committee co-chairpersons Connie Williams and Roxanne Kraft, as well as by last year's honorees. Mrs. Williams said, "This will go down as one of my favorite memories of my teaching career in New Milford! Working together to surprise and celebrate amazing educators in our district was a joyful adventure." Congratulations to the following educators:

Katherine Ciparelli

Mrs. Ciparelli joined the district in 2006. She teaches Kindergarten at Hill and Plain Elementary School. Nominees spoke to Mrs. Ciparelli's kindness, patience and ability to bring out the best in her students socially and academically.



Tara Gee

Mrs. Gee is a grade 4 teacher at Sarah Noble Intermediate School. She joined the district in 2002. Nominees spoke of Mrs. Gee's dedication to each and every student and of her collaborative approach to families.

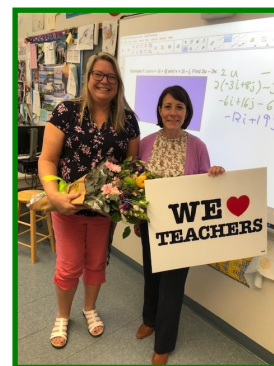
Jenna Giudice

Ms. Giudice joined the district in 2015. She is a grade 2 teacher at Northville Elementary School. Nominees noted Ms. Giudice's caring and communicative nature and that her students always enjoy their time in her classroom.



Cheryl Reiner

Mrs. Reiner is a veteran math teacher at New Milford High School having been in the district since 1992! Nominees applauded her excellent rapport and close connections with students as well as her mentoring of new teachers. Colleagues noted her leadership within the department, sharing resources, offering strategies in dealing with students and for guidance with the curriculum.



Daniel Savo

Mr. Savo is a Social Studies teacher at Schaghticoke Middle School who joined the district in 2017. Nominees cited Mr. Savo's interactive and engaging lessons and his wonderful job of modeling concepts and ideas to his students.

Superintendent DiCorpo says, "Collectively and individually these talented educators exemplify dedication to the profession, a love for children, and a strong work ethic. They show up for students, parents and support staff members because it is at the heart of who they are. Each teacher makes learning come alive in their classroom by creating and implementing lessons that are of high interest and are engaging. They demonstrate kindness and empathy which creates classrooms and schools where children want to be and love to learn. This group of teachers truly exemplifies what it means to be an educator in New Milford."



From this group, the NMPS Teacher of the Year Committee will choose our district's Teacher of the Year for 2022-2023. That announcement will be made at the district's Convocation this August.

News from Our Schools

District-wide

Six NMPS students were winners in the 15th Annual Recycling Billboard Contest of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA). There were 1300 entries this year and 52 Regional Winners, with artwork representing the 2022 theme *Recycle Your Food Scraps! Compost!*. Congratulations to SNIS student Annabella Davis, SMS student Andrew Antonelli and NMHS students Ava Squeglia, Grace Miller, Kara Murphy and Grace Christian.



This month's K-5 PTO sponsored spirit day, Crazy Hair Day, let students show their creative side just for the fun of it.

More News from Our Schools

Hill and Plain Elementary School

As we get closer to the end of the school year, the days are getting busier at Hill and Plain. This past month our PTO sponsored a Bubble Mania assembly in which students were treated to an amazing bubble show that also integrated science themes. The students had a blast watching the presenter, Casey Carle, make some unique bubbles and learn more about their properties.



We just finished up our last mini-kindergarten experience session. We had a great time getting to meet our incoming kindergarteners for next school year as well as being able to talk to parents and caregivers. As a reminder, registration for kindergarten is still open and any family still needing to register for kindergarten next school year can start the process online, or give our main office a call to discuss the process.

Students and staff from kindergarten are celebrating the end of the year countdown with a different theme each day focused on a letter from the alphabet. They are having a blast dressing up and celebrating their letters!



Next month will be even busier here at HPS! Mr. Nocera is planning our annual Field Day in which the whole school participates in fun activities throughout the entire school day. Our PTO has planned a fun event with Zumba for the school as well as the annual Grade 2 send off with a magician for the students! Our 2nd graders will also visit Sarah Noble next month to learn more about their new school they will be attending next school

year. Everyone here at Hill and Plain hopes all of our families have a great end of the school year and a safe and fun summer break!

Northville Elementary School

The character trait for May is Courage. The students and staff have been encouraged to “practice courage” in social, educational, and personal situations. Practicing courage means we are brave despite feelings of worry or unease.

On May 6th, Northville welcomed Principal Ms. Emma! She won the PTO March Madness auction for Principal for the Day. Ms. Emma had a meeting with Superintendent DiCorpo, teacher meetings, lunch duty, ran an assembly, and ended the day on bus duty. The students loved seeing Ms. Emma around the building.



Our future Kindergartners enjoyed their Mini-K Experience. The event was held on four consecutive Wednesdays. Caregivers and parents participated in an informative session in the cafeteria, led by Principal Gwen Gallagher while the children did fun assessment activities with Mrs. Colello and lots of staff volunteers in the gym. After a school bus ride, each family left with a goodie bag (and good spirits about the coming school year)!

This month, we began our “countdown to summer break” calendar. Mrs. Rondini’s class enjoyed reading “Books on a blanket” outside for “B” day on May 9th. NES students enjoyed watching ducklings hatch in their classrooms, and releasing butterflies as they learned about life cycles.

As we pump the brakes on the 21-22 school year, we can’t help but feel energized and ready to tackle the challenges and triumphs that next year will surely bring.

We know the students and staff are looking forward to summer recess and we continue to wish our district colleagues all the best!



Sarah Noble Intermediate School



On Monday May 9th, SNIS held a Family Welcome Night for families of 2nd graders who will be transitioning to SNIS next year. More than 150 families joined us to tour the building and learn more about Sarah Noble!

The night consisted of a short presentation followed by Q and A from students and families. Additionally, families were led on a tour by two of our staff, stopping at important landmarks within our school that students were most interested in. The 2nd grade students did a wonderful job asking many questions about 3rd grade next year.



In addition, students from both HPS and NES are currently pen-paling and will be joining us for an in-person visit to SNIS soon. On June 1st and 2nd, 2nd grade students will come to Sarah Noble during the school day for a mini field trip to see the school, meet their pen pals, and visit a 3rd grade classroom.



Author, Author! At SNIS, thanks to the generous support of our PTO, we welcomed two terrific authors to meet with our students and explain their craft! Dana Meachem Rau met with 4th graders to share about her work researching and writing about famous people and in 5th Grade P.W. Cantonese came to share his fantasy work! Students were able to meet each in small groups and ask questions about their writing process.



The annual Walking Project for 5th graders kicked off early in the month. Created in 2007, the initial objective of the project was to challenge the 5th grade class to increase their exercise throughout the day. Each student is given a pedometer and a physical activity conversion chart to record (in a classroom log) the total number of steps they took each day. In addition, community businesses and organizations are invited to sponsor individual class-

rooms, walk with the students around the school track, and act as role models to encourage the children's efforts. After four weeks of recording, the 5th grade class, along with their teachers and sponsors, tally and celebrate their total step count in miles. Enthusiasm for the Walking Project has grown to include education on the "4 E's": Exercise, Eating Well, Environmental Awareness, and Emotional Health



On May 16th, SNIS students performed in concert. The chorus, intermediate and advanced orchestra, and jazz band all performed. Visit SNIS' twitter account @SNIS_CT to hear snippets of the many performances. You'll be amazed!



Schaghticoke Middle School



The SMS LMC continues to be a busy place. This month, the SMS library welcomed a new collection of popular titles translated into Portuguese. Students visited not just for book selections but to work on logic and construction challenges.



On May 12th, the SMS community gathered for our Annual Academic



Awards and Recognition Ceremony. Students in all grades were recognized for achievements with SMS awards for academics and character. Eighth grade students were also recognized with Presidential Awards for Academic Excellence. Congratulations to all our award recipients and keep up the great work!

On May 17th, SMS students and staff hosted an open house event for rising 6th graders. Families that attended were able to participate in a self-guided tour, a presentation about some of the basics at SMS, and also a student activities fair. Student leaders were on hand to help provide directions, helpful information and encourage students to get involved in our wonderful clubs and activities.



Ms. D'Orio's WIN class recently created a pop-up art gallery in the Nurse's Office. Students sometimes draw or paint with watercolors when they are done with their other work. One day, students noticed they had a lot of pictures in the classroom, so they came together and decided to showcase their artwork. Great job everyone!



The SMS Drama Club held two productions of *The Claw*, a one-act musical. The cast sang and danced to tell the story of an out-of-order claw machine full of toys which suddenly springs to life, much to the chagrin of one of its inhabitants. The crew worked very hard to design and build the set, create costumes, coordinate publicity, and run the sound and lights. Congratulations to all members of the cast and crew and many thanks to club advisors Mrs. Beddows and Mrs. Bernard!

New Milford High School

Spirit? We've Got Spirit!

May 1st was National College Decision Day and many of our NMHS seniors were seen sporting the spirit wear of their chosen college.



NMHS Students Earn Seal of Biliteracy

The Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy recognizes public high school graduates meeting rigorous standards and demonstrating bilingualism and biliteracy in English (by completing all English Language Arts requirements for graduation) and one or more other languages. Proficiency in the second language is measured by success on a state-approved assessment such as the Advanced Placement (AP) World Language and Culture exam or the ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages. This year, more than fifty junior and senior class students have achieved this outstanding accomplishment.

Congratulations to:

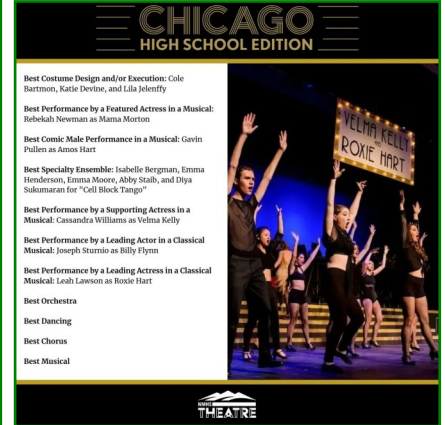
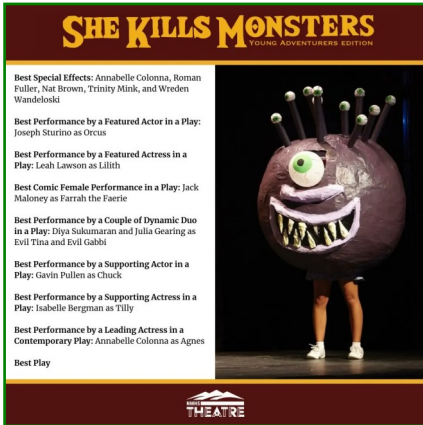
Taormina Amelio
Timothy Bensema
Isabelle Bergman
Alexa Buffa
Malachi Caldwell
Sergio Chanchavac
Justin Chodack
Annabelle Colonna
Julia Dacampo
Gabriella Dane
Quinn Danvers
Marco DeLima
Isabel Delpha
Emily Dunn
Valerie Escobar
Leah Farrell
Jennifer Ferreira

Evan Gabianelli
Isis Gallegos
Genesis Godoy
Emma Henderson
Valeria Herrera
Kylie Lane
Carly Lynch
Kathryn McDonagh
Julia Meadows
Bronwyn Metz
Leah Minsek
Nicolas Monroy
Kara Murphy
Elanora Pease
Ishaani Pradeep
Giovanni Puglia
Elmer Pulla

Elizabeth Rainey
Luisa Ramirez
Alistair Riney
Nixon Rivera
Alexander Rogg
Karla Romero
Kevin Sari
Sarah Seo
Connor Sterling
Diya Sukumaran
Andrew Taborsak
Micayla Tarby
Nina Vanjur
Cassandra Williams
Amanda Williamson
Camila Zhunio
Ryan Zimmitti

Halo Award Nominations

Halo awards are the premiere high school musical theater awards in Connecticut. This year, the NMHS productions of *She Kills Monsters* and *Chicago* were honored to be nominated for 20 Halo Awards. Congratulations all!



Congratulations on Athletic Awards

Congratulations to Coach Chris Bacich for receiving the SWC Outstanding Coach Award. Congratulations to students Leah Farrell and Chris Bon Tempo who received the SWC Leadership Awards and to Donny Mazzella and Sarah Beck who received the SWC Unified Sports One Athlete/One Partner Awards.

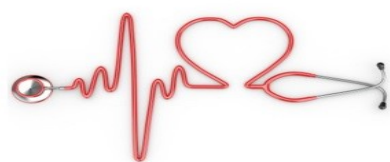


Special congratulations to longtime wrestling supporter and coach Erich (Doc) Doubek (third from the left) on his induction into the CT Wrestling Hall of Fame!!



Health Fair Returns to NMHS

On May 24th, a Health and Wellness Fair was held at the high school. Students visited with community members who shared safety information, practical health tips, mental health resources, nutrition and physical health resources and much more.



Notes from the School Nurses

The CT Department of Public Health has advised school administrators throughout the state that COVID-19 transmission rates have been steadily increasing. We are asking our staff, students, and families to help us reduce potential COVID-19 risks even further as we finish up the school year by following CDPH guidance:

Staying home if you feel unwell and especially if you are experiencing any symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19, including: fever or chills, cough, difficulty breathing, fatigue/tiredness, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 if you have not done so already and getting a booster vaccine dose if you are eligible.

Testing for COVID-19 either using an at-home test kit or at a pharmacy or other testing site if you:

- ◆ feel unwell or have any symptoms that could be associated with COVID-19; or
- ◆ have had an exposure to someone suspected of having COVID-19; or
- ◆ have recently traveled out of state using public transportation (e.g., air, train, bus); or
- ◆ have attended any large group events (e.g., concerts, weddings or similar events, etc.)

Contacting the school nurse and following isolation guidance if you test positive for COVID-19, including remaining away from school activities for at least 5 days and wearing a mask when returning for an additional 5 days.

Following quarantine guidance as appropriate for your vaccination status if you have a close contact with someone with COVID-19 either inside or outside of your household.

Wear a mask when you are around other people especially if:

- ◆ you are not feeling well;
- ◆ are advised to do so based on isolation or quarantine recommendations;
- ◆ you are at-risk for severe COVID-19 complications; or
- ◆ you feel more comfortable wearing a mask at this time.



Free Breakfast and Lunch for All Waiver Expires Soon

The USDA “Free Breakfast and Lunch For All” waiver that was implemented during the last two years due to the Covid-19 Pandemic will **END** on June 30, 2022.

If your child is approved for free or reduced priced meals, eligibility will be carried over for the first 30 operating days of the 2022-2023 school year, ***provided a 2021-2022 meal application has been completed.***

[Find application and instructions here.](#)

NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY



New Milford Youth Agency

NATURE UNPLUGGED

Promoting friendship, team building, kindness, & self-esteem

Activities Included:

- Kickoff @ Club Getaway
- Various Hiking Trips
- State Park Explorations
- Beach Time
- Ice Cream!!!

► TUESDAYS: KIDS ENTERING
6TH - 8TH GRADES

► WEDNESDAYS: KIDS ENTERING
9TH -12TH GRADES

► 6 WEEKS STARTING 07/12 & 07/13 -
ENDING 08/17 & 08/18

► \$60 FOR 6 WEEKS

► DROP OFF AT JPCC @ 9AM
PICKUP @ JPCC 4PM



More info:
Call: 860-210-2030
swells@newmilford.org

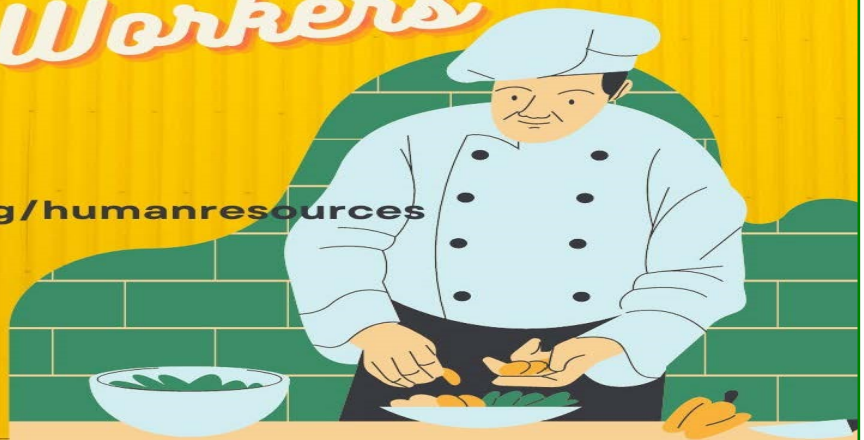
Register @ www.myyouthagency.com



New Milford Public Schools
Food & Nutrition Department

we are hiring!
**School Food Service
Workers**

Apply at:
newmilfordps.org/humanresources





Congratulations to New Milford Public Schools “Stars” for May 2022!



Lisa Lee, NMHS Teacher

“Ms. Lee is a dedicated teacher who works tirelessly creating innovative lessons for her students. Her lessons are engaging and interactive. Ms. Lee ensures that her content is presented in a fun, meaningful way so that students can see real life connections. She loves both her work and her students.”

Katelynn Oviatt, SMS Interventionist

“The reason for this nomination is because no matter what you need help on, Mrs. Oviatt will always take the time to help you and make sure you understand it before she moves on.”



Tracy Rossitto, SNIS Teacher

“Mrs. Rossitto goes out of her way to keep parents informed with succinct and easy-to-understand weekly newsletters. These include short snippets of main lessons students have done/will be doing, and the upcoming week's UA schedule. It is not required or expected, but certainly is helpful and appreciated!”

Kristin Saplio, NES Paraeducator

“Kristin is an amazing paraeducator. She encourages all of the students in the class and she's always promoting a positive growth mindset.”



Megan Sylvester, K-5 Curriculum Coordinator

“Megan is a wealth of knowledge and expertise. She is doing excellent work each day in her role. Additionally she has gone above and beyond as we have navigated staff vacancies and her good work translates to what's best for students.”

Nominate a NMPS Star of the Month!

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.



INTERNET SAFETY

A Digital Presentation For Adults

- Overview of popular apps, programs and online trends
- Cyberbullying, sexting and other dangers
- Social networking and your digital tattoo
- Using technology while keeping your family safe



A webinar presented by

Scott Driscoll
Internet Safety Concepts

Webinar Presented for New Milford Public Schools

June 8, 2022 6 - 7:30 PM

This presentation is for adults only.

To join this webinar please go to www.zoom.us

Webinar ID: 815 1855 0989 Passcode: 589504



INTERNET SAFETY CONCEPTS
Empowering Smart Online Choices

www.internetsafetyconcepts.com



New Milford Public Schools

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

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Superintendent

Ms. Holly Hollander
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Rebecca Adams
Human Resources Director

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

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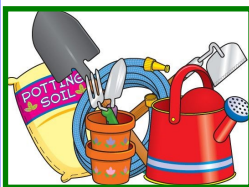
Mr. Tom O'Brien

Ms. Leslie Sarich

Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.

Gifts from the Garden Month*

*Info and Ideas courtesy of <https://www.almanac.com/gardening-kids-what-plant-and-fun-activities>



This summer, your garden can serve as an outdoor classroom for showing your kids how and where we get our food while connecting them to nature and the environment. Even the littlest ones love to learn about dirt, plants, and bugs.

Creating a Small Garden

To ensure a successful gardening experience with your child, start small. A sandbox-sized plot is perfect for the younger set. Give them their own sturdy, child-sized tools, and expect them to get wet and dirty. Set them up for success by making small raised beds that are easy for them to reach into but which keep them from climbing in and walking on the plants. Let them outline the borders with rocks and define the paths with stepping stones or mulch so they know what is garden and what is not. Have them create plant tags, using pictures for non-readers.

Plants for a Kids' Garden

What type of vegetables or flowers are ideal for kids to plant? Steer them toward large-seeded or fast growing plants such as: pole beans, sunflowers, radishes, corn, morning glories, cucumbers, and pumpkins. But also let them decide what to grow. What do they like to eat? See the Almanac's [Vegetable Growing Guides](#) to get started.

Garden Projects for Older Kids

Older kids might enjoy planning a theme garden like a [pizza garden](#), salsa garden, or one with rainbow-colored vegetables. Have them read the instructions on the seed packets and figure out when, how deep, and how far apart to plant the seeds. The more involved they are, the more committed they are likely to be.

Build bat and bird houses, make a sundial, assemble a weather station and use it to keep track of the weather in your backyard, start a compost pile, or tap some maple trees and try your hand at making syrup, and don't forget to make some mud pies!

For more ideas, check out more [cool kids' projects and activities here](#) and [here](#).

May bring

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.