



SPOTLIGHT

on New Milford Schools

August/September 2023, Volume 14, Issue 1

Message from Our Superintendent Dr. Janet Parlato



Welcome Back!

We have settled in nicely to the 2023-24 school year, and we have many exciting things planned for students from Pre-K-Grade 12 to inspire their learning and growth throughout the upcoming months. I would like to highlight the four ideas that guide the work of our district: Focus, Heart, Collaboration, and Creativity. Focus relates to our planning for student success, academically, socially, and emotionally; Heart relates to our care for our students and our service to the community; Collaboration refers to the many partnerships we have developed and nurture in our district; and Creativity relates to the many ideas that are inspired in classrooms and across all of our schools and departments to make our district the most effective that it can be. As always

please feel free to reach out to my office with any ideas, questions, or concerns at (860) 355-8406.
Thank you for your continued support of the efforts of our schools and departments!



Back to School!

- ☀ I hope your summer was perfect
- 🛏 I hope you caught up on rest
- 📖 Read a great book
- 🎬 Saw a fun movie
- 🎢 Rode a crazy roller coaster
- 🚌 And didn't think about school (well, maybe a little!)
- 🕒 And now it's time for... the greatest year ever!



LET'S GO!!

"Life starts



all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

– F. Scott Fitzgerald

Important Dates

- October 6th - Townwide PTO Spirit Day
- October 9th - School Closed - Columbus Day
- October 13th - NES PTO Monster Bash 5:30-7:30pm
- October 19th - Early Dismissal (Staff Professional Development Day)
- October 31st - Book Character Parades (NES/HPS) 9:30am
- November 2nd - Parent Conferences (snow date 11/9)
- November 7th - Parent Conferences (snow date 11/14)
- November 10th - Schools Closed - Veterans Day



"Sometimes the greatest Professional Development is the teacher down the hall."

New Milford Public Schools



Mission Statement

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.

Email: suptoffice@newmilfordps.org

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

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New Milford, CT 06776

Phone: [860-355-8406](tel:860-355-8406)

Follow our socials! Links can be found at the end of the newsletter 

New Milford High School

860-350-6647

Mr. Raymond Manka, Principal

Mr. Kevin Best, Assistant Principal

Dr. Megan Dwyer, Assistant Principal

Mr. Anthony Blake, Assistant Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School

860-354-2204

Ms. Linda Scoralick, Principal

Mr. Michael Boucher, Assistant Principal

Ms. Shannon Surreira, Assistant Principal

Mr. Nicholas Manciero, Interim Assistant Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School

860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Assistant Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School

860-354-5430

Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Principal (effective October 23rd)

Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Assistant Principal



Northville Elementary School

860-355-3713

Mrs. Gwen Gallagher Principal



**"The fact that you worry about being a good teacher
means that you already are one."**

NMHS News



US News & World Report high school rankings were released at the beginning of the month. NMHS ranked 40th out of all 206 CT high schools and ranked 1912 out of 25,000+ schools across the Nation. NMHS staff and students are proud of their work over the past few years and looking forward to continued growth and progress.

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/connecticut/rankings>

NMHS is proud of our marching band and color guard as they presented Haunted to a well attended home show on September 16th.

Our theater department is excited to announce that our fall play will be a Midsummer's Night Dream and the spring musical will be Disney's Little Mermaid - our school community is excited to see these two presentations.

September brought a new program to NMHS called Peer to Peer. This new program partners upperclassmen with first year students to assist with anything from getting to know the building layout, understanding your scheduling and planning courses. NMHS believes in building a rich and strong school community and knows this will aid in that work.

NMHS celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15th with morning announcements, celebrations of humanity and contributions to society. Our celebration this year is brought to NMHS by our new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Club. If you're interested, please contact Assistant Principal Mr. Blake through email.



"Students don't care what you know until they know that you care"

John C. Maxwell

SMS News

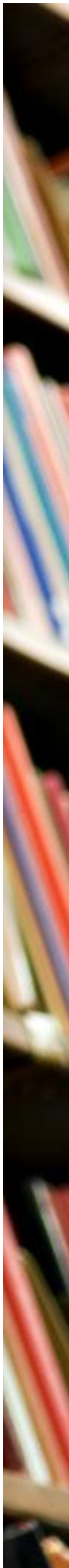


The school year is off to a great start at Schaghticoke! We have been focused on community and relationship building at the start of the school year. To start the year, staff at SMS participated in some team building activities during our professional development time. As we welcomed students back to school, classes spent the first two days of school participating in ice breakers and other get to know you games. Ms. Cafarelli has a

space theme in her classroom this year. During our beginning of year activities, students spent time decorating personal stars to hang on the bulletin board. Students in Mr. Savo's Social Studies classes created and presented digital museums about themselves!

We've also been hard at work laying the foundation for a successful school year by focusing on our school wide expectations related to kindness, responsibility, and safety. As one of our FLEX activities this year, groups of students and staff worked on digital images that represented these character traits. Below is an image from Mr. Tessier's 8th grade FLEX group.

The beginning of the year has also been about laying the foundation for school spirit at SMS! We are once again hosting the SMS Spirit Challenge this year. Each week students and staff compete by team through participation in our weekly spirit day. Spirit Days so far have been green and white day, team color day, and wacky hair day. Pictured below are Ms. Moriarty's homeroom on the day

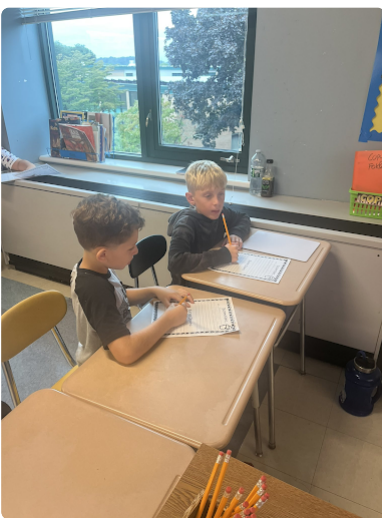


Teaching kids
to count is fine,
but teaching them
what counts is best.

Bob Talbert

@weareteachers

SNIS News

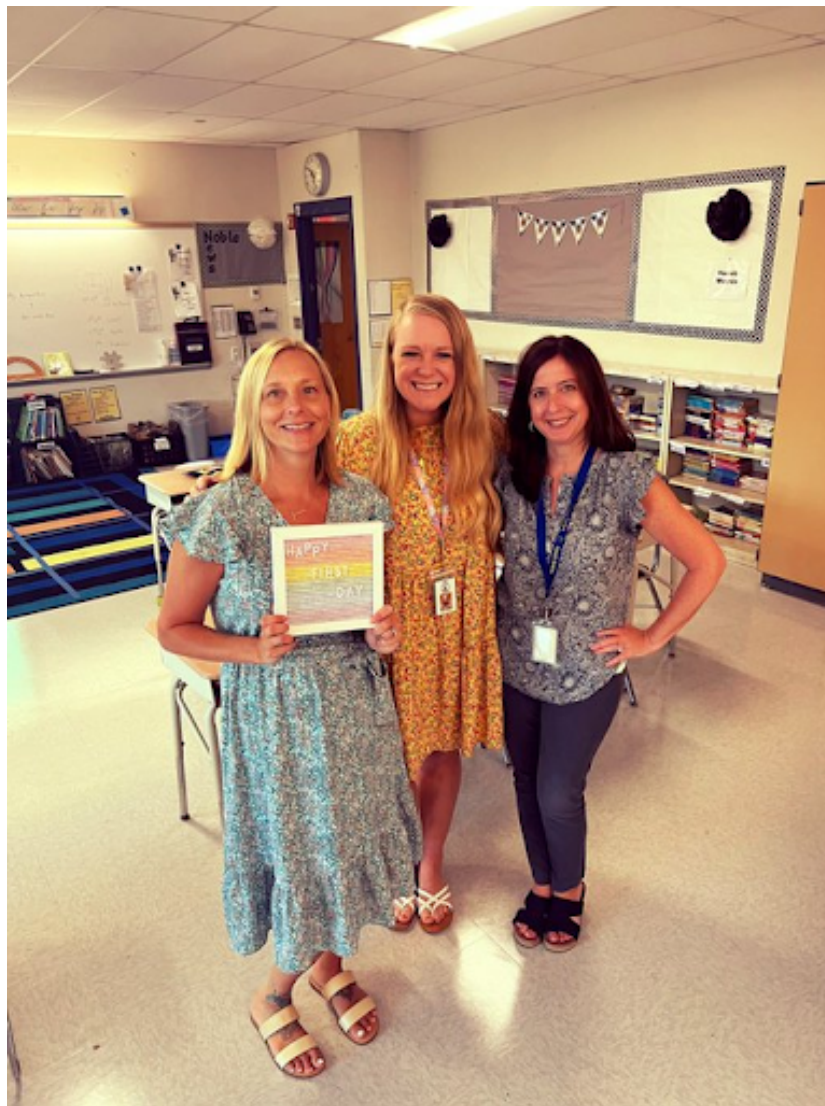


Off To A Great Start!

We are off to a great start at SNIS! Starting with a terrific open house that saw many happy families meeting their teachers and taking advantage of the PTO photo spot!

We had a terrific first day of classes. Since that first day, classes are in full swing and children are enjoying meeting new friends, learning new schedules, and new classroom routines.





HPS News



The start of the school year has been a busy time. Students and families had the opportunity to visit their new classrooms and meet their teachers during our Open House before the start of school. Now students are working hard to learn classroom routines and make new friends. On September 1st, many of our HPS students participated in Crazy Hair Day, our first PTO sponsored spirit day. It was fun to see all the creative and fun hairstyles.

Thank you to our PTO for providing HPS staff with a wonderful welcome back breakfast. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated.





We are so happy to begin another great year at Northville Elementary School! Fun and excitement filled the air as children stepped off school buses and into their classrooms. {large pic below}

As always, Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Surriera were on hand to meet and greet the students in the morning. The first few weeks of school have been jam packed with new friends, new routines, and lots of smiles. {pics 6 & 7}



6



7

Our Food & Nutrition staff serve up healthy meals each and every day. To access school menus and other facts about the nutrition program, including breakfast in New Milford Schools, please visit the district page: newmilfordps.org. {pics 2, 3, and 8}



2



3



8

We had our first fire drill on September 6, 2023. We are so proud of our students for practicing our C.(Cooperate) A.(Act responsibly) R. (Respect) E. (Encourage) S. (Safety) expectations during the fire drill!

The children enjoyed their first C.A.R.E.S assembly {see pic on the right } and the Townwide "crazy hair day" on Friday, September 1st. {see pic below}





Please be advised that our doors open at **8:30** this year. Parent drop off at the **Hug & Go** area begins at **8:30 and ends promptly at 8:45**. Our Security Officer, teachers and staff are on hand to walk your child into the building at parent drop-off and from the buses. **School instruction begins at 8:50**. After the doors close at the **Hug & Go**, you will need to park and walk your child through the front of the building to sign in. **Your child will be marked tardy after 8:50.**

Please consider joining our AWESOME PTO! Contact the PTO for the next meeting time (Northville.PTO@gmail.com) and look for PTO events and communications via your child's daily take home folder.

Follow us on Twitter! @NES_CT.

Access the Northville specific calendar at nes.newmilfordps.org, and the district calendar can be found at Newmilfordps.org.

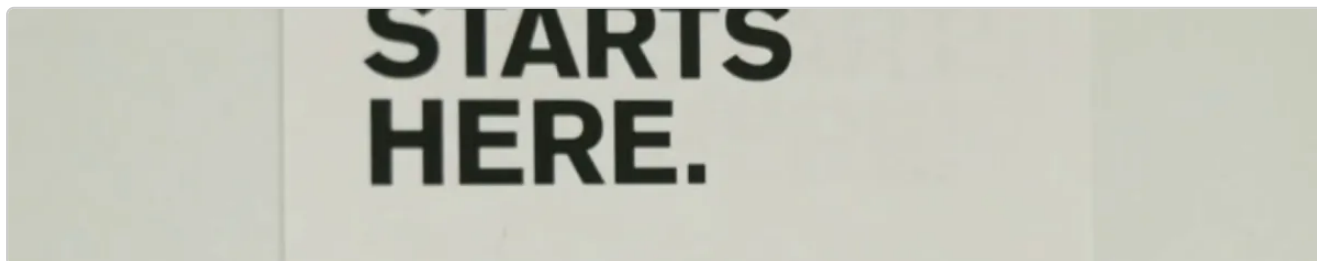
If you are having difficulties with accessing the parent portal or other technology questions, please submit a "tech ticket" on the district website, and someone from the technology department will assist as soon as possible.

Please be in touch with the main office and the teacher to provide us with your child's day to day dismissal routine. This includes daycare and who has permission to pick your child up from school. All children will ride their assigned bus home unless we are otherwise notified. If the dismissal routine is the same each day, only ONE note will suffice. A note to the teacher is the preferred method of communication for any change in dismissal plans at any time. Please be sure to put the teachers' name and your child's FULL name on the note. Please print clearly.

We are so excited to keep the school year rolling, and we will welcome some cooler air soon as fall begins!

NMPS in the News

We were fortunate to be featured in a story on NBC New York on September 8th about our school-based health centers!



Connecticut school district offers mental health service

Teachers and school staff are working to address the mental health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lynda Baquero reports.

🔗 [nbcnewyork.com](https://www.nbcnewyork.com)

Get in the Game

SMS Girls Cross Country

Schaghticoke girls' Cross Country crushed it at Whisconier Middle School in Brookfield last week!



NMHS Soccer

Catch the Green Wave on Oct. 5th against Joel Barlow! JV @ 4pm, Varsity @ 6pm at your Joe Wiser Stadium, NMHS.



NMHS Football

Green Wave gets the win on Sept. 22nd! 33-14



NMHS Volleyball

Catch them battle Brookfield on Oct. 6th!

**"YOU'RE PLAYING A GAME,
WHETHER IT'S LITTLE LEAGUE OR
GAME 7 OF THE WORLD SERIES.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DO WELL
UNLESS YOU'RE HAVING A GOOD
TIME. PEOPLE TALK ABOUT
PRESSURE. YEAH, THERE'S
PRESSURE.
BUT I JUST LOOK AT IT AS FUN."**

—DEREK JETER

Collaborate!

#Collaboration is one of the District Ideas We Live By, and Ms. Bonnell and Ms. Sylvester create...



Food and Nutrition News

IMPORTANT NEWS About School Breakfast and School Lunch

Breakfast will be offered for Free to all New Milford students K – 12 during the 23-24 school year through funding from the State of Connecticut. Lunch will be offered to students for a cost, \$2.35 for grades K-5 and \$2.60/\$3.10 for grades 6-12. There is no charge for students who qualify for free meals and students who are eligible for reduced priced meals will receive lunch at no cost through the State funding.

Information on how to apply for Free and Reduced Lunch: Applications for free and reduced-price school meals with detailed instructions are available online at:

<https://www2.myschoolapps.com/>

Paper applications are also available at each school. If you have questions regarding the breakfast or lunch program, please call 860-354-3712. Our school meal program is made for students and their parents. Not only are our school meals delicious and nutritious, they're also convenient and affordable for you. Cereal, muffins, yogurt, juice, fruit and milk are just some of the selections at breakfast. There is a wide variety of lunch choices daily from a hot meal, cold meal, salads and sandwiches. With each meal students are offered a selection of low fat and fat free milk, colorful portions of fresh fruits and vegetables and a variety of whole grains and lean proteins.

Our full menus can be viewed at <https://newmilford.schoolinsites.com/menus>

A la carte snacks are also available for purchase in grades. All snacks meet strict nutrition guidelines. Choices can include muffins, fruit, yogurt, baked chips, popcorn, frozen desserts or a whole grain cookie. If you have concerns about your child's purchases, please call the cafeteria to discuss how limits may be placed on their account.

Concerned about allergies?? Labels of all the food we serve are readily available for viewing. For your convenience an easy online payment system is offered to fund and view your student's meal account at www.MySchoolBucks.com Payments can also be made with cash or a check in the cafeteria. Additional information can be found on the district website under the Food and Nutrition Services tab. You can follow Food Services on Twitter too @NMPSFoodService. Our friendly food service staff is here to serve your children the nutrition they need to succeed in school. We are happy to see your children back in our cafeterias!

NMSuperVideo: Food Services Department Information

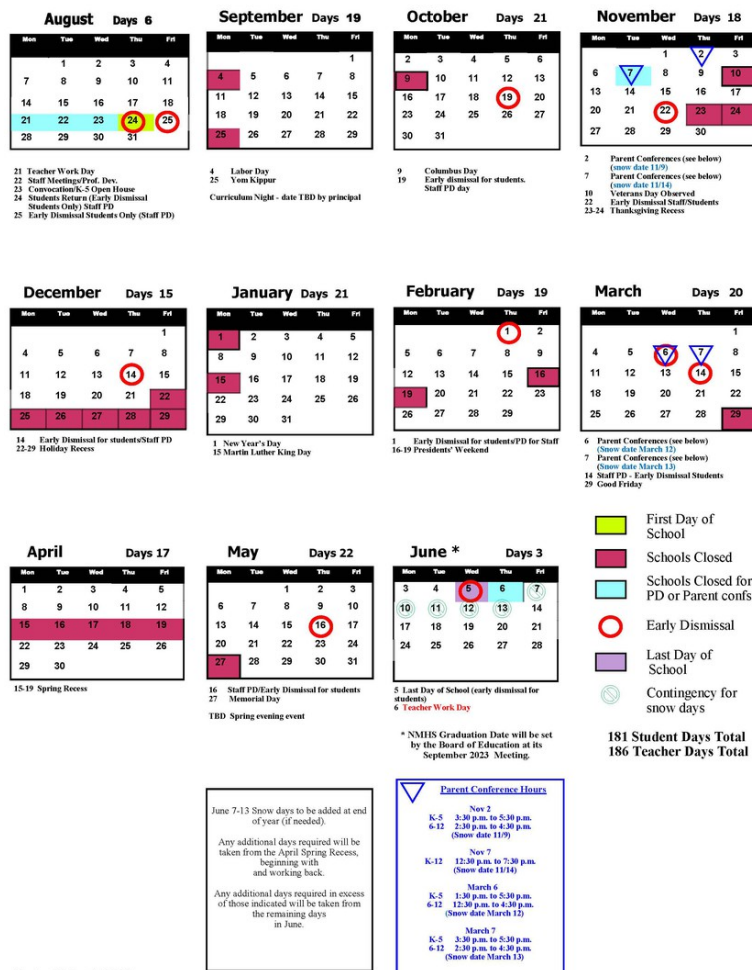


More Lunches!



2023-2024 Calendar

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023-2024 School Calendar



2023-2024 NMPS Calendar.pdf

Download

985.3 KB

What do you think? Are we done with all the ☁️?



Community Corner



TEEN ACTIVISTS & VOLUNTEERS

3:45-4:45
13
OCT

**NEW MILFORD PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

We are a group of kids who want to try
and make our community a bit better! We
also do volunteering work. Come join us!

For grades 6-12.

RSVP @

WWW.NEWMILFORDLIBRARY.ORG

INTERGENERATIONAL BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18
4:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

RSVP @
WWW.NEWMILFORDLIBRARY.ORG

Seniors and teens welcome!



Dig is a novel that unravels the secrets of
a dysfunctional family through a blend of
magical realism and raw, unforgettable
storytelling



HELP SAVE A LIFE

Don't Miss These **FREE** Training Opportunities!

📅 October 17, 2023

📍 The Maxx
94 Railroad St.
New Milford Ct



Attend both training sessions or pick one.

→ QPR GATEKEEPER

Suicide Prevention | 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Presented by the McCall Behavioral Health Network

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer — three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. As a QPR-trained Gatekeeper, you'll learn to recognize the warning signs of suicide, how to offer hope, and how to refer someone to resources in the community to help save a life. QPR is a nationally recognized, evidence-based training that grants participants certification considered active for three years.

→ NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION

Overdose Prevention | 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Presented by Greenwood's Counseling & Referrals

Attendees will receive a FREE Naloxone Kit with two 4-ML doses of Naloxone.

Topics that will be discussed:

- Overdose prevention strategies
- A brief history of Opioid Waves
- Local resources and support
- Signs and symptoms of an overdose
- How to administer Naloxone
- Current protective legislation



Interested in registering for either or both trainings?

Scan the QR Code or email Donna Bielefield at donna.bielefield@mccallbhn.org to register!



"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."



Pie Season! 🥧

50 Easy Desserts You'll *Definitely* Want to Try This Fall

Move aside, pumpkin pie! The fall dessert recipes on this list will have you thinking outside the box with candy, cakes, and more.

[https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/food-](https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/food-cooking/recipes/g36829839/fall-desserts-recipes/)

[cooking/recipes/g36829839/fall-desserts-recipes/](https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/food-cooking/recipes/g36829839/fall-desserts-recipes/)

Wait, don't 🍁 yet! We still have to get our groove on!
#latetotheparty



Superintendent's Office

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

