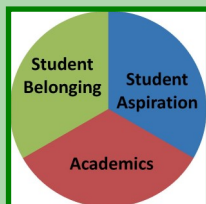




New Milford Public Schools  
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New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406  
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**New Milford High School**  
860-350-6647  
Mr. Raymond Manka, Principal  
Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Liz Curtis, 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 4

October 2022

## Offering a Wide Range of Experiences

The mission statement of New Milford Public Schools, which may be viewed on the last page of each monthly *Spotlight*, focuses on preparing “each and every student to compete and excel in an ever-changing world”. Providing effective instruction and dynamic curriculum is a focal point, but so is “offering a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations”. That last part is a primary function of the many activities that abound in our schools.

At the youngest level, PK-2, activities take place as part of the classroom experience, through recess, and in conjunction with PTO sponsored family events. Once students reach the intermediate level, they start dipping their toes further in.

SNIS students can choose to participate in band, chorus or PE intramurals before school. This fall, intramurals focus on Fitness and PE Games. Fitness starts with a track workout with PE teachers Mr. Mumma and Mrs. Brooks. A variety of tag games follow, to warm-up and prepare for the fitness workout ahead. Students improve their cardiovascular levels, muscular strength and endurance, and increase flexibility while having lots of fun. The tissue test (pictured below) was taken after completing the PACER challenge in the gym. All the hard work put in made the tissues stick to their foreheads! PE Games include student favorites like Awesome Alligator Attack, Battleship, and Hungry Hungry Hippo. This intramural focuses on cooperative games in the spirit of encouraging students to work together.



SNIS also offers a Stock Market Club to TAG students. In the Stock Market Game, students work together to create and manage a virtual investment portfolio of real-world stocks. Each team is responsible for researching and evaluating potential investments. Team members analyze their stocks to determine diversification of their portfolios

and losses and gains. Team members must also effectively come to cooperative decisions to buy, sell, or hold the stocks in their portfolios. Principal Anne Bilko says many different activities will be offered to all students throughout the year.



Activities really take off at the middle school level.

Besides band and chorus, SMS offers 10 interscholastic sports and 13 intramural sports. Additionally, students can choose to participate in 18 clubs and activities including Art Club, Newspaper Club, Student Council, and Drama Club. Some of our other favorites are Invention Convention, Board Games Club and Writing Club. SMS Principal Linda Scoralick says, "Clubs and activities are in full swing this month. Student participation has been enthusiastic and our advisors are all looking forward to a great year ahead filled with community, art, math, academics, robotics, writing, yearbook preparation, and drama - just to name a few!" A complete listing may be viewed [here](#).



By the time students reach the high school level, their choices are broad. Comprehensive music programs include Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Chorus. The Theater program offers a fall Dramatics production and the All School Musical in the spring. Students can add their talents both behind the scenes and on stage. A member of the South West Conference, NMHS offers 27 individual varsity programs with 24 sub-varsity teams within these programs.



Numerous clubs and activities take place over the course of the year. This year, students have over 80 choices! Many of them are traditional activities that appear year after year such as the Class Executive clubs, service clubs, honor societies and Yearbook. Others form based on staff and/or student interest. Some of this year's niche offerings include: Anime Club, Coloring Book Club, Cornhole Club, Forensic Crime Drama Club, Four Square Club, Hip-Hop Yoga Club, Investment Club, Jewelry Creations, Jigsaw Puzzle Club, Outdoor Adventure Club, Scrabble Club, Speed Walking Club, Sports Talk Club, Time to Express Yourself Club, and Weightlifting Club. Talk about variety! Wish we could sign up too!!

Most activities take place during scheduled Activity Period days that are offered once each month. Many of the groups meet during after school hours as well. To see this year's complete listing of activities at NMHS, click [here](#).





## News from Our Schools

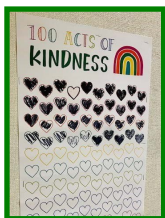
### *Hill and Plain Elementary School*

October was full of fun at HPS both during the school day for students and after school hours for our families. Students at HPS kicked off the month of October with picture day. Students were looking good and sporting their best smiles for the camera! We were also lucky to have our local firefighters visit the school twice this month for Fire Safety Month. Firefighters visited our students during lunch one day and came back another day with their firetrucks to talk to our students about fire safety and what the job of a firefighter entails. Students were also treated to a Zumba session as part of our celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Students had a blast trying their best to follow along with the guest instructor.



Our PTO Family Movie Night was a huge success. Many families attended the event and enjoyed the movie, a food truck and other movie related goodies. Families also had the opportunity to participate in a pumpkin decorating contest this month. Students got very creative decorating some very unique and interesting pumpkins! The month of October will end with our annual Book Character Day on October 31st. Our students always have a blast dressing up as their favorite book characters.

### *Northville Elementary School*



October has been very busy at NES. This month, we have implemented *100 Acts of Kindness*. We have created a bulletin board that is filled with hearts. Each heart colored in represents an act of kindness. We are very proud of our students as they display acts of kindness toward each other and their teachers each day.

The plant patch is buzzing with activity. Mrs. Rondini's class enjoyed helping with the harvest. Several classes made salsa with the vegetables they picked. We'd like to thank our stellar volunteers who have worked so hard in the plant patch this year! It continues to be a great resource for education, especially for life cycle studies, environmental science, and lessons in sustainable living.



The PTO sponsored the Scholastic Book Fair and their annual SPOOKTACULAR - a harvest themed family outing. Both events were a lot of fun. A big shout out to our wonderful PTO and everything they do at NES in a collaborative and supportive way!

On October 21st, the New Milford Fire Department sponsored Fire Safety Day complete with goodie bags, an ambulance, and many fire trucks! It was amazing and our students enjoyed learning about the many community helpers.

Looking ahead, the annual Book Character Parade will take place on Monday, October 31st. Students are encouraged to dress as their favorite character and hold the book that matches their character.



### ***Sarah Noble Intermediate School***



The SNIS Pledge to be respectful, responsible, honest, safe, and kind is a pledge we make each morning and something everyone at SNIS refers to several times a day. In October, SNIS staff and students participated in SNIS Pledge Week. Each morning, teachers reviewed the matrix character trait of the day and reviewed what it looks like to be a positive role model in all settings. Teachers celebrated students they found demonstrating SNIS traits each day!



In keeping with our pledge, thank you to families and staff that participated in our October Food Drive.

On October 21st, the SNIS PTO hosted a costume ball. It was very well attended by SNIS families and hundreds of ghosts, goblins, aliens, and princesses had a wonderful time!



Finally, Meet Bob! The students of Mrs. Holland's Room 142 worked together to make this scarecrow for the New Milford Parks and Recreation October contest on the town green. Bob will be representing all of SNIS!

### ***Schaghticoke Middle School***

In the month of October SMS was fortunate to host a number of outside guests for both in person and virtual visits. The first group to visit was the Fire Marshal and several other members of our local fire companies. Our guests spoke to students in lunch waves about



numerous aspects of fire safety. More recently, we welcomed friends and colleagues from the Shepaug Agriscience program, Henry Abbott Technical High School, and New Milford High School to talk to current 8th grade students about the high school selection process. Eighth grade students attended presentations in the Library Media Center by team to learn more about the amazing opportunities available at each of the three schools mentioned above.



October is a big sports month at SMS! Student athletes and coaches have been working hard to improve skills in practice, and then to apply these skills in competition. Boys and Girls Cross Country competed in the Western Connecticut Conference Championship meet in Wilton on October 24th. Both the Boys and Girls teams ran well. A total of nine athletes from SMS scored points for their team in the meet, with two earning All Conference Honors. Congratulations to everyone on a great race! Our field hockey team has been outstanding this season, currently holding a record of 8 wins and 1 loss. Soccer has also had a strong season, sporting a season evenly split in the category of wins and losses. We are incredibly proud of all of our student athletes and coaches! They have represented SMS well in the fall season. Now, we turn our attention to the winter season for basketball!

### ***New Milford High School***

On Wednesday, October 12th, all freshmen, sophomore and junior students took the PSAT/NMSQT® (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test), an important test that provides many benefits that can help students along their path to college. That night, NMHS held Financial Aid Night for students and parents, presenting information to help NMHS students and parents navigate their way through the Financial Aid process.

The NMHS Band and Color Guard have been extremely busy and successful in their fall competition season, even taking 3rd Place in the Ludwig Musser Classic on October 9th at Met Life Stadium.



On October 20th, the NMHS Music department was honored to be joined by the NMHS admin team, Interim Superintendent Paddyfote, Assistant Superintendent Hollander, and Board of Education members for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the purchase of four new pianos for the high school's music program. The oldest piano replaced in this purchase was 112 years old! While this was an incredible piece of history, Ms. Rosen and Mr. Syzdek (our NMHS music directors) are thrilled to have these new pianos for our students. As Ms. Rosen said that night, "Our students work incredibly hard to improve their craft both in our rehearsals and on their own time in our practice rooms. For all their time and dedica-

tion, we are incredibly thankful to support our students' learning with this purchase." The ribbon cutting was followed by the first concert of the year, always exciting as it shows the promise for the year to come.

Athletic Director Keith Lipinsky reports that October 19th was the 2022 SWC Championship Race Day for both Boys and Girls Cross Country. Both NMHS teams were victorious! An Amazing Day for the Green Wave!

For the Girls Cross Country team, this is the 7th SWC Cross Country Championship in school history. Sydney Kelleher finished 1st overall in the race. New Milford's top 5 runners finished in the following order:

- 1st - Sydney Kelleher - 1st Team All SWC
- 3rd - Mya Morabito - 1st Team All SWC
- 7th - Isabel Greene - 1st Team All SWC
- 8th - Katherine Taborsak - 1st Team All SWC
- 15th - Elizabeth Rainey - 2nd Team All SWC



For the Boys Cross Country team, this is the 19th SWC Cross Country Championship in school history. Collin Walsh finished 1st overall in the race. New Milford's top 5 Runners finished in the following order:

- 1st - Collin Walsh - 1st Team All SWC
- 2nd - Ben Daniels - 1st Team All SWC
- 3rd - AJ Taborsak - 1st Team All SWC
- 6th - Ben Schipul - 1st Team All SWC
- 14th - Caleb Cerra - 2nd Team All SWC

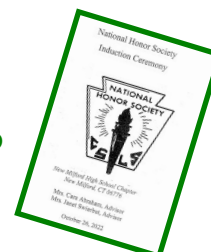


NMHS held Spirit Week October 17-21, with spirit days, a pep rally, multiple sporting events and the Homecoming Dance.

The first Wingman day of the year was held October 26th. The Wingman program is a unique youth leadership program that inspires all children to go above and beyond to create inclusive communities in their schools. Trained Wingman student leaders work with their peers with hands-on activities on Wingman day to foster empathy and empower people with the belief that they matter. Students walk away with skills and strategies to apply to their everyday interactions with others. This program originated from Dylan's Wings of Change and the Sandy Hook Tragedy and supports students to Look Up, Look Out and Look After one another.



On October 26th, the NMHS National Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony. Congratulations to the fifty-nine students who joined the Society's ranks. To see a listing, click [here](#).



## District-wide



Calling all veterans!  
All our schools will be honoring veterans  
with events and assemblies  
around the Veterans Day holiday.  
Schools have reached out to their families  
individually with details.  
We look forward to sharing highlights  
in the November *Spotlight*.



A NMPS substitute was the recipient of the ESS Employee of the Month Award. Anna Pelillo, a frequent substitute at Northville Elementary School, was nominated and selected as ESS Employee of the Month.

NES Secretary to the Principal Kim Valzania made the nomination saying, “Mrs. Pelillo comes to work each day with a bright smile and a ‘can do’ attitude. The one thing we always value in our substitute pool is the ability of the sub to adjust to sudden gear switching, and know where he, or she, is needed the most. Work ethic is important too, and Anna is reliable, communicative, trustworthy, and always right on time. She is a favorite among staff, and students alike. She is a stellar employee who represents ESS quite well!”

Beth Salaris, ESS Senior Regional Manager, agrees stating, “We are proud of Anna’s work, and very thankful the district took the time to nominate her. In recognition for her award, Anna received a certificate, some ESS swag, and a gift card.”



NMPS faculty and staff participated in professional development following students’ early release on October 20th. Topics included using data to drive deep learning, the Science of Reading, Tier 1 intervention strategies, utilizing iReady data to form small group instruction, interdisciplinary connections in cultural arts, and SEL planning and the development guidance curriculum.

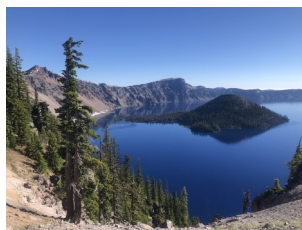
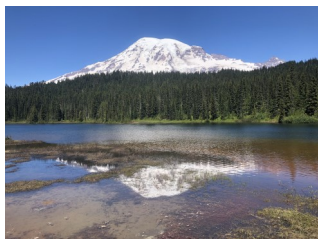


## Fellowship Grant Benefits Teacher (and Students)

The March 2022 *Spotlight* shared the good news that NMHS teachers Colleen Jewell and Lori Cerra were the recipients of fellowship grants from Fund for Teachers (FFT). Per their website, “By trusting teachers to design unique fellowships, Fund for Teachers grants validate teachers’ professionalism and leadership. Since 2001, Fund for Teachers has invested \$35 million in nearly 9,200 teachers, transforming grants into growth for teachers and their students.”

In order to receive this grant, teachers have to decide what they need to learn and where they should go. They are responsible for developing their budget and presenting it to the Foundation. The Fellowship provides up to \$5,000 to cover travel, lodging and food expenses as well as tuition/conference fees/guide fees as pertinent to their fellowship. Ms. Jewell’s planned trip to Quito, Ecuador was put on hold for a year due to world events. Mrs. Cerra had much better luck in her travels through the Pacific Northwest and five national parks to document best practices in maker spaces and craft themes for units of study for the LLC.

Mrs. Cerra, who is now the Library Media Specialist at SNIS, used her award to travel the US West Coast from Seattle to San Francisco and then east to Yosemite, Death Valley and out of Las Vegas. “The trip encompassed 2,405 miles, 5 states, 14 nights, 8 hotels, and 7 National Parks/forests,” says Mrs. Cerra. “I am so thankful that FFT gave me this learning opportunity!”



Mrs. Cerra said there were so many trip highlights, it is difficult to narrow them down but chief among them are: hiking in the snow at Mt. Rainier; receiving first hand Sasquatch information from North Fork Survivors in Toutle, WA; fish flying at Pike's Place Market, Seattle; being in Eugene, Oregon during the World Track and Field event (1st time US ever hosted!); California Gold Mining - legit mining! (We walked away with about 30\$ in gold, a bullet fragment, devils dice and an old penny!); Alcatraz Island; attempting to sled on the sand dunes of Death Valley; driving on Lombard Street, San Francisco; and staying about 20 miles from the Oak Fire in Yosemite - it was raining ashes and the sky was orange!

Mrs. Cerra says, “I can’t wait to incorporate these authentic experiences into the classes I teach in the SNIS Library. For example, during inquiry lessons, students can analyze and question the effects of Death Valley being the hottest, driest, and lowest place in the US. When discussing perspective, students can examine different elements of the national parks and justify why one would want to visit. My real-life experiences will help make it so much more real for students. I hope other teachers will think about applying for a FFT grant. It truly was a once in a lifetime experience.”





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



**Claudia DeMoura, NMHS Counselor**

*“Claudia goes above and beyond her duties as a guidance counselor. I have witnessed her dedication countless numbers of times. She worked many hours outside her normal schedule to assure a smooth beginning of the school year. She always has students in mind.”*

**Gina Fabiano, NES Food Services**

*“Gina is wonderful - she performs her job with a smile and a terrific, positive attitude. Gina brings her humor, grace, work ethic and valued skill set into work each day, making lunch time a stress-free experience for our students!”*



**Jaimee Keppel, SNIS Teacher**

*“Jaimee goes above and beyond for her students each and every day. She makes sure her lessons are engaging and differentiated to meet the needs of every child in her classroom. Her students are lucky to have an amazing teacher that cares for them so much.”*

**Chantel Kitzke, HPS Tutor**

*“Mrs. Kitzke (Ms. K) is such an asset to HPS. She has patience when working with our kids who need an extra hand. She is kind and takes her time to show the students that they really matter. She goes beyond to call of duty to help others as well. We would be lost without Ms. K.”*



### 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.





## New Milford Public Schools

50 East Street  
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**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

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**Mr. Pete Helmus**  
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**Mrs. Tammy McInerney**  
Assistant Secretary

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**Mr. Brian McCauley**

**Mr. Tom O'Brien**

**Ms. Leslie Sarich**

**Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.**



## National Apple Month

October is National Apple Month, a time to celebrate these delicious fruits and all the goodies we love to make from them.

### *Fun Facts About Apples*

- ◆ Apple trees can take as long as 5 years to begin producing apples.
- ◆ An average apple tree can produce over 800 pounds of apples.
- ◆ Apples are actually a member of the rose family.
- ◆ It takes over 30 apples to make one gallon of apple cider.
- ◆ Apple trees can live over 100 years.
- ◆ Most apple blossoms are pink when they open but gradually transform into white.
- ◆ Most apples are still picked by hand.
- ◆ Apples come in all sizes from just a bit bigger than a cherry to about the same size as a grapefruit.
- ◆ The average apple has 10 seeds.
- ◆ Bobbing for apples? 25% of an apples volume is air, which is why they float.
- ◆ Malusdomesticaphobia is a fear of apples.

On average, each American consumes about 16 pounds of apples every year, so it's good that the trees produce as much of the delicious fruit as they do. There are more than 7,500 different varieties of apples grown worldwide, and in the United States, 100 apple varieties are grown commercially. That means plenty of Red Delicious, McIntosh, and Fujis for all.

Apples are widely considered a "super fruit" because they're so healthy. They are naturally free of fat, cholesterol, and sodium, low in calories, and a good source of dietary fiber. Applesauce, apple pie, apple cider, caramel apples—so many of our favorite fall moments involve apples.

With the holidays coming up, there are plenty of opportunities to experiment. Search apple recipes online and you'll be inspired! Maybe munch on an apple while you look...



# O c t o b e r i s

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.