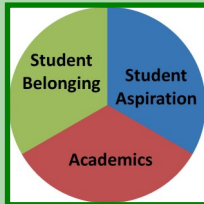




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647
Mr. Raymond Manka, Principal
Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
Dr. Megan Dwyer, 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 2

August 2022



***It's Almost Here...
the 2022-23 School Year!***

**First Day of School for Students
Tuesday, September 6, 2022**

Early dismissal schedule that day:

NMHS and SMS students

7:35 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

HPS, NES and SNIS students

8:50 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Open Houses/Walkthroughs
Friday, September 2, 2022**

Grades K-2	HPS/NES	12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Grades 3-5	SNIS	1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Grades 6-8	SMS	11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Curriculum Nights

Grades K-2	HPS/NES	Sept. 13	5:30 p.m.
Grades 3-4	SNIS	Sept. 15	6:00 p.m.
Grade 5	SNIS	Sept. 22	7:00 p.m.
Grades 6-8	SMS	Sept. 29	6:00 p.m.
Grades 9-12	NMHS	Sept. 21	7:00 p.m.

Registration and Scheduling/Annual Notifications



Administrative staff spend much of the summer months tracking the comings and goings of students, since final scheduling of classes is determined by current student enrollment numbers. These numbers change right up to the first day of school and beyond! That is why students do not receive class information and schedules until shortly before school starts. Schedules may be viewed on the Parent Portal beginning August 29th at 4 PM. All parents should watch their email

over the coming days for back-to-school information for students, including annual notifications and procedures regarding delays and/or closing of schools.

Bus Routes for 2022-23

Bus routes for 2022-23 can be viewed [online at the district website](#). We ask for your patience with bus time pick up and drop off during the first few days of school as drivers and students settle into their routes.



Celebrating NMPS Staff

Nominate a NMPS Star of the Month for 2022-23!



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.

To see a listing of previous years' monthly winners, as well as past New Milford teacher of the year recipients, visit the [Staff Recognition page](#) of the district website.

Watch for a very special recognition in our September *Spotlight* with the announcement of New Milford Public Schools' Teacher of the Year for 22-23!



Stay Connected...



One of the best sources for information about New Milford Public School events and happenings is our website: <http://www.newmilfordps.org>

From the home page, you can visit websites of the individual schools, see a calendar of events, email staff, download district forms and more.

Can't find your answer on the website?

Call the Central Office for general questions or individual schools for school specific inquiries. Phone numbers are listed on page 1 of this newsletter.

Like your news faster?

Customize our [School Messenger](#) service for important alerts and district emails.



Are you a twitter fan? All our schools (and many staff members) tweet! Follow them at:

@NMHS_CT

@SMS_CT

@SNIS_CT

@NES_CT

@HPS_CT

@nmps_supt

PowerSchool Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is a feature of the PowerSchool Student Information System that provides parents and guardians immediate access to student records and digital forms.



Want to know what's happening at the district level?

Attend Board of Education meetings or watch video recording. Links to the schedule, plus the minutes of all Sub-Committee and full Board meetings that have taken place, are posted [on our website](#) under the Board of Education tab.



REMEMBER: Staying informed works both ways. Please make certain that your child's school has your most up-to-date contact information by completing the back to school forms distributed at the beginning of the school year and by providing any needed updates throughout the year.



School Breakfast & School Lunch for FREE!

The Food and Nutrition Department has important news! Through funding by the State of Connecticut, all schools will begin the 22-23 school year with school breakfast and lunch free. **The length of this funding is uncertain and meals will eventually go back to being paid, free or reduced price. This is anticipated to happen before January 1, 2023.**

The district will provide families with ample notification prior to this happening.

Even though meals will be free to start the school year, **it remains critical that you complete and submit your free and reduced-price meal application.** This will help avoid unnecessary charges to your student's account when the district transitions back to a paid, free or reduced price meal system. If you have qualified for Free/Reduced meals in the past or feel you may qualify at the present time, please complete an application. Applications for free and reduced-price school meals with detailed instructions are available online at:

www.myschoolapps.com/Home/DistrictRedirect/NEWMILFORDPS_CT?langid=1

Paper applications are available at each school.

A variety of breakfast and lunch choices are offered daily at each school. Menus can be viewed at <https://newmilford.schoolinsites.com/menus>. Selections include both hot and cold options with lean proteins, whole grains, a variety of milk along with colorful portions of fresh fruits and vegetables. All meals served meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Concerned about allergies?

Labels of all the food we serve are readily available for viewing.

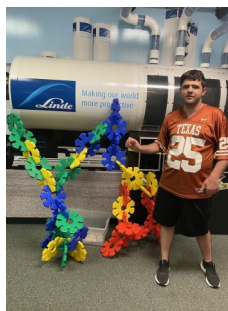
A la carte snacks are available for purchase. All snacks meet strict nutrition guidelines. For your convenience, an easy online payment system is offered to fund and view your student's meal account at www.MySchoolBucks.com. Payments can also be made with cash or a check in the cafeteria. Additional information can be found on the district website under the Food and Nutrition Services tab.

Summer Programs Complete Successful Season

New Milford Public Schools hosted several successful programs this summer.

The Extended School Year Program, which serviced approximately 230 students with disabilities, ages 18-22, was originally scheduled to run at NMHS, but due to the fire was moved to NES and SMS. Both schools welcomed staff and students with open arms, and without missing a beat (and with only a few days delay) teachers, related service staff, paras, and student care workers were ready. Our students and families showed flexibility and resilience and were great with the quick transition.

Participating students joined us for our ILC programming or Reading and Math Tutorial. The students worked on their individual needs and were able to have fun working with staff in our small group settings. Our older students were able to venture into the community, going to museums and Town Hall for an educational tour by the Mayor, and treats at Tasty Wave. There were guest appearances by New Milford's finest and Clover the Therapy Dog.

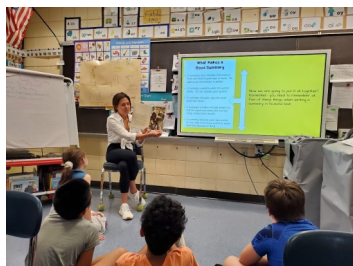


Now in its sixth year, the Summer Bridge Program ran successfully from July 11th to July 28th at Northville Elementary School. Over fifty incoming 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students attended the three-week program which gives students an academic “boost” for the upcoming school year. Students attending the program received additional instructional support in both math and reading to better prepare them to meet those standards in their upcoming school year.

Originally scheduled to be at New Milford High School, the program launched at the new location of NES due in large part to the collaboration of the district's leadership and flexibility of the staff. Teachers got to work right away in preparing their classrooms, materials, and lessons.

“Although we had to change location from the high school pretty quickly, the teachers didn't miss a beat.”, remarked Jeff Bronn, one of the program's administrators. “Everything ran smoothly and the students were happy to be here each day. It's a testament to the work and approach of the staff.”

In English Language Arts instruction, students in all four grade levels built skills on identifying main ideas, details, and writing summaries of non-fiction texts. In Math instruction, students worked on a range of skills, from adding and subtracting multiple digits to multiplying and dividing fractions.



Students took a pre-assessment on the first day of the program and then completed a post-assessment at the end of the three weeks. Based on the scores, 95% of students improved from their initial scores in both ELA and Math! The skills developed in the Bridge program will hopefully carry over into the new school year, giving these students more success and confidence.

The NMHS Summer Credit Recovery Program, now in its second year, ran successfully from July 5th to July 28th at Schaghticoke Middle School. The program served over 35 students ranging from 9th to 12th grade. Both regular and special education students attended the four-week program. This program gave students an opportunity to recover credits for classes they struggled with during the school year.

This year New Milford purchased the Edgenuity Program for the Credit Recovery Program. The Edgenuity courseware provided students with flexible digital content and curriculum that engaged and motivated them to take ownership of their learning. The students attending the program received additional instructional support when needed by our high school teachers who lead the program.

Students in the Credit Recovery Program worked on courses that ranged from English I to Earth Science (with virtual labs!) to Social Studies classes.

Summer School Administrator Mrs. Slater shared, “It was a very successful program, students enjoyed the interactive digital lessons along with having the teacher support each day. The students really were focused and worked hard to recover their credits.”

Another successful program offered this summer was the Litchfield Hills Transition Center (LHTC) Program. LHTC is part of New Milford Public Schools, and prepares young adults with disabilities to become productive and contributing members of the community. The students range in age from 18-22 year olds. This summer, the program met two days a week and ran from July 6th through July 27th.

The staff at LHTC worked collaboratively with community stakeholders, and the district BCBA, to create well-balanced developmental programs that focused on improving employability skills, increasing independence, and building stronger independent living skills.

LHTC staff did an amazing job with the students providing them authentic work experiences. This summer the students volunteered at Camella’s Cupboard, where they assisted in preparing donations for the food pantry distribution. Teacher Ashley Albanese, who led the program, states, “The summer program is a great experience for these students, to keep their skills strong, and allows the new students to get acclimated to the LHTC program before they start in the fall.”

NMPS Leadership Update

At a Special Meeting on July 28, 2022, the New Milford Board of Education voted to appoint Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote as Interim Superintendent for New Milford Public Schools, with a start date of August 15th.

Dr. Paddyfote is a familiar face to many, having had a long and distinguished career in New Milford prior to her retirement in 2016. She joined New Milford Public Schools in 1980 as Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services, and held that position until 2001. Dr. Paddyfote then served as Assistant Superintendent for one year and as Interim Superintendent for three years prior to being named Superintendent in 2005. Following her retirement from New Milford, Dr. Paddyfote has successfully navigated several interim positions in other districts, including serving as Interim Superintendent for Regional School District 17 and for the Avon, Ridgefield, and Madison Public Schools. Most recently, she has served as Interim Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services for the Watertown Public Schools.



Board of Education Chair Wendy Faulenbach states, “The district is extremely fortunate to have a leader of Dr. Paddyfote’s caliber available to fill in for us at this time as we transition to permanent leadership. We are grateful to Dr. Paddyfote for her willingness to take on the many challenges facing us and we are extremely confident in her ability to lead us on the right path.”

The search for a permanent superintendent is already underway. The Board has retained CAFE Executive Search Services to help navigate the search process. The independent consultants have supported boards of education in searches for superintendents for over three decades, bringing objectivity, confidentiality and integrity to every aspect of the search. They will work with the community and our Board of Education to guide our outreach to prospective candidates to find the best available match for New Milford Public Schools. The first planning meeting will take place on September 1st.

Welcome New Teachers!

Newly hired teachers attended a three day orientation program on August 17-19. Facilitated by Assistant Superintendent Holly Hollander, the program provided teachers with important information on curriculum and instruction, as well as on the day to day workings of the district.

Watch for the September *Spotlight* to get to know a little bit about the teachers and other new staff for the 22-23 school year.





New Milford Public Schools

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

Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Interim 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

Mr. Jeffrey Turner
Technology Director

Board of Education

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Chairperson

Mr. Pete Helmus
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Olga I. Rella
Secretary

Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Eric Hansell

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. Tom O'Brien

Ms. Leslie Sarich

Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.

Transitioning from Summer to School Mode

*Courtesy of care.com

With school comes stricter wake-up times and packed schedules, not to mention a whole host of new rules and obligations and expectations to juggle. Here are a few suggestions to ease the transition:

1. **Start early and go slow.**

Going from summer mode to school mode takes time. Try to make any changes little by little to avoid a shock to the system. The first step to transitioning from summer to school? Talk about it.

2. **Sync up sleep schedules.**

If summer mornings are lazy affairs in your house, mornings during the school year can feel downright frazzling. The kids are tired. You're tired. It's hard on everyone involved. Avoid the back-to-school morning chaos by getting your family's sleep schedule back on track early.

3. **Ease into a routine.**

That gradual shift is key. Slowly transitioning to an earlier bedtime and wake-up time is especially important for adolescents, whose biology naturally steers them toward a later sleep schedule.

4. **Engage in structured activities.**

By having some structured activities during the summer, you'll help your kids get used to the idea of following instructions, accomplishing specific tasks and working under the clock, just like they will at school. Structured activities could include academic tasks, like completing a set number of workbook pages each day, but they don't have to. One example could be asking your children to create a specific art project or craft or to plan and prepare a meal.

5. **Attend offered open houses**

Take advantage of opportunities where parents can meet with teachers before school starts. See dates and times on page 1 of this newsletter!

Back to School

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.