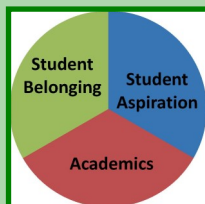




New Milford Public Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406  
[www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org)



**New Milford High School**  
860-350-6647

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



**Schaghticoke Middle School**  
860-354-2204

Ms. Linda Scoralick, Interim Principal  
Mr. Michael Boucher, Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal  
Mr. Jim Matranga, Interim 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

# Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 12, Issue 9

March 2022



## School-Based Behavioral Health Services Offered in Two New Milford Schools This Spring—More To Come!

School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are coming to New Milford Public Schools. In partnership with CT Institute For Communities, Inc., we are engaging in an innovative initiative to support students and families. SBHCs will offer families behavioral and physical wellness opportunities that typically occur outside the school walls. With busy schedules, families often need to juggle and rearrange their day in order to bring their children to appointments, and, as a result, students may need to miss valuable learning time. While not meant to replace the work of your health providers or our school personnel (nurses, social workers, etc.), the SBHCs will provide an additional option to families.

Behavioral health services are already available to students at New Milford High School and Schaghticoke Middle School. They are part of a larger-scale plan to offer behavioral health and medical services to all schools in the Fall of 2022. Information sessions have been held for parents and guardians to share more information. We plan to provide additional opportunities for the families and the community to learn more through community conversations and our district webpage in the near future.

According to Melanie Bonjour, CIFC School-Based Health Center Program Manager, "The overarching goal of the service delivery model is to support a student's academic achievement by reducing a student's number of days absent from school by diagnosing and treating problems early so that they can attend classes healthy, happy, and ready to learn." Services will be offered with no out-of-pocket costs to families. Insurance may be billed; however, parents will not be responsible for copays or deductibles. Uninsured students will be offered a sliding fee scale and assisted in enrolling in the State's HUSKY insurance plan.

Our district recognizes and values our partnership with families. Supporting student success requires us (schools, families, and the community) to attend to the whole child. As a result, we can work to meet the needs of students and ensure their success and preparedness for life, learning, and work beyond school. [Click here](#) for more information.

## More News from Our Schools

### *Hill and Plain Elementary School*

Hill and Plain had a busy month as our PTO helped sponsor some fun events. We had another successful Book Fair and we thank all of our families that helped support our school by attending. Our annual Read-A-Thon was a huge success with Hill and Plain students reading over 78,000 minutes during the month-long event.



Students and staff had a great time on National Read Across America Day. Community members visited us virtually to read to a class, while other school staff including our secretaries, School Resource Officer, school nurse and more visited other classes throughout the day to help promote the fun of reading.



Students also had fun dressing up for Career Day, a K-5 PTO sponsored Spirit Day! Barkley continued to make his rounds, much to the delight of students caught showing “I Matter, You Matter, School Matters!”



Thank you to all of our parents who joined us for conferences.

It was great to meet and have discussions about the progress our students have been making. Kindergarten registration for next school year continues to be open. Families can go to the district website to start the online registration process.

### *Northville Elementary School*

The winds of March have arrived in full force, and so too have the winds of renewal. There is a freshness in the air, and we are indeed breathing easier these days. Students and staff continue to ask questions, stay curious and learn, learn, learn! We’ve been enjoying the “warmer” weather, and getting outside quite a bit, although the puddles and wet grass prove to be a challenge!

Integrity is our theme this month. Integrity means doing the right thing “even if no one is looking.” This month we created a bulletin board with colored hand cut-outs to make a rainbow showcasing students who demonstrate Integrity. Students in each class will be recognized for being patient, honest, trustworthy, respectful, hardworking, and helpful. The board is filling up!





On March 2nd we participated in Read Across America Day. Community and Education Leaders read to our classes virtually, and many staff members did it "in person"! Here is a picture of The Cat in the Hat from Mrs. Waldman's art class - drawn and colored by Vincent from Kindergarten. The staff and students at NES truly enjoyed Read Across America day.



In Guidance class, students have been learning what to do with big feelings. Kindergarten and first-grade students learned calming tools for managing anger. Second graders were introduced to The Zones of Regulation, a cognitive-behavioral approach used to teach how to regulate feelings, energy and sensory needs. Students also learned about the importance of forgiveness as part of the Choose Love formula for well-being.



This month, students riverdanced their way into March with Irish music and a focus on pitch and musical contour. Second grade "got reel" with learning how to read lines and spaces. First grade experimented with composing on a one line felt board and Kindergarten and Excel worked on playing with high and low sounds.

St. Patrick's Day was a fun experience for students. Mr. MacKessy's "Cousin Sean" filled in for the day, complete with an Irish accent and Shamrock patterned duds that "proved" he was an "authentic" Irishman! The children enjoyed his "visit" to their classroom. Kudos to Mr. MacKessy for not breaking character! Kindergartens designed leprechaun traps to see if they could catch some luck.



NES students also embraced the Spirit of Career Day costumes.



This month we bid farewell to NES Assistant Principal Cathy Calabrese. Mrs. Calabrese set a stellar example for the students and staff here at NES. Her integrity, passion for education, sense of humor, and dedication is unparalleled, and will be sorely missed.



## Sarah Noble Intermediate School

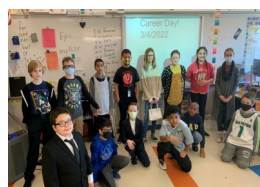


On March 2nd, SNIS students celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by doing a grade wide 'read in'. This annual event coincides with the K-2 Read Across America events.

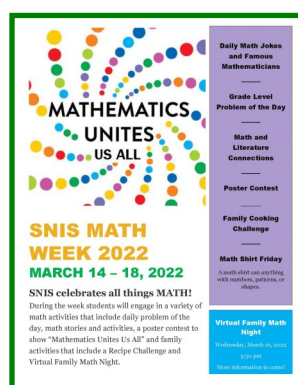
March 17th was a lucky day at SNIS as students were greeted by our old friend, Jonathan Henken, a talented Bagpiper. For many years, he has greeted students on St. Patrick's Day. This year he greeted students and marched through the hallways. Students loved the opportunity to see and hear Mr. Henken as they began their day!



SNIS students showcased their career aspirations as part of the PTO sponsored Career Day.



Fourth grade students at SNIS collected money to be donated to The New Milford Animal Welfare Society. They called this act of kindness, "Pennies for Pets." Throughout the month, students brought in pennies and other coins to help the furry friends of our community. Not only did they raise money for our furry friends in need, but got in some math practice too. The students counted out the pennies into groups of 100 to be rolled. Many math discussions were had on how best to create these groups of 100. The money is still being rolled and counted as the students have learned how much work it is to count hundreds and hundreds of pennies!

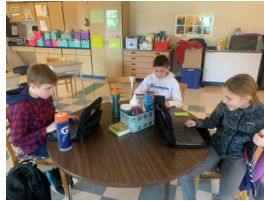
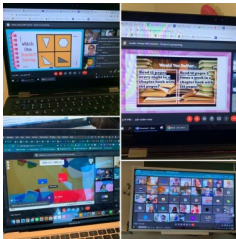


This month, SNIS held their second annual Math Week planned by Math Coach, Mrs. Muir, and Technology Integration Specialist, Mrs. Bonnell. The week started with sidewalk chalk math, with students arriving at school to see math problems written all over the sidewalks, track, and catwalk by parent drop off.

Each morning on the daily announcements, students heard about a famous mathematician and a silly math joke. In classrooms, students worked on challenging math problems of the day. On Tuesday, there was a math scavenger hunt around the building, both inside and outside.



Mrs. Muir says, “On Wednesday, we held our first ever Family Math Night virtually. Over 100 people attended and participated in live math sessions with teachers. Some activities included math games, an escape room, estimation activities, ‘Would You Rather’ discussions, math mind benders, and interactive math trivia style activities. There was also a section of activities that were meant for families to work on independently that includes estimation mysteries, dice and card games, and interactive two part math problems, as well as a page developed by some 5th grade students who love math, that included escape rooms, puzzles, and much more.” The site is still available for families to use [here](#). On Thursday, classes participated in a St Patrick’s Day themed estimating activity. The week ended with a school wide Math Shirt Friday and classes reading a math story and completing activities based on the story.



A school wide math poster contest was open all week, where over 200 students created posters for the theme “Mathematics Unites Us All” along with a family cooking challenge where families would plan, purchase, and make a meal together and then share their experience, recipe, and pictures on a school wide Padlet. With the wide variety of activities, there was something to interest every budding mathematician!

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



SMS held a virtual Meet and Greet on the evening of March 22nd to welcome new Assistant Principal Michael Boucher.

In the classroom, seventh grade students in Mrs. Santovasi’s Tech classes have been planning their dream vacation. Students use Google Sheets to plan their itinerary and budget for the trip. There are many destinations that students are researching and planning adventures in, including Disney World, Las Vegas, and Paris. This is a real-world assignment that gets students' thinking about costs in the real world. In Mrs. Patella’s ELA Writing classes, sixth grade students have been engaging in rich discussion about personality traits and how dynamic characters change their personalities based on their settings, events, and other characters. Students have been learning about these things while reading the mentor text “Raymond’s Run” and then applying their knowledge through small group discussions. During these discussions students work on making claims about characters that show multiple traits and then grow as a person throughout the story. Students then use evidence from the text to support their claims. Mrs. Patella is very proud of her students and shared that they are making great connections to the importance of their own social-emotional learning.

The SMS Drama Club is working hard on their production, “The Claw.” The show has been cast and rehearsals are taking place each week under the direction of Mrs. Beddows and Mrs. Bernard. Performances will be Thursday, May 19th and Friday, May 20th!

From the world of Athletics, spring sports will be starting soon. Students at SMS will have the opportunity to participate in baseball, softball, track and field, and frisbee this year.

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

On March 1st, NMHS administrators hosted Incoming Freshmen Night virtually for students entering the high school in 2022-23 and their parents. Staff covered academic expectations, introduced the new online scheduling process using PowerSchool, and shared information regarding athletics, theater, band and other activities.

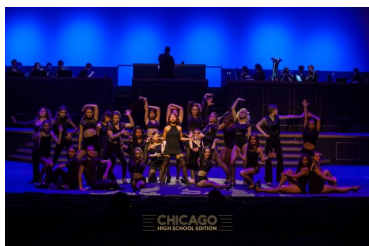
On Saturday, March 5th, the New Milford High School "Green Heat" Winter Percussion performed in a Musical Arts Conference competition at Trumbull High School. They placed 1st in their class performing their show, Let There Be Light. The group followed up that victory with a second win of the season at Shelton High School. The Winter Percussion competition season concludes on April 9th with championships at Westhill High School. Congratulations and good luck. Go Green Heat!

Congratulations to the following students who placed at the DECA State Competition:



*Trevor Allen* for Principles of Marketing  
*Joe Cafiero* and *Tyler Pilch* for Marketing Management  
 Team Decision Making  
*Jack Cossari* for Entrepreneurship  
*Ian Lee* for Sports and Entertainment Marketing  
*Brady O'Neill* for Principles of Finance

Two NMHS students featured in the Brookfield Craft Center 'Artists on the Rise' exhibition won awards for their work. Congratulations to Craig Hulse for his first place in Ceramics and to Amani Rivera for her second place finish.



Chicago was a huge success!  
 Congratulations to all who participated,  
 whether it was on stage or behind the scenes!  
 A talented group for sure.

Key Club is sponsoring Reinvent the Dress, offering free prom dresses and accessories to students. Donations of prom dresses, shoes, and accessories will be accepted through April 7th.



NMHS teachers Colleen Jewell and Lori Cerra were the excited recipients of fellowship grants from Fund for Teachers. 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 tuitions/conference fees/guide fees as pertinent to their fellowship. This year 98 CT teachers are being awarded fellowships. In the past seven years, nearly 900 CT teachers have been Fund for Teachers grant recipients.



Ms. Cerra (surprised at her good fortune) will be traveling through the Pacific Northwest to document best practices in maker spaces. She will also be visiting five national parks to craft themes for units of study for the LLC.

Ms. Jewell (pictured with some of her students) will be traveling to Quito, Ecuador to enroll in the Instituto Superior de Espanol to study literacy, culture and language with the intent of better understanding and engaging new arrival EL students and their culture.



## National Nutrition Month

National Nutrition Month is an annual campaign, observed each March, created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. It is dedicated to helping people learn about making informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits. This year's theme is "Celebrate a World of Flavors". The [Academy's website](#) offers a variety of resources including meal planning, tip sheets, games and activities. Some of our favorites are:

- ♦ 20 Health Tips for 2022
- ♦ 20 Ways to Enjoy More Fruits and Vegetables
- ♦ Eating Right on a Budget
- ♦ Healthy Eating on the Run: A Month of Tips
- ♦ Personalizing Your Plate to Include Foods from Other Cultures
- ♦ Smart Snacking Tips for Kids
- ♦ Smart Ways to Make Physical Activity Part of Your Day
- ♦ Vary Your Diet: Try New Flavors from Around the World



**WE ARE  
HIRING**

JOIN OUR TEAM!  
NEW MILFORD FOOD  
AND NUTRITION  
DEPARTMENT

**OPEN POSITIONS:**  
General Food Service  
Workers

For more information please call:  
The Food & Nutrition Office (860) 354-3712

At NMPS, our Food Services department celebrated the month with Meatless Mondays and by introducing their new Charcuterie Lunch at the elementary level.

Interested in helping to  
feed our students?  
Food & Nutrition Services is hiring!  
For more information,  
call the office at (860) 354-3712.

## Teacher of the Year Nominations are Open

Teacher of the Year Committee Co-Chairpersons, Connie Williams & Roxanne Kraft, are pleased to announce this year's Teacher of the Year process:

Last year, the district's Teacher of the Year Committee piloted a revised and expanded process for selecting the district's Teacher of the Year. The committee's desire was to provide an opportunity for more teachers to be honored for their exemplary work and dedication to students, families, and colleagues. The new program included naming a Teacher of the Year at each of the district's five schools, then selecting the district Teacher of the Year from those candidates. The program was an overwhelming success, with the committee receiving 174 nomination forms from students, parents, and staff. Eighty-nine educators were nominated! The five Teachers of the Year were announced at each school in June, and the district Teacher of the Year, Lisa Montemurro, was announced during convocation in August. The Committee has decided that it will again follow this format for the current school year.



According to the CT Department of Education's website, *"The Teacher of the Year Program recognizes and honors teacher excellence. It does not attempt to select the "best" teacher; rather, to identify, from among many outstanding teachers of the year, one teacher to serve as a visible and vocal representative of what is best in the profession. The program celebrates excellence in teaching by recognizing teachers who have inspired a love for learning in their students and who have distinguished themselves in the profession."*

Beginning on Monday, March 28th and continuing until Friday, April 8th, staff, parents, and students will again be invited to nominate educators that they believe show excellence in teaching. After the nomination process has concluded, a list of eligible candidates will be announced. *Staff at each school will then vote for their school's Teacher of the Year.* Announcements will be made in mid-May as our Superintendent, Alisha DiCorpo, along with members of the committee and this year's Teachers of the Year will surprise each school's new Teacher of the Year with the official announcement. Each Teacher of the Year from all 5 schools will then be given an opportunity to move forward as a nominee for the district title. The full district committee will convene to follow the same process they have followed in the past to choose our district's Teacher of the Year. This educator will then be eligible to submit an application to the State Department of Education for consideration as Connecticut's Teacher of the Year. The teachers' application packet includes biographical and professional information, essays on topics ranging from personal teaching philosophy to the issues facing public education, and letters of endorsement. As was the case in the past, we will continue to expect and encourage our nominees to submit their application to the state after accepting the nomination at our district level.

We encourage you to participate in this process by [nominating a teacher](#) that has inspired you and has inspired students this year. We are excited to see the results of this process that showcases more of our talented and dedicated educators!



## March is Board of Education Appreciation Month



Thank you Board members for your dedicated service to the New Milford Public School community: Chairperson Wendy Faulenbach, Vice Chairperson Pete Helmus, Secretary Olga Rella, Assistant Secretary Tammy McInerney, Eric Hansell, Brian McCauley, Tom O'Brien, Leslie Sarich and Keith Swanhall Jr.



New Milford Public Schools  
Recognizes  
**Autism Awareness  
Day**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2022**  
**Wear Blue to Show Support!**

**New Milford Public Schools**  
**"Parents As Partners"**  
**Presents**

**sparkler**

A new CT tool to promote healthy early development.

The presentation will give parents and/or caregivers an overview of the new free app, Sparkler. Sparkler is available to parents with children ages 0 through 5. Please bring your device (Android, IOS, Smartphone, or tablet) with you to receive instruction to access the Sparkler app.

**Wednesday, April 27, 2022**  
**Sarah Noble Intermediate School**  
**6:30 to 7:30 P.M.**

Childcare is available upon request. For more information please call The Office of Student Affairs (860)-354-2654.

Spanish interpretation services will be available for this event.



## Congratulations to New Milford Public Schools "Stars" for March 2022!



**Katelyn Cafarelli, SMS Teacher**

*"A student wrote: Sometimes the school day would be long and exhausting but this teacher always gave me something to look forward to during the day."*

**Lori Corsak, NMHS Paraeducator**

*"Lori goes above and beyond her duties as paraeducator and is a true advocate for the special education population. Her students look up to her and see her as their "go to" person when they need anything. Although very humble, Lori loves her role in the students' academic life."*



**Peter Filippi, District-wide Maintainer**

*"Peter went above and beyond to insulate and caulk the doors and windows of my room. He even went outside on one of the coldest days to insulate the windows outside. He is a true asset to the Facilities Dept."*

**Ashley Wyka, SMS Teacher**

*"Ashley communicates with her students' families and really listens and hears concerns in order to problem solve and create plans of action to support students. She is patient, kind, and works hard everyday for the betterment of each of her students and her colleagues."*



### 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  
New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406

**Ms. Alisha DiCorpo**  
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**

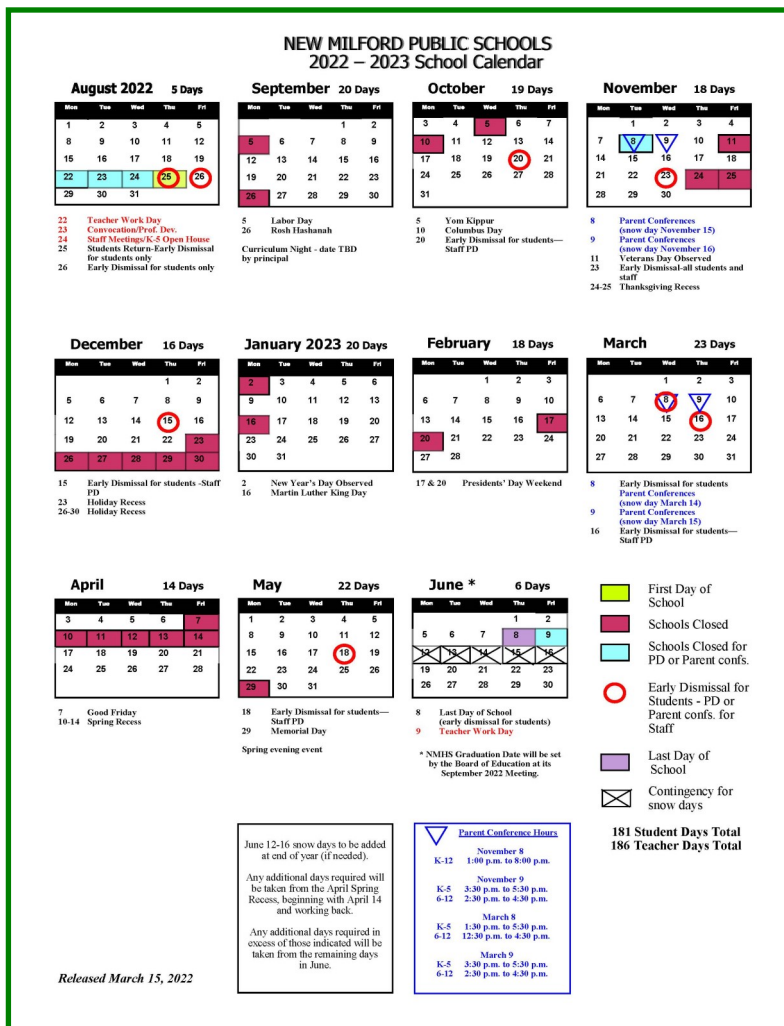
**Mr. Brian McCauley**

**Mr. Tom O'Brien**

**Ms. Leslie Sarich**

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

## Planning for Next Year...



**Keep up to date on school schedules  
for this year and next  
on the district website at:**

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

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.

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