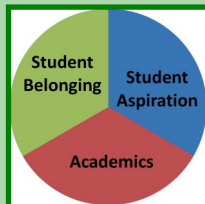




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647

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



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204

Ms. Linda Scoralick, Interim Principal
Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Sasha Salem, 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. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 12, Issue 7

January 2022

News from Our Schools

Hill and Plain Elementary School

Like its sister school NES, Map testing is underway at HPS, with students finishing up on their assessments. HPS second graders took time out of testing to celebrate Halfway Hawaiian Day with warm thoughts and fun activities, even learning the hula. This day marks the halfway point of the school year (at least until we see more snow!).



The PTO is sponsoring a Family Reading Night on February 4th. All students are invited to join some of their favorite teachers for a fun filled night of reading by the “campfire”, complete with crafts in the cafeteria and a scavenger hunt.



Barkley continued to make the rounds, congratulating students who show “I Matter, You Matter, School Matters!”



Northville Elementary School

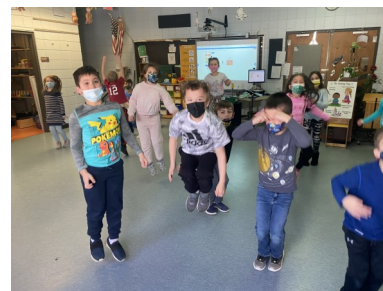
“Just keep swimming!” ~ Dory, Finding Nemo

Sometimes the water feels deep, the “other side” seems a bit too far away, and we get tired. But, when we remember to keep it simple, continue to do our best, and “just keep swimming,” we manage to make it through. Same goes for the long, cold, winter months of a school year. “Perseverance” is our theme this month, and as our motto proves, “nothing can stop us!”

The students and staff came back to NES from the break with tales of family time, snow forts, vacations, treats, and new toys. It's nice to see all the happy little faces swimming through the hallways of our school building once again.

In music this month, NES students got a jump on the new year with a focus on Blues music and its role in the foundation of music in America. They had a blast creating, dancing and learning how to improvise on slow blues progressions.

Map testing is underway at Northville, and we are proud of all our students as they *persevere* through this part of their educational journey and school year.



Coming up, the NES Wellness Committee will be implementing a 30 minute yoga class for staff after school beginning in February. We know our emotional well-being is just as important as our physical well-being. It will help us “swim” into the Spring with positive vibes and fresh energy. This is just one of the tools we are using to promote a happier work environment, and a better, more empathetic connection to each other. It takes teamwork to teach kids, and we take that approach seriously.

Cheers to a few more months of winter! Over here at Northville, we'll “just keep swimming” and continue to *persevere* while we make our way toward spring.

Sarah Noble Intermediate School

After taking a hiatus in 2020, Sarah Noble's 4th Annual PJ Day to support children at CCMC was a huge success. SNIS students and staff had fun wearing PJs for the day and our SNIS community raised more than \$2600 in a single day demonstrating that together we can do so much!



Have you heard of "Hour of Code"? The Hour of Code is a worldwide event that gives students the opportunity to participate in Computer Science and learn how technology works. Students spend time using computational thinking skills which support problem solving and critical-thinking skills for the 21st century. In December, Mrs. Bonnell led all SNIS students in an hour of code. This experience equated to more than 700 students participating in over 34 hours of code, including four different languages! Hour of Code doesn't just stop at SNIS, with 5th graders starting their after school Computer Science & Tech Club as well.

Schaghticoke Middle School



SMS is excited to announce that Ms. Gina Baldeo has joined the team. Ms. Baldeo will be working as an interventionist to support English Learners. Welcome to SMS!

Our Related Services team has continued their hard work on lessons for Advisory at SMS. This month students have completed lessons designed to help improve connectedness and belonging at our school. In one lesson, students played a “Four Corners” game together. During this game students went to one of the four corners of the room based on a prompt from the teacher. For example, students went to one of the corners to indicate what food they like the most: hamburgers, pasta, pizza, or sandwiches. In another activity, students made an acrostic poem for the year 2022. The poem included two things they wanted to share about themselves that people may not know, one phrase they will say to themselves to remind them to be friendly and connected with others, two people they can ask about their interests, and two things they can do to make others feel welcome at SMS. Thank you to our Related Services team for your continued dedication to our students!

New Milford High School

NMHS students and staff have been focused on mid-year exams. Now that they are complete, attention is turning to student course selection for 2022-23.



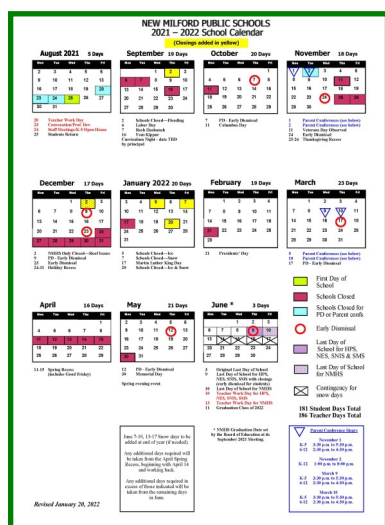
The All School Musical is coming this spring! The last two years have been hard on the NMHS theatre program with pandemic restrictions. This year's show is *Chicago* and the ensemble is planning on live performances! Students are already busy with singing and dancing rehearsals and set building.

NMHS Theatre has a fund-raising campaign going on now to help them thrive and rebuild. Consider donating [at this link](#). Follow them on Facebook for updates!



NMHS Girls' Cross Country Coach Giles Vaughan was selected by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) as the 2021 Girls' High School Cross Country Coach of the Year for the state of Connecticut! In the notification letter sent to the longtime NMHS coach, USTFCCCA CEO Sam Seemes states that the honor to Coach Vaughan "is based upon your leadership and the success of the New Milford High School Cross Country team throughout the 2021 season. It's also a reflection of your hard work and the dedication of the student-athletes, the coaching staff, and the administration of the school." Congratulations Coach Vaughan on a well deserved honor!

Tracking Snow Days (and other unexpected closings)



Do you know what the last day of school is for the 2021-22 school year? If you had looked at the district school calendar in August, the last day of school was June 3rd. That last day changes with each unexpected closing though, and as of now the last day of school for PK-8 is June 9, and for NMHS it is June 10. NMHS has had one more unexpected day off than the other schools due to damage from a roof fire during construction.

Each time there is an unexpected close, the calendar is adjusted, with a school day added to the year. We then publish the revised calendar on the district website [here](#), so families (and staff) can keep track. So far, we've revised it five times in all. Wonder how many more times to come?

NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY

girls who code

Open to 3rd - 12th Grade Students

Every Friday for 15 weeks from 4:00-5:00 PM
Starting Friday, January 7, 2022

Computer Lab at the Youth Agency located at
2 Pickett District Rd. New Milford, CT

Register at myyouthagency.com

Open to any student
that identifies as
female, non-binary,
gender-
nonconforming, and
would like to be in a
female-identified
environment

More Info: Contact Kathy
Office: 860-210-2030
Call/Text: 475-289-1055
kjackson@newmilford.org

myyouthagency.com to
register

We value sisterhood,
activism, bravery,
diversity, equity and
inclusion.

Girls Who Code is on
a mission to close the
gender gap in
technology.

New Milford Youth Agency

LGBTQIA + Allies

Engaging & Empowering
Activities 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays of Each Month

Open to all High School
Students

Register at
myyouthagency.com

More Info:
Swells@newmilford.org
kjackson@newmilford.org
Call/Text: 475-289-1055
Office: 860-210-2030

1ST & 3RD
WEDNESDAYS
FROM 5:30-7:00 PM
AT THE MAXX
LOCATED AT
94 RAILROAD ST.
NEW MILFORD CT
06776



New Milford Public Schools present **Parents As Partners**

Jonathan Mooney "Learning Outside the Lines"
Thursday, February 10th, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
A Virtual Gathering



"Come listen to Jonathan Mooney's inspirational talk about how normal sucks and *different* does not mean *deficient* — and we shouldn't be striving for, or enforcing, normalcy on anyone. He will share his personal experiences as a dyslexic, ADD, and neuro-diverse student who did not learn to read until he was 12 years old in a presentation filled with humor, knowledge and, most importantly, hope."

Jonathan Mooney's work has been featured in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune, USA Today, HBO, NPR, ABC News, New York Magazine, The Washington Post, and The Boston Globe. A nationally recognized advocate for neurological and physical diversity, he's been speaking across the nation about neurological and physical diversity for two decades, inspiring those who live with differences and calling for change. He has published three books: The Short Bus, Learning Outside the Lines, and Normal Sucks

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95389303642?pwd=ZEI5ODBhTDBBSmFPcS90L1ZnbGdKQT09>

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.

Nominate NMPS Staff for Recognition

Nominate a "Star" staff member for recognition by the New Milford Board of Education.

Staff Member Name
Short answer text

School *

- ☐ Hill and Plain Elementary School
- ☐ Northville Elementary School
- ☐ Sarah Noble Elementary School
- ☐ Schaghticoke Middle School
- ☐ New Milford High School

BOE Adopts 2022-23 Education Budget



New Milford Public Schools Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo presented the Superintendent's Proposed 2022-23 Education Budget to the New Milford Board of Education for consideration on the evenings of January 18, 19, 25 and 26 in public session. The 2022-23 Superintendent's Budget, as proposed, was \$68,205,949 which is an increase of \$2,359,925 or 3.58% over the current year's budget.

Roll-up for Major Object Code 2022-2023 11

MAJOR OBJECT CODE	21-22 Budget	22-23 Budget	Budget to Budget \$ Change	Budget to Budget % Change
SALARY	39,900,753	40,902,904	972,211	2.43%
BENEFITS	10,010,552	11,415,787	1,405,135	14.03%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	3,948,054	4,189,549	240,294	6.09%
PROPERTY SERVICES	925,099	963,512	38,443	4.16%
OTHER SERVICES	9,092,593	9,072,364	(20,229)	-0.22%
SUPPLIES	2,588,172	2,699,331	111,159	4.29%
5 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN	0	0	0	N/A
CAPITAL OTHER	14,404	22,784	8,380	58.18%
DUES & FEES	95,928	93,268	(2,660)	-2.77%
EXPENSE	67,395,731	69,958,902	2,562,771	3.80%
REVENUE	-1,549,707	-1,752,853	(202,846)	13.09%
TOTAL	65,846,024	68,205,949	2,359,925	3.58%

Ms. DiCorpo states, "The proposed budget is focused on supporting the programmatic and operational needs of each department, as well as the social emotional needs and resources of the District. This year, in addition to the operating budget, the COVID-19 budget and the five-year Capital plan for Technology, Facilities, the Music and Athletic programs are presented as a reflection of the District and building needs, in order to ensure that we have the supports necessary to provide an excellent educational opportunity for all students with an emphasis on staff and student safety. COVID-19 has changed the way we educate students and the District has made tremendous strides in our efforts to focus on the major standards of the grade in every academic area and to integrate technology as a part of the student day. Therefore, we must continue our work of aligning curriculum and integrating resources to make learning engaging and fun; we must continue our efforts to identify and support academic needs; support professional learning to guide curriculum and technology implementation; meet the social emotional needs and mental health needs, as well as to provide students and staff with a safe and healthy learning environment."

Ms. DiCorpo hosted several workshops in December and January prior to the budget hearings. In January at the budget hearings, the Board heard detailed presentations regarding each of our five schools from PK-Grade 12; and from the departments of Instruction, Pupil Personnel/Special Education, General Administration which includes the Business Office and Human Resources, Facilities and Technology. Public comment was offered each evening.

The Board of Education's Adopted budget, as approved on January 26, 2022, was finalized at \$67,767,289, which represents a 2.92% increase over the current year's budget. Budget documents and video recordings of the workshops and the four evenings of presentations and deliberations can be found under the Budget tab on the district website [here](#).

Board of Education Chairperson Wendy Faulenbach says, "The budget process is extremely difficult and time consuming for all involved. The entire Board and district recognize their responsibility and take this charge very seriously. Approval of the final BOE budget was unanimous. All members of the Board strove to balance the needs of the district while being mindful of economic challenges. Amendments to line items were geared to avoid reductions to instructional programs and any direct impact to students. We will continue to work with the Town and community throughout the budget process going forward."



New Milford Public Schools

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

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
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

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.

WINTER WEATHER!

You can't escape winter in New England. Why not embrace it with these fun family activities?

*Courtesy of <https://artfulparent.com/winter-activities-for-kids/>

5 Outdoor Snow Play Ideas

Make [Swedish snowball lanterns](#)

Send the kids on a [winter scavenger hunt with colored ice sculptures](#)

Build a snowman!

Host a [backyard winter Olympics](#)

Go on a [winter nature walk](#)

5 Winter Art Activities

Make [glue resist snowman paintings](#)

Paint winter scenes with this [easy snow painting technique](#)

[Microwave puffy paint](#) snowflakes and snowmen

Try a [Jan Brett inspired winter art activity](#)

Make a [stained-glass bunting](#)

7 Art Activities with Snow and Ice

Build [colored ice sculptures](#)

[Paint snow](#) with spray bottles

Make [painted ice lanterns](#)

[Experiment with ice, salt, and food coloring](#)

Make [glowing snow paint](#)

Try this [snowy day tissue paper art](#)

Create a [nature ice wreath](#)

5 Winter Crafts for Kids

Cut and paint [coffee filter snowflakes](#)

Use contact paper and yarn to make [sticky snowflakes](#)

[Paint with ice](#)

Use bleeding tissue paper to make [snowflake prints](#)

Sew paper plate [snowflake yarn art](#)

3 Indoor Winter Play Ideas

Build [snowmen out of playdough](#) and decorate with beads or buttons

Build and play with a [lighted cardboard dollhouse](#)

Try one of these [winter-themed sensory play ideas](#)

3 Construction Ideas

[Build with toothpicks](#) and grapes, cranberries, marshmallows, or gumdrops

Make an [igloo out of sugar cubes](#)

Build an [indoor fort or igloo](#)

January 2018

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.