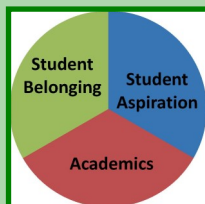




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647
Mr. Raymond Manka, Principal
Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
Ms. Linda Scoralick, Asst. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204
Dr. Robert Tremaglio, 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

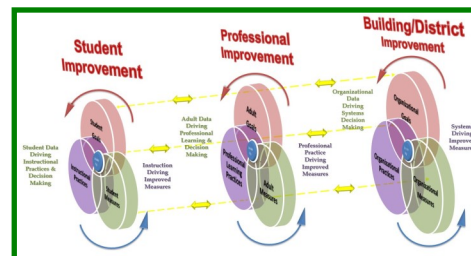
Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 12, Issue 4

October 2021

Planning for a Changeable Future

On September 13, a representative constituent group of NMPS administrators, teachers, Board of Education members, and community members met to begin a year long process of Strategic Coherence Planning. As the process unfolds, the group will be refining New Milford's Vision of the Graduate, defining the characteristics of an impactful learning environment, reflecting on current and past district performances, and planning for the improvement of systems that need to be aligned to ensure each student is prepared for his/her future.



In collaboration with EdAdvance consultant Jonathan Costa, the group will develop focused strategies that will be implemented to address the challenges of educating New Milford students for a changeable future. The end result will be a planning document that explicitly lays out the steps for forward progress. Mr. Costa says, "Ultimately, we want to focus on the highest leverage learning goals, instructional practices, and improvement strategies that have demonstrated over time to have the largest influence on student learning and preparation for their lives, learning and work in a digital age."

As part of this ongoing improvement planning, the Strategic Coherence Planning group is seeking input from the broader New Milford educational community to inform decisions on their work. As such, community members are invited to share their thoughts regarding the specific skills, dispositions, and experiences students will need as they navigate the future using the *Thoughtexchange* platform at this link: <https://tejoin.com/scroll/760180713>

The feedback will be an important part of the overall Strategic Coherence Planning project and provide valuable insights leading to the final outcome.



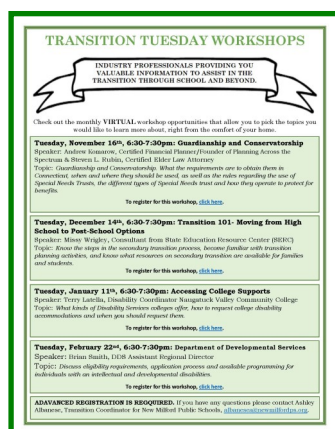
Supporting Students and Families: School-Based Health Centers

“It takes a village to raise a child” is an African proverb illustrating that as a community, we must come together to support our children. This proverb couldn’t ring more true today. Before the pandemic, the need for behavioral and health services for New Milford’s students was evident. And now, as we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an accelerating trend in mental health challenges among school-aged children.

New Milford Public Schools is excited to collaborate with Connecticut Institute For Communities, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering opportunities to serve our communities through the school-based health center (SBHC) model. Assistant Superintendent Holly Hollander says, “This partnership will allow us to meet the diverse needs of students through on-site behavioral and primary services. Our goal is to provide services that families may not otherwise have access to. The Centers will be located within the walls of our school buildings and will meet critical needs for students who the COVID-19 health crisis has impacted.”

Working as a collaborative team, school educators and administrators will partner with the SBHC personnel to design the systems and protocols needed to maximize this opportunity. The Centers will not replace the services offered currently by district staff, but will become a welcome addition to families who have difficulty getting to outside providers. Scheduling and attending appointments during the day can be difficult for some parents. When the Centers are fully up and running, appointments may occur at school during the child’s day with parents’ consent.

Using the allocations awarded to the district from the American Rescue Plan for Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds, the district is able to provide the systems and space needed to support this important and needed initiative. More information will be shared with parents in the upcoming month, communicating details, as we plan the launch of the first two sites in our schools.



Transition Tuesday Workshops

Industry professionals will provide you with valuable information to assist in the transition through school and beyond. Check out the monthly virtual workshop opportunities.

November 16 - Guardianship and Conservatorship

December 14 - Transition 101: Moving from HS to Post School Options

January 11 - Accessing College Supports

February 22 - Department of Developmental Services

News from Our Schools

Northville Elementary School

As the comforting aroma of warm pumpkin lattes linger in the crisp, cool air, the staff and students here at Northville Elementary School have been busy, busy, busy! Acclimation back to school has been smooth sailing so far. The children are (mostly!) all smiles as they make some new friends and get used to their new routines. We are very proud of how well they are doing. We'd also like to give a solid shout-out and a big "thank you" to All-Star Transportation! We appreciate the effort and dedication of all the bus drivers and office staff.

The NES PTO put together an ice cream social that was well attended and a great time. They also organized "picture day" for students and the Scholastic Book Fair. We certainly appreciate our hardworking PTO!

Our littlest learners love to play outside. Pictured here: Mrs. Burger's class enjoys playing on the fun playground equipment.



Kindergarteners are popping up and blooming all over the plant patch! Here's Mrs. Rondini's class labeling and writing (and learning) outdoors on a beautiful fall day.

Mrs. Bouzakis's class poses for a photo on the fire truck playground apparatus - quite fitting for fire safety week! Thank you to the New Milford Fire Department for dropping off goodie bags with crayons, coloring books, and other items for all our students to promote Fire Safety.



Our first graders are busy with math. Here are three of Mrs. Banko's students exploring math manipulative materials in the classroom.

Second graders are avid readers and enthusiastic participants in their educational activities. Recently, Mrs. William's class completed a fun "Mystery Doug" science experiment called *Save Bobby*. Second graders also love playing on the playground! Here's Mrs. Tufts class posing for a quick group photo during recess.



As the leaves change color and float to the ground, some of the things we are looking forward to are the town-wide spirit days, pumpkin picking on the weekends, reading interesting books, and of course, Halloween - when wearing a mask is something fun to do! Instilling enthusiasm for learning while staying safe and having some fun along the way is what we as educators try to bring to Northville School each day. We extend our best wishes to all New Milford school staff and families as we gear up and get ready for the colder months. Hopefully the inevitable first snowfall happens a bit later, rather than sooner this year!

Hill and Plain Elementary School

At Hill and Plain we have been focusing on courage this month as part of our Choose Love program. Throughout the month of October during our morning announcements, students shared examples of when they showed courage. We heard some great examples of students showing courage by facing their fears to go on a big roller coaster, or even getting back up after falling down on their bikes to try it again until they could ride on their own. We also provided students with other examples of courage, such as being able to make the right decision even during difficult times, such as telling the truth even if they might have done something wrong. We are proud of our courageous students at Hill and Plain!

Hill and Plain would like to say thank you to the Water Witch Hose Company, who helped us learn more about fire safety. Our kindergarteners and first graders were able to visit the fire trucks and hear about the importance of having a fire safety plan at home. Students were also able to say hello to Axe the fire dog!



Our Hill and Plain staff is looking forward to parent conferences next week, and hope to be able to speak to all of our parents about the wonderful things students are doing in school!

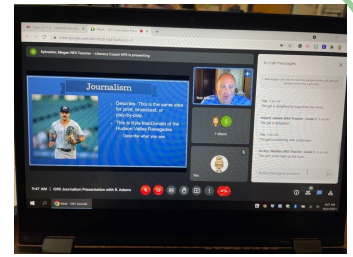
Sarah Noble Intermediate School

The 4th grade staff wanted a fun way to celebrate the hard work the students were doing in their Interpreting Character reading unit. Students were invited to decorate pumpkins as their favorite story book characters. Participation was amazing, and the pumpkins are proudly displayed in the front showcase by the front doors. One particular pumpkin stood out as extra amazing, and the 4th grade staff awarded Kendall Tarallo first place overall. It was announced at lunch in front of her peers which allowed them to clap and cheer for her! What a great moment for her and those that saw the love and support that was shared among the students.



Students in 5th grade have started their second writing unit of the school year. They have been learning about Journalism and how to be a journalist. During the last couple of weeks, students have had the opportunity to have a virtual meet and greet with Sports Broadcaster

for the Renegades and Journalist Rob Adams. This exciting opportunity taught our 5th grade journalists the most important parts of his work which include: being Accurate, being Fair, and having Integrity. Students also learned the most important line that they can write is their first sentence. Students then practiced this work, sharing their flash drafts from examples with Mr. Adams! This interactive meeting allowed students to share some of their thinking for feedback and confirmation of how we are all growing as journalists in 5th grade.



Schaghticoke Middle School

Fall sports are in full swing. Soccer and Field Hockey are practicing hard and competing in games. Cross Country runners are training hard and competing in meets. GO SURGE!!!

Science labs are open! Students are doing a great job respecting personal space while engaging in science labs, like this one where they experiment with the effect of mass on distance moved in a collision.



Support staff, counselors and social workers are highlighting activities to promote Bully Prevention this month through Advisory activities on kindness, being an upstander, promoting participation in National Unity Day October 20th by wearing ORANGE to promote kindness, acceptance and inclusion to help prevent bullying, weekly morning announcements and concluding the month with Unity Week.

New Milford High School

Courtesy of New Milford High School eNews Blast. To view past issues go to <https://www.smores.com/gzuj8>

NMHS Marching Band Takes First Place!

Congratulations to Band Director David Syzdek and the NMHS Marching Band on their first place win with the highest score of the entire competition at the home show on September 25. The band scored a 76.4 overall, winning awards in Overall Effect, Overall Visual, Overall Music, and first place in their class.



Free NHS Tutoring Available for All NMHS Students

Need help in a class? Want help from someone who has already taken that class and knows what you need to know? The National Honor Society is ready to tutor! NHS student members are available to tutor in school during study halls. Visit the LLC during any block to be connected with an NHS tutor.

Tech Help is Available for All Grades

Technology support continues to be available for all NMHS students and families. Individuals having issues with technology (Chromebooks, PowerSchool, etc.) should submit a help desk ticket using the [NMPS ticket system](#) for technical support requests.

The [NMPS Technology Webpage](#) is also a great resource, and includes Parent Portal tutorials, and newly added digital process for reviewing and updating contact records for your student(s).



College Visits for Seniors & Juniors

Admissions Reps from colleges and universities are visiting NMHS junior and senior students through in-person and virtual college visits this year. In-person visits are scheduled during the NMHS school day, and take place in the LLC Courtyard. Interested students register in advance for both in-person and virtual visits through Naviance. Colleges are added daily, with 75 colleges already scheduled for October!

2021-22 Clubs & Activities at NMHS

NMHS offers students a full range of clubs and activities. To see the variety of offerings, [click here](#).

NMHS Theatre Announces Fall Play

NMHS Theatre is proud to present its fall play production of *She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition*. The logo for the production (pictured right) was designed by NMHS student Haley Fuller.



She Kills Monsters tells the story of high schooler Agnes Evans as she deals with the death of her younger sister, Tilly. When Agnes stumbles upon Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, she finds herself catapulted into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in the imaginary world that was her sister's refuge. In this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with stage combat, homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and '90s pop culture, acclaimed playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all.

Live performances are scheduled for

Friday, December 3rd at 7 PM

Saturday, December 4th at 2 PM

Saturday, December 4th at 7 PM

Purchase tickets on <https://nmhsct.booktix.com/> starting next month.

****CONTENT WARNING:**

This production is Rated PG-13. We know every child is unique, so we want to provide information about the play & production that will help you make a good decision for your particular child. *She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition* includes depictions of the bullying of LGBTQIA+ youth, mild profanity, and innuendo. The production also includes monsters, loud noises, flashing/strobe lights, and lots of comic fantasy-style violence.



Congratulations to New Milford Public Schools "Stars" for October 2021!



Christine Arias-Santos, NMHS Spanish Teacher

"Ms. Arias-Santos is a wonderful Spanish teacher and very respectful of Covid guidelines. She is very kind and makes Spanish class fun. I love how she handles a class and is very understanding of what we have going on outside of school."

Scott Hoffman, SMS Health Teacher

"Mr. Hoffman is an extremely hard worker. He is responsible for teaching Health to hundreds of students weekly and tries to connect with all of them."

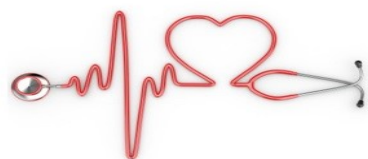


Carol Schroedel, NES paraeducator

"Mrs. Schroedel has a gentle approach with her students which allows them to feel safe with her. She genuinely cares about her students feeling safe at school, and has offered to bring in her trained therapy dog to offer comfort to students who may need extra support."

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.

A form titled "Nominate NMPS Staff for Recognition" with a colorful fireworks background. The form includes fields for "Staff Member Name" and "School *". Below the school field is a list of schools with checkboxes: H&H and Plain Elementary School, Northville Elementary School, Sarah Noble Elementary School, Schaghticoke Middle School, and New Milford High School.



Notes from the School Nurses

It is our goal is to keep our students and staff as safe and healthy as possible during this continued pandemic. Our best protection from getting sick and spreading the COVID-19 virus continues to be masking, social distancing, frequent handwashing and getting vaccinated if you are eligible for the vaccine. Please continue to screen your children daily for illness prior to sending them to school.

Keep your child home if they are not feeling well and/or have been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19. Consult your child's health care provider if they are having COVID-19 symptoms.

In general, sometimes it can be hard to decide whether to keep a child home from school. If children are vomiting or have a fever, diarrhea, rash or other skin eruption, sore throat with fever/rash, earache, conjunctivitis, or other acute illness (e.g., severe cold symptoms, persistent cough, etc.) it would be best to keep them home. Children should be symptom-free for 24 hours or cleared by their doctor before returning to school.

Thank you for your help and support in reinforcing healthy behaviors in our students.

NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY

girls who CODE

Open to 3rd - 5th Grade Students

Every Friday from 4:00-5:00 PM
Starting Friday, November 5th

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

Youth Agency can provide transportation from
SNIS to YA

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

**STARTING
WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 20TH
FROM 5:30-7:00 PM
AT THE MAXX
LOCATED AT
94 RAILROAD ST.
NEW MILFORD CT
06776**





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

Mrs. Catherine Gabianelli
Human Resources Director

Mr. Anthony Giovannone
Fiscal Services & Operations
Director

Mrs. Laura Olson
Pupil Personnel &
Special Services Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

Board of Education

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Chairperson

Mr. Joseph Failla
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Eric Hansell

Mr. Pete Helmus

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan

Mrs. Olga I. Rella

Ms. Leslie Sarich

Fall is in Full Swing!

Did you know? Fall 2021 started on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 and ends on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Here are a few suggestions, including the classics, to help families enjoy the season.*



- Go apple picking or visit a pumpkin patch.
- Get lost in a corn maze.
- Go for a hike.
- Head to the farmers market for winter squash and Brussels sprouts.
- Go on a nature scavenger hunt in the backyard.
- Write down what you're thankful for.
- Gather up leaves into a big pile, jump in, repeat.
- Eat candy apples or make your own.
- Carve your own pumpkins.
- Host a potluck Friendsgiving dinner.
- Go on a bike ride to admire the fall foliage.
- Take a ghost tour or visit an old cemetery.
- Bake an apple or pumpkin pie.
- Give out candy to trick or treaters all dressed up in your own costumes.
- Cook a cozy fall meal: think roasted vegetables or a hearty stew.
- Grab a blanket and go stargazing

*<https://www.realsimple.com/work-life/entertainment/fall-activities>

October means

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.