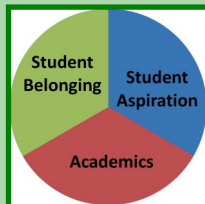




New Milford Public Schools
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New Milford High School
860-350-6647

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



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204

Ms. Linda Scoralick, Interim Principal
Mr. Michael Boucher, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, 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. Pat Colello, Interim Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 12, Issue 10

April 2022

NMHS Hosts Career Expo



On April 28th, New Milford High School hosted its first ever Career Expo. Students who might not be sure about going on to college were invited to explore firsthand the other options that might be available.

The event provided a chance to learn about careers that don't require a traditional 4-year degree, and meet employers who may be currently hiring!



More than 30 vendors attended the event, including local employers Neeltran, Kimberly Clark, Eaton Aerospace, Ball & Roller Bearing Company and ComNet. Also represented were area nursing homes, trade schools, the military branches, the CT Apprenticeship Board, and JobCorps.

According to NMHS Career Center secretary Maryanne Shaffer, "This is something that's been in the works for a few years now. We are so pleased to see it come to fruition. All these companies hire non-degreed employees, offer benefits, etc. There's no reason we should have a single unplaced graduating senior if we continue to provide students with available options."



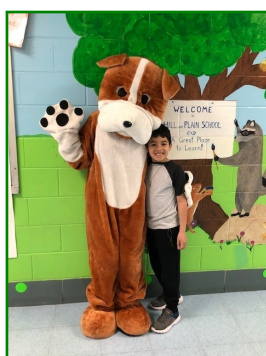
Assistant Superintendent Holly Hollander says, "The Career Expo is just another way we are working to support students as they think about college and work beyond school. New Milford High School is at the beginning stages of developing career clusters, a way of helping students navigate their way to success, whether it be through formal four-year experiences, certificate programs, or directly into the workforce. The career clusters support students' ability to create a plan to discover interests and empower them to choose pathways that lead to their success. Some examples of career clusters include health sciences, manufacturing, architecture and construction just to name a few."

More News from Our Schools

Hill and Plain Elementary School

Hill and Plain is looking forward to meeting with our incoming kindergarten class. Starting this month, we will be holding our Mini-Kindergarten Experience where we get to meet parents and their children who are registered for kindergarten next school year. We can't wait to meet our future Hill and Plain students!

Barkley continued to make his rounds this month, identifying students who modeled our school motto of, "I matter, you matter, school matters". Students have been spotted doing things such as helping their teachers clean up and organize classrooms as well as helping students who are new to the school get acclimated to daily routines. Students do a great job of following expected behaviors and following our school motto.



We hope everyone had a restful and fun spring break. Students have been working hard to get back into the swing of things in the classroom. Students in grades K-2 have been finishing their last MAP Assessment of the year this month, which will give us more information about the growth students have made this year. As the school year winds down, we have many fun events planned for the end of the year at Hill and Plain which we look forward to sharing with you next month!

Northville Elementary School

Northville was excited to welcome Mrs. Pat Colello, our new interim Assistant Principal. Mrs. Colello comes to New Milford with much experience in administration. She is a retired elementary school principal from Trumbull who currently works part time for the Leadership Institute at C.E.S. in Trumbull as the Program Leader for the New Administrators Induction Program.



Northville recently installed signs as you enter the building. Each sign represents a different attribute of C.A.R.E.S. :
Cooperate - Act Responsibly - Respect - Encourage – Safety.

At the beginning of the month, some of our possible future Excel students were invited to NES for an informational meeting

and to participate in some engaging activities. It was a great way for parents and children to check out the program and hear what our Pre-K classes are all about. Everyone had some fun!

PTO sponsored the “Spring Fling” which was a wonderful event for all of our NES families. This month, via PTO grants, the Kindergarten students enjoyed watching caterpillars grow into butterflies. There was also a puppet show assembly for the second graders, provided by Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers. Thank you PTO!



April's character trait is loyalty: “I speak kindly about my friends, family and teachers.” To start off the month Mrs. Breidster's class read the book *Each Kindness*, by Jacqueline Woodson, and did an activity to reinforce the message of kindness. They filled a large bowl with water and dropped a small stone in it. They watched the tiny waves that rippled out, away from the stone. Mrs. Breidster explained that kindness is like this...each little thing we do goes out, like a ripple, into the

world. The activity showed how the rings don't always touch each other but rather they move further away from the center. Kindness can be like this if you pay-it-forward...it keeps rippling out to different people and it gets bigger and bigger, touching more people.

The tradition continues...NES Second Graders got into formation for their big panoramic photo!



NES Plant Patch Loves Volunteers!

Mrs. Sickles' first grade class had a blast planting snap peas in the Plant Patch with help from Ms. Runyan and her volunteers.



The Plant Patch is an outdoor garden classroom located behind N.E.S. It is completely run by volunteers (and funded by the PTO) and provides mini field trips for your students throughout the year. Children plant, study, harvest, and taste food they've grown at the Patch. Crops vary each year, but usually include: snap peas, beans, sweet and spicy peppers, carrots, potatoes, ground cherries, tomatillos, tomatoes, as well as a variety of

flowers and herbs. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY: If you are interested in or have questions about volunteering, contact Claire Runyan at slimemold@earthlink.net and put Plant Patch in the subject line. Volunteers must be fingerprinted—parents, grandparents and other family members welcome! See [Plant Patch flyer](#)!

Sarah Noble Intermediate School

In 3rd grade, as a community service project to support our neighbors who are living in nursing homes, assisted living housing, and in rehabilitation centers, all 3rd graders made

artistic creations to brighten their hallways, common areas, and rooms! Students used coffee filters to make colorful flower blooms by painting with watercolors or using markers (sprayed with water mist). From there, students made stems, leaves and a pot out of tag board or construction paper. To finish the flower-gram, everyone added positive, uplifting messages on the pots to encourage our neighbors to think positively, inspire hope, and remind them of surrounding love. Bundles of flowers were delivered to Village Crest, Candlewood Valley Rehabilitation Center, Chestnut Grove, Butterbrook Apartments, and Glen Ayre Apartments.



On April 5th, SMS music teachers presented to 5th graders about SMS Band, Chorus, and Orchestra opportunities at the middle school. On April 21st, the SNIS Jazz Band performed at the NMPS Jazz Fest on the big stage in the New Milford High School theatre. For many of our students this was their first typical concert in several years. Ms. Zimmerman conducted and the students did a wonderful job. In addition, students were able to spend time with the older role models from SMS and NMHS jazz bands, a wonderful experience for all.



Schaghticoke Middle School

The SMS Music Department is thrilled to be hosting in person concerts again. Students in the 6th and 7th/8th grade bands performed for a live audience on April 6th. Additionally, students participated in Jazz Fest at New Milford High School on April 21st. Congratulations to all our student musicians for their hard work and dedication! We look forward to upcoming concerts from the Chorus, members of our Voices performance group, Jazz Band, and the Orchestra!

Spring sports are underway at SMS. This season we are offering interscholastic boys and girls track, Intramural and Interscholastic softball, Intramural and Interscholastic baseball, Intramural frisbee, and Intramural flag football. Students are currently working hard at practice and everyone is looking forward to games beginning next week!



Mrs. Nevins and Mrs. Abrantes's 7th grade Science classes recently completed a unit where they learned the cause, symptoms, health concerns and biology of Lyme disease. As part of their culminating work on the unit, the students created posters, brochures and Google slide shows in order to educate the SMS community on ways to stay safe all year long. The projects also included places in our town to safely enjoy hiking and other outdoor activities.

New Milford High School

On April 1st, NMHS held a Spring Pep Rally (indoors unfortunately due to the weather) which included our Unified Sports program. The Unified Track senior students, accompanied by their peer mentors, were very excited, as well as proud, to walk with their fellow student athletes. The peer mentors have been actively involved with Unified Track all four high school years and have built amazing friendships with all of the athletes on the team.



NMHS Special Education teacher Kibby Ginn says, “The NMHS Unified Sports program is an athletic team composed of students with special needs and their peer partners. Students have the opportunity to participate in the program during both the Fall and the Spring. Students train and compete in Soccer during the Fall and Track and Field during the Spring. During each sports season, the teams train after school twice a week and then compete against other Connecticut schools. During this past Fall season the team competed in a Soccer tournament at Newtown High School. This program not only helps develop the athletic skills of the student athletes, but also helps to promote friendships and teach teamwork.”



NMHS Art teacher Annette Marcus reports that art students Nicole Reiske and Beatriz Novas, already honored to have their artwork chosen for the National K-12 Ceramics Exhibition in Sacramento, have won additional awards at the Exhibition. Nicole’s Selfie tile was chosen to receive the Orton Foundation Cash Award while Beatriz’ wax resist plate was recognized with the Artistic Merit Award.

Mrs. Marcus says, “This is a great honor, as very few awards are handed out each year. The Edward Orton Jr. Foundation award was founded many years ago by one of the pioneers in the ceramic industry. The Artistic Merit Award is presented to only 25 students total out of all exhibiting. I am so proud of both these students.”



Sophomore Leo Mahlke was awarded a Gold Medal for Poetry for his submission to the national Scholastic Art and Writing Contest. This year only 40 medals were awarded for poetry at the national level, chosen from over 22,000 submissions, making this quite a distinctive honor. In addition, Leo has also been participating in UCONN's Connecticut Writing Project for eight years, and this will be his eighth straight year winning publication in its celebrated Connecticut Student Writers magazine. This year Leo won a platinum award for nonfiction, and a gold award for short story. His artwork was also chosen to be published in the magazine for the seventh year in a row. Leo was honored to be asked to read his nonfiction piece at the award ceremony at the Jorgensen Center at UCONN in May. Congratulations!

The following students were selected as the top musicians from the state of Connecticut to participate in the CMEA All-State festival that took place at the Hartford Convention Center

from March 31st to April 2nd. To be selected, students rehearsed and refined audition materials that were then judged by music educators. Students with the top scores were then invited to participate in the prestigious All-State ensembles. Kudos to all!



Band: Gabriel Larsen, Leo Mahlke, Kelsey Stewart; *Jazz Band:* Riley Mahlke; *Chorus:* Kyra Brown, Natalie Brown, Malachi Caldwell, Leah Lawson, Riley Mahon, Aidan Smith, Cassandra Williams

The Green Heat Percussion continued their winning ways with another victory on April 2nd where they won the SW Conference award for Highest Score this season. On April 9th, they completed their season by winning the 2022 MAC Championship!!



On April 20, the NMHS Chorus took a trip to Dunkin' Donuts Stadium in Hartford, Connecticut to open the Yard Goats game (MLB) with the singing of the National Anthem. This was one of the largest venues the chorus has had the honor of performing at in recent history! Students, families, and staff were thrilled to share in this memorable experience together.

[Click here to view their performance.](#)

LHTC and NES Collaborate on Marine Care Packages

Northville Elementary School students, families, and staff collected items to put into Care Packages for deployed soldiers in the Marine Corps. Each soldier will receive two packages, one containing food items and one containing body care and leisure items. The young adults participating in the Litchfield Hills Transition Center (LHTC) program packaged the items for a total of 22 boxes. They labeled packages and brought them to the local Post Offices for mailing.

NMPS Special Education teacher Roxanne Kraft says, "It's wonderful when our New Milford School community comes together showing caring and kindness for others. Working together was a rewarding experience for all."



*"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."
– Helen Keller*



ESS Substitute Receives Impact Award

On May 5th, ESS Substitute Manolita Gude will be awarded the ESS Impact Award. This award is given to a substitute who goes above and beyond, making a significant impact in a school district. Manolita will receive a \$500 check with this award in addition to being given a \$500 check to give to a school of her choice. Manolita has selected to donate the \$500 to Northville Elementary School.



Manolita won this award based on the submission of the school principal, Gwen Gallagher: "I have been working alongside Manolita Gude since I began as principal of Northville Elementary School. I could not be more impressed with a substitute teacher in my 24 years as an educator. Her professionalism with students, families, and staff is unwavering. She began the year off as a preschool long term substitute. This position was important because the families had just learned that the teacher they expected to work with for the year was unable to stay in New Milford. Manolita welcomed the families and students like a true professional - we always say she should get an honorary teaching degree! She did an amazing job establishing a well-run classroom and when the new teacher came in, it was a seamless transition. In between that time and now - Manolita has been a Quarantine Teacher, 2nd grade teacher, Art teacher and all other positions in the school. She is the perfect example of an ESS employee - Manolita arrives early each day for her assignment, works hard during the school day, and ends the day making sure all students are well cared for."

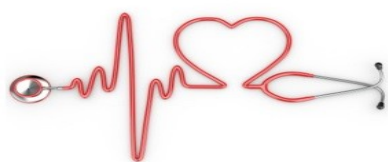
NMPS Teacher of the Year Nominations are In!

The district Teacher of the Year Committee would like to congratulate all of the nominees for this year's Teacher of the Year award. This second year of our new program was another overwhelming success! We received 160 nomination forms from staff, parents, and students. Eighty-eight educators were nominated in all!

All district staff voted from among the nominees on Tuesday, April 26th and Wednesday, April 27th. In a few weeks, Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo will announce the Teachers of the Year for each of the five schools representing our district. From this group, the district Teacher of the Year Committee will choose our district's Teacher of the Year for 2022-2023. This announcement will be made at our Convocation in August.

We appreciate your overwhelming support of the Teacher of the Year program, and we look forward to celebrating our Teachers of the Year!

The NMPS Teacher of the Year Committee
Connie Williams & Roxanne Kraft
Co-Chairpersons



Notes from the School Nurses

The CT Department of Public Health has advised school administrators throughout the state that COVID-19 transmission rates have been steadily increasing and that we should expect to see more cases of COVID-19 affecting students and staff in our schools in the coming weeks due to recent holiday gatherings and travel associated with school break weeks. We are asking our staff, students, and families to help us reduce potential COVID-19 risks even further over the next several weeks by following CDPH guidance:

Staying home if you feel unwell and especially if you are experiencing any symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19, including: fever or chills, cough, difficulty breathing, fatigue/tiredness, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 if you have not done so already and getting a booster vaccine dose if you are eligible.

Testing for COVID-19 either using an at-home test kit or at a pharmacy or other testing site if you:

- ◆ feel unwell or have any symptoms that could be associated with COVID-19; or
- ◆ have had an exposure to someone suspected of having COVID-19; or
- ◆ have recently traveled out of state using public transportation (e.g., air, train, bus); or
- ◆ have attended any large group events (e.g., concerts, weddings or similar events, etc.)

Contacting the school nurse and following isolation guidance if you test positive for COVID-19, including remaining away from school activities for at least 5 days and wearing a mask when returning for an additional 5 days.

Following quarantine guidance as appropriate for your vaccination status if you have a close contact with someone with COVID-19 either inside or outside of your household.

Wear a mask when you are around other people especially if:

- ◆ you are not feeling well;
- ◆ are advised to do so based on isolation or quarantine recommendations;
- ◆ you are at-risk for severe COVID-19 complications; or
- ◆ you feel more comfortable wearing a mask at this time.

It's more than a meal application.

Even with free meals for your school district, it is still important to submit a free/reduced-price meal application.

Completing an application takes less than 10 minutes and all information remains private and confidential. Only one application per household is needed.

Meal applications may be downloaded from your school's website or obtained from the district's food service director.

Don't delay! Complete and submit an application today!

Filling out the school meal application may help provide:



Connecticut State Department of Education, October 2021

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



Cara Abraham, NMHS Teacher

“My child has been having some struggles. Mrs. Abraham calls to check in and goes above and beyond her duties as a teacher to try to support him however she can both academically and personally.”

Robin Barboza-Josephson, NMHS Teacher

“Mrs. Barboza-Josephson is a valuable member of NMHS as a Biology teacher. From one class to the next she effortlessly transitions from simplified easy-to-understand explanations to college-level expectations. I am always impressed with the rapport she develops with each student. “



Maura Jabbonsky, NMHS Library Clerk

“Maura works in the High School LLC helping students. Instead of simply getting what the student requests, Maura digs deeper to find out what the story is behind the request. Countless times she has been able to help students with their needs and get the students on the right track to success.”

Scott McKay, SNIS Teacher

“Scott really brings the real world into his classroom. He sparks his students' sense of wonder with nature and sports. Scott always goes the extra mile to make students from any classroom feel safe, valued, and comfortable at school. Scott is a true role model for all.”



Connie Williams, NES Teacher

“Connie is a master teacher. She makes students and staff feel respected and welcomed. Connie is able to hold students' attention to tasks with her gentle and fun approach to teaching.”

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

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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
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Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Eric Hansell

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. Tom O'Brien

Ms. Leslie Sarich

Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.

Appreciation!

Every year brings special days that highlight special people. It's hard to keep track of them all! While we appreciate are NMPS staff and families every day, the spring months spotlight many groups.



April places a special spotlight on volunteers. Opportunities have been limited in person this year, but many volunteers continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes for our schools and larger community. We thank you!

For those of you out front and center, we appreciate you too! Special recognition is due to our teachers and support staff (paraeducators, nurses, computer techs, secretaries) who have faced challenges with a smile every day. Thank you to the administrators for keeping it all connected, and to our Facilities crew, Food Service workers, and bus drivers for keeping us all moving.

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.

April brings