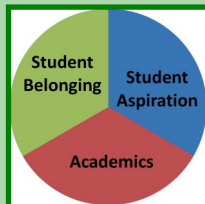




New Milford Public Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406  
[www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org)



**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  
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 5

November 2021

## Honoring Veterans

November 11th brought the traditional annual celebration of Veterans Day, and while schools were closed on Thursday, district staff and students made time during the week to recognize our veterans in a variety of special ways.



NES held a Veterans Day patriotic sing-along on Friday afternoon. Due to rainy weather, it was held virtually. One class came to the cafeteria to perform and the other classes logged into the Google Meet and sang along with the grade level. Everyone was encouraged to wear red, white, and blue. At HPS, veterans spoke virtually to students and shared their experiences about their time in the military.



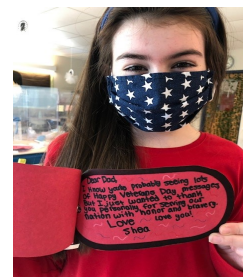
Families were asked to share some information about veterans in their families, which was proudly displayed in the main hallway display case along with an American flag background.

At SNIS, all students watched a slideshow in class that included multiple flipgrid videos from students' family members who are veterans. In the afternoon, each grade level attended an assembly honoring our Veterans. The assembly consisted of student speakers that highlighted



the history and purpose of Veterans Day and wonderful performances from choruses and band. Students thanked family members for their service using handmade ID tags.

SMS asked that all Social Studies teachers devote a portion of each lesson on either Wednesday or Friday to emphasize the topic, and the significance therein. They also spotlighted the recognition during daily announcements. NMHS students visited the Library Makerspace and made Veterans Day cards to send.



## Reminder: FREE Breakfast & Lunch For All Students



Through funding by the USDA, **all school meals will be FREE for all students K-12 for the 21-22 school year.** All students are entitled to have one breakfast and one lunch every day. A variety of hot and cold choices are offered, with all meals and snacks meeting the nutritional and Dietary Guidelines for Americans. [Click here to see our daily menu.](#)

**A la carte snacks are available for purchase.** For your convenience, an easy online payment system is offered to fund and view your student's meal account at [www.MySchoolBucks.com](http://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.

However, even though meals are for FREE this year, it remains critical that parents still complete and submit a free and reduced-price meal application in order to determine eligibility for other programs, such as the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT), discounted technology, WiFi programs, college application fee waivers, SAT fee waivers, and more. If you have qualified for Free/Reduced meals in the past or feel you may qualify at the present time, please complete an application. [Click here for the application for free and reduced-price school meals.](#)



## News from Our Schools

### Northville Elementary School

NES students are in full swing at this point in the year. It's such a pleasure to have some normal routines back in place. We continue to practice our C.A.R.E.S. expectations - Cooperate, Act Responsibly, Respect, Encourage, and Safety! Each month, Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Calabrese call upon teachers to nominate a student from their class for a special CARES luncheon. For the honored students, it's an opportunity to have a bit of undivided time with the Principal and Assistant Principal. It's proving to be an enjoyable and positive experience for all.

The faculty and staff have joined different committees to make professional life at NES all it can be! The Wellness Committee implemented a seven week walking club on Wednesdays after school while the weather held in an effort to improve our minds, bodies, and spirits. The Technology and Attendance committee discussed further PowerSchool training and attendance protocols for all students going forward. The School Leadership Committee brainstormed solutions for existing problem areas, focused on instructional strategies, and considered ways to support each other in order to become even better educators. Throughout the school year, eight different committees will strive for improvement via fresh initiatives, collaboration, participation, and maintaining hopeful attitudes.



We would like to acknowledge and give a special thank you shout out to our Food and Nutrition service personnel here at NES! We are truly grateful for their tireless efforts and patient smiles in the lunchroom each and every day. They make yummy options for staff as well! Northville is a happier place because of them.

Students and staff had some fun dressing up for book character day at NES. Here are a few pictures of our school community in action.



### Hill and Plain Elementary School

HPS would like to thank all of the parents who participated in our teacher parent conferences earlier this month. Students have been working so hard this school year and it was nice to be able to share information regarding their progress and how they are doing in school.



At HPS, we have an amazing PTO. They organized a successful Book Fair at the end of October, as well as a pumpkin decorating contest. They provided dinner for our staff during parent conferences and we are looking forward to the annual Holiday Store on Saturday, December 4th. Thank you PTO for everything you do.

Gratitude has been the focus at HPS this month. Gratitude is talked about daily in our morning announcements and students are invited to talk about what they are grateful for. In the spirit of gratitude, we

ran a food drive in the beginning of November. Thank you to all of those families that contributed to the food drive, which benefited New Milford Social Services.



### Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Each fall SNIS raises money in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. During this month-long campaign, students participate in a mini lesson featuring the book "Cancer Hates Kisses" by Jessica Sliwerski. Students and staff were encouraged to bring in 'small change' throughout the month. On November 16th, "Wear Pink Day" was the official end of our campaign. All funds are donated to Ann's Place in Danbury. Ann's Place provides families with support through counseling groups, yoga and tai chi' classes, creative arts - writing, dance, music, fine arts, nutrition programs, horticulture therapy, and even reiki and guided imagery and meditation. All of these programs are completely free because Ann's Place runs all of its programs on donations like ours. This year, we raised more than \$2,000 making it our most successful campaign ever!



### Schaghticoke Middle School

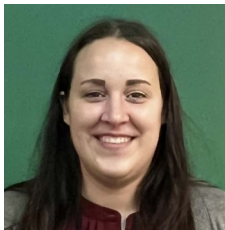
During the month of November students in the Leo Club at SMS held a Thanksgiving Food Drive in partnership with The Greater New Milford Women's Club. The group collected non-perishable food items to help families in need. Many thanks to our staff advisor, Ms. O'Hara-Ferrari, for helping to organize the food drive!





The fall sports season recently wrapped up for our cross country, soccer, and field hockey teams. Congratulations to all our 100+ student athletes for their hard work and dedication! We now turn our attention to the winter season which will offer students the opportunity to participate in basketball, volleyball, and Unified sports. Go Surge!

Our School Counseling Department coordinated a school wide activity that focused on gratitude. During the activity, students reflected on people, places, and things that they are grateful for. We are so grateful for our dedicated School Counselors!



In more School Counseling news, we are excited to welcome a new member to our School Counseling Department. Miss Lauren D'Amico joined the faculty at SMS on November 22nd. Miss D'Amico is an experienced counselor with a passion for fostering positive connections between students and staff. Welcome, Miss D'Amico!

### **New Milford High School**

Check out the New Milford High School eNews Blast at <https://www.smores.com/gzuj8>

### ***We are the Champions!***



On November 1st, the New Milford Green Wave Girls Cross Country team won the CIAC 2021 Class L State Championship at Wickham Park in Manchester, CT. This is the 2nd Girls Cross Country Championship in the history of New Milford High School, with the first dating back to 1997. Out of 122 runners, the New Milford Girls Cross Country team's top 5 runners finished 1st, 3rd, 10th, 14th, and 27th!

Additionally, the New Milford Green Wave Boys Cross Country team finished 2nd overall at the CIAC 2021 Class L State Championship. Out of 151 runners, the New Milford Boys Cross Country team's top 5 runners finished 6th, 22nd, 28th, 29th, and 36th!

On Friday, November 5th, the Girls Cross Country team won the 2021 CIAC State Open Championship for the first time in school history. The State Open Championship is the CIAC Championship race consisting of all of the top schools and individual runners in the State of Connecticut, regardless of class. Out of 181 total runners, New Milford's top 5 runners finished 3rd, 7th, 17th, 31st and 36th.

The Team completed its record setting season by winning the New England Championships on November 13!!

Congratulations to Coach Vaughan, Coach Brooks, and the entire New Milford Green Wave Girls Cross Country Program!

### ***We are the Champions too!***

The New Milford High School Marching Band and Color Guard ended their competitive season on a high note by winning the 2021 USBands Class IV A New England States Championship on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at Veterans Memorial Stadium in New Britain, CT. Over 30 bands from Connecticut and Massachusetts competed in 10 different classes over two days in the championship this year.



USBands serves as a competitive circuit for scholastic band programs nationwide and prides itself in providing world-class performance venues and the best adjudication in the marching arts to thousands of students each year. USBands has hosted events in over 25 states throughout the country making it the largest competitive service in the nation.

This year's production, *Double Agent*, was a narrative show about two rival spy organizations sent to retrieve and secure the same briefcase from a highly guarded location and return it to their headquarters, each trying to thwart the other's efforts along the way. In addition to taking home first place in the Class IV A competition, the Band and Guard also won awards for Best Music, Best Overall Effect, Best Visual Performance, Best Color Guard and Best Percussion. Congratulations to Mr. Syzdek, the students and staff of the New Milford High School Marching Band and Color Guard on their successful season and 2021 USBands Championship performance.



### ***Instant Decision Week Is Coming To NMHS***

Seniors interested in applying to Central CT State University, Naugatuck Valley Community College, Western CT State University, Southern CT State University or the University of Hartford don't have to wait weeks for an acceptance decision! Admissions reps will be participating in the NMHS Instant Decision Week - 11/29 to 12/3. Students can find out immediately if they've been accepted and there's no commitment required to attend the school to which they've been admitted. Nice to have options!

### ***Missed The NMHS Financial Aid Night Presentation?***

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opened October 1st for any student entering their freshman year of college next fall. On 10/14 Diana Draper, Director of Financial Aid at Fairfield University, presented information to help NMHS students and parents navigate their way through the Financial Aid process. View the presentation [here](#).

### ***Signing Day for NMHS Athletes***

Congratulations to the following NMHS athletes signing Letters of Intent:

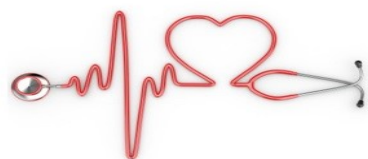
- **Chris Bon Tempo**, Track and Field, Walsh University
- **Nick Carlucci**, Baseball, Franklin Pierce University
- **Grace Christian**, Volleyball, Keene State College
- **Claire Daniels**, Cross Country/Track and Field, Penn State University
- **Sarah Falder**, Swimming, Bryant University
- **Ian Lee**, Swimming, Towson University
- **Casey Lenihan**, Rowing, Southern Methodist University
- **Madelaine Sweeney**, Cross Country/Track and Field, University of CT



### ***NMHS Theatre Presents Fall Play***

NMHS Theatre is proud to present its fall play production of *She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition*. The play 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 and Saturday, December 4th at 7 PM. Purchase tickets on <https://nmhsct.booktix.com/>.





## Notes from the School Nurses

On November 4th, Governor Lamont announced that Connecticut school districts would have the option to adopt a process entitled *Screen and Stay* which provides options for temporary relief from student and staff quarantines due to CoVid-19 Exposures in K-12 schools. On November 5th, districts were provided with the following guidance: [Options for Temporary Relief from Student and Staff Quarantines due to COVID-19 Exposures in K-12 Schools Fall 2021](#) which describes specific instances during which *Screen and Stay* could be offered as a choice for families.

NMPS implemented the *Screen and Stay* process effective Monday, November 15th, for the 2021-22 school year until there comes a time when the state discontinues the option for districts.

*Screen and Stay* procedures will permit students or staff who would otherwise have to quarantine due to an exposure experienced while in school to choose to continue reporting to school for in-person learning or work provided:

- the exposure occurred inside the school building between masked individuals; or
- the exposure occurred between either masked or unmasked individuals in certain supervised outdoor activities; and
- the student or staff person identified as a close contact remains asymptomatic; and
- both the school and family can implement selected procedures to further reduce in-school transmission risk.

Please note that once a staff member or a student is identified as a close contact and it is determined that the person meets the criteria for *Screen and Stay*, the nurse and/or the building administrator will contact the staff member/family and explain the options available. Parents/staff who are choosing to opt into the *Screen and Stay* process will need to fill out the following attestation form:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EFfkrWn8QUHf1emGBYreggCzam8OJTvf/view?usp=sharing>

Staff should return the form promptly to the school administration and student forms should be sent directly to the school health office.

Parents must actively monitor their child daily for symptoms using this form:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EH5ZWXXVmrGZjw7Nft6vBHBTCBb\\_24SD/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EH5ZWXXVmrGZjw7Nft6vBHBTCBb_24SD/view?usp=sharing) to screen for potential symptoms for 14 days.

If there are any questions, you may contact the school nursing staff and the school administration directly. Please keep this information handy in the event that you need to refer to it in the future.



## NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY

New Milford Youth Agency Presents...

### Kindness IS KEY!

JOIN US FOR  
KEYCHAIN DESIGNING  
ARTS and CRAFTS  
&  
FUN DISCUSSIONS

Register @  
myyouthagency.com  
Sara Wells, LMSW  
swells@newmilford.org  
860-210-2030

3rd - 5th  
grade  
students  
WELCOME!

Every Monday starting  
November 15th  
through December 20th

3:30 (after school)  
until 4:45PM

A 6 week workshop designed to be kinder to  
each other and ourselves

@ JPCC - Youth Agency: 2 Pickett District Road

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



These are open groups and students  
can join in at any time.

Thank you to outgoing Board members Joe Failla and Eileen Monaghan for their dedication and commitment to the staff and families of NMPS as they leave the Board this month after completing their four year terms. Thank you also to Board members Angie Chastain and Cynthia Nabozny who left earlier in their terms.





## Congratulations to New Milford Public Schools "Stars" for November 2021!



### **Keri Loth, HPS Secretary**

*"Keri went above and beyond to make sure our school was ready to open. The amount of work she completed in order to allow us to have an effective arrival and dismissal process to start the year was massive. She is a huge reason as to why Hill and Plain is such a great school."*

### **Laura Lyon, NES Paraeducator**

*"Laura recognizes social and/or academic needs in our NES students and is there to encourage, support, and help as needed. She is a friendly colleague that has a caring nature. We thank Laura for her work in and outside the school building, and her dedication within our community."*



### **Dana O'Rourke, NMHS Computer Tech**

*"As the NMHS computer tech, Dana is often inundated with requests for help, and having to solve technical issues. She always helps us any way possible, as soon as she is able to. Dana always has a smile on her face and never complains or shows that she is overwhelmed - even when she is. We appreciate all that she does for us."*

*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 digital form titled "Nominate NMPS Staff for Recognition" with a fireworks background. It includes fields for "Staff Member Name" and "Short answer text". Below is a section for "School" with checkboxes for Hill and Plain Elementary School, Northville Elementary School, Sarah Noble Elementary School, Schaghticoke Middle School, and New Milford High School.





# New Milford Public Schools SUPERINTENDENT'S 2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET WORKSHOPS



**Please join Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo and district administrators via Zoom for budget focused workshops. All sessions will be recorded.**

**DECEMBER 7**

*Focus on...*

**5 Year Capital Plan and  
Energy Savings  
Initiatives**

**5 PM to 6 PM  
Via Zoom**

<https://zoom.us/j/94121521774?pwd=anZLRmhuOXRZc2RJTWNXa0hzczhUT09>

Meeting ID: 941 2152 1774  
Passcode: 065486

One tap mobile  
+19292056099,,94121521774#,,,,\*06  
5486# US (New York)  
+13017158592,,94121521774#,,,,\*06  
5486# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

**DECEMBER 14**

*Focus on...*

**SPED Out of District  
Tuition and  
Transportation**

**5 PM to 6 PM  
Via Zoom**

<https://zoom.us/j/99640066691?pwd=eXJISWVwTnVrUHhPaFBQZ2xT0tZz09>

Meeting ID: 996 4006 6691  
Passcode: 703047

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+13126266799,,99640066691#,,,,\*70  
3047# US (Chicago)  
+19292056099,,99640066691#,,,,\*70  
3047# US (New York)

Dial by your location  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

**DECEMBER 15**

*Focus on...*

**Enrollment  
and  
Staffing**

**5 PM to 6 PM  
Via Zoom**

<https://zoom.us/j/91408436235?pwd=Zi9KSWRKSTJyMzczMTROVEpuRFNVZz09>

Meeting ID: 914 0843 6235  
Passcode: 608386

One tap mobile  
+13017158592,,91408436235#,,,,\*60  
8386# US (Washington DC)  
+13126266799,,91408436235#,,,,\*60  
8386# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Mark  
Your  
calendar

**New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings  
Will Be Held in the SNIS Library on:**

January 18  
January 19  
January 25

**January 26: Vote on Budget Adoption**



## 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**

## The Holidays are Here!

*The American Psychological Association\* suggests these tips to help parents effectively manage holiday stress:*

- **Strengthen social connections**—We know that strong, supportive relationships help us manage all kinds of challenges. So, we can view the holidays as a time to reconnect with the positive people in our lives. Also, volunteering at a local charity on our own or with family can be another way to make connections; helping others often makes us feel better, too.
- **Initiate conversations about the season**—It can be helpful to have conversations with our kids about the variety of different holiday traditions our families, friends and others may celebrate. Parents can use this time as an opportunity to discuss how some families may not participate in the same holiday traditions as others.
- **Set expectations**—It is helpful to set realistic expectations for gifts and holiday activities. Depending on a child's age, we can use this opportunity to teach kids about the value of money and responsible spending. We need to remember to pare down our own expectations, too. Instead of trying to take on everything, we need to identify the most important holiday tasks and take small concrete steps to accomplish them.
- **Keep things in perspective**—On the whole, the holiday season is short. It helps to maintain a broader context and a longer-term perspective. We can ask ourselves, what's the worst thing that could happen this holiday? Our greatest fears may not happen and, if they do, we can tap our strengths and the help of others to manage them. There will be time after the holiday season to follow up or do more of things we've overlooked or did not have the time to do during the holidays.
- **Take care of yourself**—It is important that we pay attention to our own needs and feelings during the holiday season. We can find fun, enjoyable and relaxing activities for ourselves and our families. By keeping our minds and bodies healthy, we are primed to deal with stressful situations when they arise. Consider cutting back television viewing for kids and getting the family out together for fresh air and a winter walk. Physical activity can help us feel better and sleep well.

\*American Psychological Association

<https://www.apa.org/topics/parenting/holiday>

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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