



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



New Milford High School
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal

Mr. Marc Balanda,
Ass't. Principal

Mrs. Elizabeth Curtis,
Ass't. Principal

Dr. Christopher Longo,
Ass't. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal

Mrs. Susan Greene,
Ass't. Principal



Sarah Noble School

Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal

Mrs. Anne Bilko
Ass't. Principal

Dr. Don Naiman,
Ass't. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary

Mrs. Maryann Ness, Principal

Mrs. Susan Ruddock,
Assistant Principal



John Pettibone Elementary

Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal

Mrs. Joan Kick, Ass't. Principal



Northville Elementary

Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal

Mrs. Joan Kick, Ass't. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools Retirees

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We are pleased to bring you this feature on our retirees. Each retiree was asked a set of questions about their time at New Milford Schools. Their responses, where available, follow. When responses weren't available, a photo and their position are listed.

We wish each of them a Happy Retirement!

Claudia Banks
Elementary Teacher
Sarah Noble Intermediate School



Mrs. Banks says she "enjoyed 35 years of working with amazing children and sharing with enthusiastic staff members in New Milford. Everyday has been an adventure with exciting students who loved to be challenged." Mrs. Banks and her husband, Dennis,

look forward to many adventures with their family and friends.

Gary Barker
7th Grade Science Teacher
Schaghticoke Middle School



Mr. Barker has been at New Milford Schools for 31 years. In addition to his current position, he has also served as a Department Chair and SMS Summer School Head Teacher.

Although Mr. Barker enjoyed the wonderful staff he has been privileged to work with, he is "looking forward to sleeping past 5 a.m. and taking a vacation in September!"

Laurie Dwyer
Art Teacher
Northville Elementary School



Employed by NMPS since 1971, Mrs. Dwyer has taught in every school but Schaghticoke. In retirement she plans to travel with her husband "enjoying their grandchildren, working with the Lay Missionaries of Charity of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta serving as the

LMC USA National link, returning to her studio work as an artist and writing."

Mrs. Dwyer's favorite remembrance of her years at the New Milford Public Schools is the joy of the children as they worked as "creative artists".



Judith Friedman
Reading/Language Arts Consultant
Northville Elementary School



Mrs. Friedman began her career in 1974 as a fourth grade teacher at John Pettibone Elementary School. Taking time off to raise her three sons, Mrs. Friedman returned as the Title 1 Coordinator.

Spending time with her four (soon to be five) grandchildren tops Mrs. Friedman's plans for retirement. Her favorite thing about New Milford Schools was "working with a very dedicated group of colleagues who I can also call friends."

Peggy Fusek
8th Grade Language Arts Teacher
Schaghticoke Middle School



Mrs. Fusek has been at New Milford Schools since 1982. She began her career as a permanent sub and, in addition to her current role as an 8th Grade English teacher, has also taught special education as well as English to grades 6-8.

Mrs. Fusek's future plans include traveling. She has "enjoyed working with the wonderful staff at SMS as well as the terrific students."

Joy Gaiser
4th Grade Special Education Teacher
Sarah Noble Intermediate School



Mrs. Gaiser began her teaching career at Pettibone in 1969. She took several years off to raise her children, returning in 1985.

Along with her husband, Mrs. Gaiser has many hobbies that will keep her busy in retirement. Those hobbies include grand-parenting, woodworking, music, swimming, biking, kayaking, and traveling. Additionally, Mrs. Gaiser loves to sew, knit, paint, hook rugs, garden, read, give piano lessons, and play the piano and violin.

The best part of her job was "the kids- all different- all unique- and all amazing."

Sandra Gammons
5th Grade Teacher
Sarah Noble Intermediate School



Mrs. Gammons has been with New Milford Schools for 24 years. In retirement, Mrs. Gammons hopes to pursue activities she has put aside in the last few years. Foremost she plans to travel to visit her daughters living in Boston and Philadelphia and to spend time at her home in New Hampshire. Mrs. Gammons also enjoys being outside, reading, doing anything related to art and decorating, and volunteering at school and church.

Of her time at New Milford, Mrs. Gammons says, "It has been a pleasure working in the New Milford Public Schools. I have found my colleagues to be professional, knowledgeable, and dedicated to providing a quality education for all students. I have enjoyed working with the students and watching them experience growth with academics, friendships and self-confidence. I will truly miss caring friends and students eager to experience each new day."

Vi Gorman
Secretary to the Principal
Northville Elementary School



Mrs. Gorman has been with New Milford Schools for 31 years. In retirement she plans to travel, read, exercise, enjoy her grandchildren and "whatever else might come along."

Mrs. Gorman enjoyed working with the teachers and the children. She says, "The children always can make you smile!"

Janet Hahn
Kindergarten Teacher
Hill and Plain Elementary School



Although Mrs. Hahn began her career in New Jersey, she was with New Milford Public Schools for 30 years. Mrs. Hahn's retirement "agenda" includes spending time with family and friends, traveling, reading and exploring the outdoors.

Of her career at New Milford, Mrs. Hahn says, "Looking back on my 30 years of working in the NMPS system I am thankful for the many people who have touched my life: my students and their families, staff, administration and my wonderful friends. It has been a great journey!"

Catherine Hyde
1st Grade Teacher
John Pettibone Elementary School



Mrs. Hyde was with New Milford Schools for 44 years and now plans to move to New York state to explore her new environment, “get back into yoga, boat on the Hudson River and enjoy this new chapter of my life.”

While teaching, Mrs. Hyde enjoyed “seeing how much growth a 6 year old makes from September to June, and how much fun it is being amazed along the way!”

Cindy Iffland
Instrumental Music Teacher
Schaghticoke Middle School



Mrs. Iffland has been at New Milford Schools for 29 years: 9 years at John Pettibone Elementary School and 20 years at Schaghticoke.

Mrs. Iffland’s retirement plans include spending more time outdoors. Her favorite thing about teaching was “The job of being able to bring music to so many students.”

Jacqueline Love
Physical Education Teacher
Sarah Noble Intermediate School



As sent in by Mrs. Love, she did such an eloquent job, it needed to be left as it was...

My current position is Physical Education teacher at SNIS. I've been in New Milford for 23 years. I started out here strictly as a Kindergarten PE teacher 2 1/2 days a week. It was a beautiful part-time job for a mother. As the enrollment grew, I was added on to 3 days a week, then 4 and finally 5 days. It's been a rewarding experience. Through teaching, I view life with a greater appreciation for all children.

I love children and plan on spending my retirement enjoying my grandchildren. I want to teach my granddaughter, Elizabeth, how to play the piano and enjoy the arts that life has to offer. I'd like to be on the golf course and walking the beach in my Florida home. My husband is building a log cabin in upstate New York. I envision my grandchildren out front by the stream running and playing in the woods.

I have met some wonderful friends during my employment. Most people hate a commute, but I have the beauty of sharing my commute with 2 wonderful friends from my home town. It's 40 minutes each way of laughter. We solve the world's problems every day only to encounter a new one the very next ride! It's been a pleasure and a joy to be a part of New Milford. Every time a child calls out my name, "Mrs. Love", I feel a sense of pride. As one student said to me this year, “without you Mrs. Love, there is no love in the room.” But that is only for now. Next year, a new and wonderful teacher will take my place and a different "Love" will fill the rooms at SNIS. Thank you for the opportunity to be in your school district.

Donna Luzi
Assistant Principal
New Milford High School



Mrs. Luzi has been with New Milford Schools for 33 years. She was originally hired as the Spanish Teacher at Schaghticoke Middle School. Although Mrs. Luzi is retiring from NMPS, she plans to continue her work in the education field. Her favorite thing at New Milford was “working with students and the entire school community to help make NMHS an even better place than it is.”

James Matranga
Chair and Teacher of World Languages Department
New Milford High School



Mr. Matranga has been employed by the New Milford Public School System since September of 1977, thus completing his 35th year of teaching. The majority of his career (the first 32 years) was spent at Schaghticoke Middle School where he taught both Spanish and French.

As for his plans after retiring, Jim wishes to stay active in the teaching profession. He has been an adjunct professor of French at Western Connecticut State University for over 10 years and will continue to instruct two classes a semester there. He will also continue to officiate high school soccer matches for the CIAC. Additionally, he plans to travel off season—to the beach with his wife in early September and to snow ski out West with friends “not during Winter break.”

Mr. Matranga says that without a doubt the best thing about being a teacher is the lasting relationships. He also enjoyed mentoring younger staff members. He adds, “I have the highest regard for our school system. We have a great staff and wonderful children. I have always received support from the administration, colleagues, and parents which made my career an enjoyable one. Teaching is a noble profession and it was the right choice for me.”

Sandra Nadeau
Principal
Hill and Plain Elementary School



Dr. Nadeau has been working in the New Milford Public Schools for twenty years. She was originally hired as the Teacher/Coordinator of the English as a Second Language program. She then moved to Assistant Principal at HPS in 1996 before becoming Principal in 2000.

In retirement, she plans to spend more time with her ten grandchildren and family. She also plans to continue to work in the educational field.

Dr. Nadeau says, "I love the people that I have worked with through the years in New Milford and I will miss the staff, students, and their families very much! It's a wonderful community and I've met a lot of great people!"

Nancy Nahley
Library Media Specialist
Hill and Plain Elementary School



Mrs. Nahley has been at New Milford Schools for 29 years. She spent her first 18 years at Northville as an elementary teacher teaching first, third and fifth grade. For the last eleven years, she has served as the Library/Media Specialist at Hill and Plain.

Mrs. Nahley won a trip last fall at the Irish Festival and plans to take a cruise to Alaska with her husband to kick-off her retirement. Then she plans to spend more time with her four daughters and their families. Mrs. Nahley also serves on the Board of Directors at a daycare facility in Danbury and plans to volunteer there.

Of her time at New Milford, Mrs. Nahley says, "I truly have loved the associations that I have made in New Milford. I have felt that the administrators, teachers, and most recently my library clerks that I have worked with have been my true partners in my growth as a teacher. I worked on so many projects with so many of my colleagues from making books for refugee children, to planning 28 annual Literature Week Events, and so many Dr. Seuss days, as well as parent and child book club meetings. I have cherished my relationships, most of all, with all of the children whose lives I have been fortunate to be a part of. At Hill and Plain School, I will always be thankful to my parent volunteers, who tirelessly gave of their free time. Teaching for me, in New Milford, has been such an important and gratifying part of my life."

Laura Purcell
Speech Language Pathologist
John Pettibone Elementary School



Mrs. Purcell has been with New Milford Schools for 22 years, working in Hill and Plain, Northville and John Pettibone throughout her years here.

Her immediate plans for retirement include “taking a deep breath, gardening, reading, training and using a therapy dog, exercising, and spending more time with my husband and children.”

Mrs. Purcell’s favorite part of working at New Milford was the children and the dedicated staff. She says, “I was very fortunate to have worked at a job where I felt I was helping children while at the same time, I was learning and growing professionally.”

Gerald Robinson
Assistant Principal
Schaghticoke Middle School



Mr. Robinson has been in education for 43 years—21 here in New Milford and 22 years in Massachusetts before that! During his time in New Milford he also served at New Milford High School as Assistant Principal and Athletic Director.

He plans to “travel extensively, write and get lost on the Cape.”

Mr. Robinson says he enjoyed the different positions he held at NMPS as it allowed him to have diverse experiences.

Nina Shimer
Kindergarten Teacher
John Pettibone Elementary School



Before retiring, Mrs. Shimer completed 21 years in New Milford. She always taught kindergarten at NMPS, but before coming here she taught special education for 10 years at Rescue (now Ed Connection).

“Retirement should bring lots of time with my girls who are all grown up and both living down south. Traveling and volunteering are also in the works -- and a little subbing would be fine,” adds Mrs. Shimer.

Tora (Betty) Simas
School Nurse
New Milford High School



Mrs. Simas has been employed since 1997 when she started as a part-time nurse at Northville Elementary. In retirement she plans to “do some traveling, working in her garden and have lots of time for reading.”

Her favorite thing about working in the public schools has always been the students. She says, “It has been very fun watching them grow up from my days at Northville to graduating the high school. I will miss all the wonderful staff at NMHS especially my co-workers in the nurses’ office.”

Janet Smith
Paraeducator
Northville Elementary School



Mrs. Smith has been with the system for 28 years, starting at JPS in 1984 and then moving to NES in 1991. Right now she doesn’t have any concrete plans for retirement other than spending more time visiting her granddaughters' school. She is also looking forward to doing things before 4:00 p.m.

Of her time at New Milford, Mrs. Smith says, “I have enjoyed working with so many wonderful people and will miss them, but plan on seeing some of them socially at times. Many friendships have been formed over the years and I will treasure all the memories.”

Marlana Sprindis
1st Grade Teacher
Northville Elementary School



Mrs. Sprindis has worked in New Milford for 21 years. She has always taught kindergarten, even at a private school before coming to NMPS.

Mrs. Sprindis and her husband are looking forward to traveling now that she is retired.

Her favorite thing about working in a New Milford Public School is “the wonderful group of people I have had the pleasure of interacting with for so many years.”

Cathy Yanik
Third Grade Teacher
Northville Elementary School



Mrs. Yanik has been with the New Milford School System since 1974. She started teaching at John Pettibone School and has also worked as a reading tutor, a second grade teacher, and a fifth grade teacher.

Mrs. Yanik's retirement plans include "traveling and creating fiber arts in my studio."

Of her years at New Milford, Mrs. Yanik says, "I believe my favorite thing about teaching at Northville was the opportunity to work with incredibly professional and caring staff members. My daughter was fortunate to have received her early education at Northville. I most enjoy meeting up with students I have had in the past and catching up on all the exciting and wonderful things they are doing."

Colette Boyd
Special Education Teacher
New Milford High School



Stephen Flanagan
Social Studies Teacher
New Milford High School



Adele Johnson
Director,
Pupil Personnel and Special Services
Central Office



Richard Kosier
Library Media Specialist
New Milford High School



Judith Leonard
English Teacher
New Milford High School



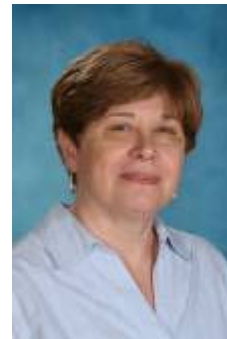
Susan Michaud
Art Teacher
Schaghticoke Middle School



Barbara Paradise
Business Teacher
New Milford High School



Josephine Rositano
Psychologist
Northville Elementary School



Ruthann Tomascak
Teacher Clerk
Sarah Noble Intermediate School





New Milford Public Schools

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

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Assistant Superintendent

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Lisa Warren
Special Education Teacher
New Milford High School



Kathy Wooster
Special Education Teacher
New Milford High School

Retiree Recognition



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Candid photos are courtesy of Kristine Stewart.



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.