



New Milford
Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776



New Milford High School
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal

Mrs. Elizabeth Curtis,
Ass't. Principal

Mrs. Susan Greene,
Ass't. Principal

Mrs. Donna Luzi,
Ass't. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal

Mr. Gerald Robinson,
Ass't. Principal



Sarah Noble School
Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal

Mrs. Anne Bilko,
Admin. Intern

Mrs. Kristine Golden,
Ass't. Principal

Dr. Don Naiman,
Ass't. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary
Dr. Sandra Nadeau, Principal

Ms. Marcy Sterlis,
Ass't. Principal



John Pettibone Elementary
Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal

Ms. Marcy Sterlis,
Ass't. Principal



Northville Elementary
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal
Mrs. Joan Kick, Ass't. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 2, Issue 3

November 2011

Wired...Well, Not Really!



Clockwise—
Connor D. works
on his iPad at
Northville
Elementary
School; New
Milford High
School sophomore
Shane E. reads a
Kindle; and seniors
(l-r) Simone P.,
Marissa G., Matt
G., utilize wireless
access in the
NMHS library.

One doesn't normally think of New Milford Schools as wireless hot spots, but that's exactly what they turned out to be during Snowstorm Alfred. Thanks to the installation of a wireless network over the summer, New Milford residents who sheltered and showered at New Milford Schools were able to "get connected" wirelessly at all schools, thus providing them access to email, Internet and social media.

In addition to providing much needed communication to those without electricity during the storm, the wireless network aides students and staff daily throughout the school year. The District chose to install wireless to support new, emerging technologies. Students and staff with devices such as iPads, tablets, netbooks, Kindles and laptops can use their equipment anywhere in the district. Before now, wireless access points were only available in specific locations.

Dan Divito, Director of Technology, explains, "The wireless is a great tool to bring technology directly into the classroom. Instead of tethering students to computer labs, we can now move towards portable carts that can be brought to each class. The enterprise wireless is a secure answer to integrating 21st century learning skills into the classroom."

"Having wireless internet access in the buildings is great. We can have programs in rooms at SMS like our gym and our multi-purpose room giving other options when we have special programs, including guest speakers. Before this fall, we weren't able to access the internet in either one of those rooms," comments David Bilmes, SMS Library/Media Specialist.

Contents:

Wired	1
School News	2-7
Calendar	8
Athletics	9
Types of Ed Tech	10
Student Accolades	11
Board of Ed	12

College Connections



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Many things have changed since we were in high school—hair styles, clothing, music and most definitely, the college application process! I remember dragging out my electric typewriter to complete college applications that were mailed to me through the US Postal service and trying not to make a mistake on it, even though my typewriter did have that nifty correct key. Today however, college applications, financial aid and scholarships are no more than a few keystrokes away. And remember the college essay, or personal statement as it was called then? Well, today, creating and personalizing it is as easy as pulling up a saved file!

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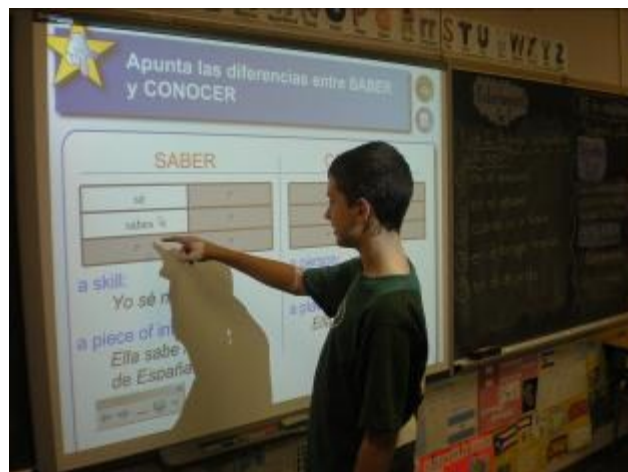
Technology has vastly changed the college application experience for students. Instead of driving hours to visit a college, students can take a “virtual” tour. Visiting the school’s website will provide the students with real-time video of campus activities or the ability to read the school’s blog to find out what happens day-to-day. Students can register for the SAT and ACT electronically, even choosing to view their scores online. Students can even apply to any of over 400 colleges using the Common App (www.commonapp.org).

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New Milford High School keeps students organized and on-track with a program called Naviance. Naviance is a web-based resource that supports course, career, and college planning at New Milford High School. Naviance allows NMHS counselors the means to easily provide transcripts, recommendation letters and additional information to colleges to complete the student’s application. Students can do everything to stay organized during the college process including keeping track of college they’ve applied to and track what information is still needed to complete their application. Naviance also provides a convenient place for students to follow their PSAT, SAT and ACT scores. Additionally, Naviance provides students with the opportunity to complete personality and career surveys, explore careers, and create a resume.

La Technologie, Tecnología



My foreign language of choice in high school was French. Although I took two years, about the only word I remember is bon jour! However, thanks to developing technologies, my children have had a totally different experience learning language at New Milford Public Schools.

“Language classrooms of today are VERY different from the language classrooms that parents knew in middle or high school. The only things that have remained unchanged are the languages themselves,” comments Sue Partelow, Schaghticoke World Language teacher.

The piece of equipment that has provided the most impact to teaching World Language is the SMART board. Three of the five Schaghticoke World Language teachers currently have SMART boards and the other two are scheduled to get them in the next few weeks. Educators use the SMART board to make the culture of the target language come alive for students. At the touch of a button, they can see and listen to real native speakers while "visiting" the countries they are studying, all in real time.

Partelow explains, “It is such an innovative and user-friendly piece of technology. It allows us to engage students in ways that were unheard of a decade ago. We are amazed that we constantly find new ways to use it. The potential of this technology is practically limitless.”

Technology has allowed teachers and students to easily connect school to home and home to school. This extends learning time beyond the class period with more sophisticated, interesting, and fun activities, not just the traditional pencil and paper homework assignments.

Students love using the SMART board! They are more engaged and more willing to participate because activities are fun, interesting, and "hands-on.”

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SNIS

Technology Smorgasbord

SMART boards get a lot of press these days, but they're not the only type of technology used in educational settings. Sarah Noble Intermediate School (SNIS) students are exposed to a variety of devices. Here are a few of the things students are learning:

Flip Camera

Students in Carol Allison's sixth grade science class are becoming familiar with flip cameras. A flip camera is a small handheld device that records video with a flip-out thumb drive to download immediately to the computer. Students use the flip-camera to videotape one another during scientific investigations which are then played back to remind students of the investigative question.

Prezi

Prezi is an enhanced powerpoint type of program that Allison's students can access online both at school and home. Students can create presentations either singularly or as a group. Presentations can be played on the SMART board.

PowerPoint

SNIS Reading Specialist Susan Hackel uses PowerPoint to help students with expository writing.

"The students like to see their work this way, it motivates them," remarks Hackel.

YouTube

Mrs. Hackel also uses YouTube to show students what they are learning about, or to actively engage them prior to a lesson. For instance, if a class is learning about historical fiction and were reading about dust storms, a video of dust storms can be accessed.

Heard round the District



Following are quotes from New Milford Public School staff regarding the use of technology in the classroom:

This is the second year I have incorporated the SMART board into my instruction in the library and I really love it!

Debbie Chin

JPS Library/Media Specialist



I am excited about incorporating technology into my lessons. It definitely enhances the content and provides visuals that make more concrete examples. It makes learning more pertinent for all learners.

Susan L. Stoughton

SMS 8th Grade Science



My students love using technology such as the SMART board. It is engaging and interactive. Technology makes learning fun and interactive!

Krista-Leigh Donovan

SMS Special Education



Wireless throughout the district is a big stepping stone to new technologies that we will now be able to bring to the classroom. Staff and students have already begun using iPads and laptops during various lessons and activities. We are just at the beginning of bringing even more technology to the classroom.

Eric Conklin

NES Technology Staff



What do teachers do during professional development days? They don't spend the day cleaning their room or grading papers. Instead, New Milford Public School staff utilize professional development days for continuing education learning opportunities. Professional Development days encompass a variety of topics that educators can choose from. Recent offerings have included:

- Reader's Workshop
- Technology Application for the SMART board
- Grade 2 CMT Writing Workshop
- Sitton Spelling
- Electric Report Card Training
- Internet Websites for Primary Teachers
- And many more

Educators choose a workshop that best fits their needs.

Ms. Donna Molinaro, second grade teacher at Hill and Plain Elementary School, is a district trainer for SMART boards. After showing an interest in the SMART Board, Ms. Molinaro was asked by Hill and Plain principal, Dr. Sandra Nadeau, to serve as the Hill and Plain SMART board trainer. After receiving instruction both in and out of district, she was prepared to instruct fellow educators.

Ms. Molinaro feels it is useful to have in-district trainers to help out in case a question comes up.

"It's great to know they're just an email or phone call away," Molinaro says.

Using a SMART board in the classroom daily gives Ms. Molinaro the necessary expertise to share with her colleagues. A normal day in Ms. Molinaro's room in-

cludes SMART board instruction in the following subject areas:

- DOL/DOM (Daily Oral Language/Daily Oral Math)
- Handwriting
Lessons are played back while letters/words are written on the board
- Spelling
- Writing Workshop
Mini lessons and whole group writing
- Reading Workshop
Mini lessons, read aloud or video
- Saxon Math
- Social Studies/Science
Website, video or interactive quiz/test

Additionally, Ms. Molinaro shares that SMART boards can be used in the classrooms in the following ways*:

- Digital Storytelling
- Reinforce skills by using on-line interactive web sites
- Teach editing skills using editing marks
- Using the highlighter tool to highlight parts of speech—noun, verb, adjective, etc.
- Teach students how to navigate the Internet
- Save lessons to present to students who were absent
- Utilize graphics and charts during lessons
- Illustrate and write a book as a class
- And so much more!

"Teachers who learn how to use a SMART board as an interactive, electronic whiteboard can enhance instruction and learning," states Molinaro.

"Technology is the wave of the future and SMART boards are a great way to teach the basic skills and keep students excited about learning!"

*SMART board usage ideas copied from SMART Technologies website—www.smarttech.com.

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Technology in Music Education

I'll admit, technology has long been used in the music industry and in music education, but we typically think of music listening and editing equipment. However, John Pettibone Music Teacher, Shelly Diana, is taking it one step further. Mrs. Diana uses the school's portable SMART board several times throughout the year to provide students with activities that allow them the opportunity to apply information they've previously been taught. She is currently using a program, the "Sounds of the Symphony Orchestra" by Wildgoose Ed. Ltd., to help teach the Instruments of the Orchestra and their Families to John Pettibone second grade classes. Students are able to select any instrument, and then a recording of that particular instrument will instantly play, thus providing a multi-sensory approach to learning. Students can also select to hear a certain "family" of instruments or a combination of "families."



John Pettibone second grader, Lilly K., utilizes the SMART board in music class.

Utilizing the SMART board allows Mrs. Diana new ways to teach, reinforce and evaluate. Some lessons are available to her through SMART exchange, a resource for educators where they can share lessons and information about SMART technologies. However, Mrs. Diana is currently preparing to create her own lessons in order to be able to better address her student's specific learning goals.

"The students love using the SMART board, they are constantly asking to use it! They never seem to get tired of it," reports Mrs. Diana.

SMART Tables

I'm sure you've heard of SMART boards that are in many New Milford Public School classrooms, but what about a SMART table? A SMART table is an interactive learning center that is accessible from 360°. A SMART table is just the right height for students, especially smaller students, like those students enrolled in EXCEL at Northville Elementary. A SMART board is a great asset in the classroom, but for smaller students a SMART table is the perfect fit.

Like a SMART board, the SMART table allows students hands-on interaction. Several students can utilize the SMART table at once. In EXCEL, students learn readiness skills such as letter and color recognition; letter writing; categorizing; counting and following directions. Students gain cognitive and fine motor skills as well. SMART tables can be paired with SMART boards to reinforce lessons and allow small group work.

EXCEL teacher Jennifer Sheaffer comments, "I feel we are very lucky to have such an exciting and age appropriate learning tool in our classroom. The children enjoy all the activities and are learning in a fun and exciting way."



New Milford Schools Calendar

C A L E N D A R



November 24-25 – **NO SCHOOL** – Thanksgiving Holiday
November 29 – **SMS/NMHS** Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 30 – **SMS** Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences



December 1 – **NMHS** Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences
JPS Santa Fund Chorus
NES PTO Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
December 2 – **JPS** Santa Fund Assembly – 2:00 p.m.
December 4 - **SNIS** Breakfast with Santa
December 5 – **NMHS** Math Team Competition – 2:15 p.m.
December 6 – **SMS/NMHS** Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences
SMS Basketball Games @ Newtown – 3:45 p.m.
BOE – Facilities Committee Meeting – Lillis Bldg., Room 2 – 6:30 p.m.
BOE – Operations Committee Mtg. – Lillis Bldg., Room 2 – 7:30 p.m.
December 6-9 **H&P** Holiday Store
December 8 – **SMS/NMHS** Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences
SMS Band Concert – 7:00 p.m.
December 12 – **SMS** PTO Coffee with the Principal – 9:00 a.m.
SNIS Orchestra and Jazz Band Concert
December 13 – **BOE** Annual Meeting – SNIS Media Center – 7:00 p.m.
December 14 – **SMS** Battle of the Books Read-a-Thon – 2:20 p.m.
SNIS PTO – 9:00 a.m.
SNIS Grade 5 Chorus and Beginner Band Concert
December 15 – **SMS** Basketball @ Home – 3:30 p.m.
SMS Crane-a-thon – 2:15 p.m.
SNIS Grade 6 Chorus, Intermediate & Adv. Band Concert
December 16 – **NES** Snowflake Dance – 6:00-8:30 p.m.
December 17 - **NMHS** – Team Waramaug – 8:00 a.m.
December 19 – **SMS** National Geographic Bee
SNIS Grade 4 Chorus Concert
Town Wide PTO – SNIS – 7:00 p.m.
December 20 – **H&P** Winter Concert- 2:00 p.m. (Snow date Dec. 21)
December 23-January 2 – **NO SCHOOL** – **Holiday Recess**

Upcoming Home Athletic Events

11/24	V Football	New Fairfield	10:00 a.m.
11/30	V Girls B-ball	Watertown	3:00 p.m.
12/2	V Boys B-ball	Shepaug Valley	3:30 p.m.
12/5	V Boys B-ball	Northwestern	5:30 p.m.
12/7	V Girls B-ball	Wamogo	7:00 p.m.
12/9	V Girls B-ball	Newtown	7:00 p.m.
12/10	V Wrestling	Holy Cross/ Trumbull	9:00 a.m.
12/14	V Wrestling	Oxford	6:00 p.m.
12/16	V Boys Hockey	New Fairfield/ Immac.	7:00 p.m.
12/16	V Girls B-ball	Bethel	7:00 p.m.
12/16	JV Girls B-ball	Bethel	5:15 p.m.
12/16	FR Girls B-ball	Bethel	3:30 p.m.
12/20	V Boys B-ball	Pomperaug	7:00 p.m.
12/20	JV Boys B-ball	Pomperaug	5:15 p.m.
12/20	FR Boys B-ball	Pomperaug	3:30 p.m.
12/21	V Boys Hockey	Brookfield/ Bethel-Dan.	6:45 p.m.
12/22	V Boys B-ball	Notre Dame/ Fairfield	7:00 p.m.
12/22	JV Boys B-ball	Notre Dame/ Fairfield	5:15 p.m.
12/23	V Boys B-ball	Danbury	7:00 p.m.
12/23	JV Boys B-ball	Danbury	5:15 p.m.
12/23	FR Boys B-ball	Danbury	3:30 p.m.
12/23	V Girls B-ball	Lauralton Hall	7:00 p.m.
12/23	JV Girls B-ball	Lauralton Hall	5:15 p.m.
12/23	FR Girls B-ball	Lauralton Hall	3:30 p.m.
12/27	V Girls B-ball	Immaculate	6:00 p.m.



When one thinks of high school athletics, technology isn't the first thing that comes to mind. However, these days, athlete safety is aided greatly by recent technological advances. ImPACT (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) is a widely used scientifically validated computerized concussion evaluation system that is used by all athletes at New Milford High School.

ImPACT is a computer software system that takes a baseline test of a student athlete's response time to visual stimuli – recognized shapes, sequences and numbers. New Milford High School's head athletic trainer, Robin Underwood, administers the test to each athlete in the athletic program. When a concussion is suspected, a second test is administered and the resulting data is one of many factors used to determine if a student athlete has a concussion.

"For high school coaches safety is the number one concern for our athletes, and ImPACT gives us the ability to use modern technology to help diagnose concussions. The athletes at NMHS benefit greatly from the technology by early diagnosis and immediate care by the trainer and other medical professionals," comments Chuck Lynch, NMHS Head Football Coach.

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Well obviously you can't have a technology themed newsletter without a listing of educational apps for smartphones and tablets. So here are a few in no particular order:



PopMath Basic Math

Match questions and answers contained in floating bubbles – such as “20 x 8” and “160.” Games can be completed in either timed or untimed matches. Includes addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Cost is \$.99.



Wurdle

Boggle, but without the noise! Cost is \$1.99.



Touch Physics Lite

Kids move a small purple circle to the yellow star by drawing and dropping. All object obey the laws of physics.



Baseball Facts

Practice multiplication with Everyday Mathematics Baseball Facts. Cost is \$1.99.



Stack the States

A fun way to practice geography. Cost is \$.99.

Please note—New Milford Public Schools does not endorse any smart phone or tablet application. This information is provided solely for parent and guardian discretionary usage. It is strongly suggested that parents and guardians screen any application for inappropriate material. All game graphics are from ww.itunes.com.

New Milford High School held its annual National Honor Society induction ceremony on Monday, October 24, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the theatre. Fifty-one students were recognized and admitted into the National Honor Society based on its four pillars of scholarship, character, leadership and service. Mr. Burkhart, a Physical Education teacher at NMHS, was the keynote speaker. Below are New Milford High School's 2011 National Honor Society inductees. Congratulations to all!

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Thomas Barkal | Lindsay Hull | Krista Pullen |
| Zachary Boston | Bethany Hunt | Dennis Rafferty |
| Mia Carlone | Josheel Kainth | Allison Roberti |
| Kimberly Carlson | Dylan Kartchner | Emily Sanders |
| Paige Cawley | Ryan Kauer | Conner Shanahan |
| Kristina Chamberlin | Kyle Kellett | Daljit Sharma |
| Matthew Chastain | Matthew Lalli | John Tower |
| Nicholas Cianciolo | Benjamin Lawson | Hannah Tulinski |
| James Curley | Quentin Leitz | Julia Waldman |
| Spencer Devlin | Ashley Lian | Patrick Wells |
| Anthony Dolcimascolo | Li Tin Lin | Jaden Williams |
| James Flynn | Lishan Lin | |
| Julianna Fusco | Bihao Luo | Seniors |
| Tanner George | Timothy Mondonedeo | Anthony Agnessanto |
| Michael Giannetto | Peter Mosso | Gregory Demko |
| Cody Helgesen | Cristina Munoz | Jane Thompson |
| Kristen Hinz | Jessica Noteware | Johnny Zheng |
| Sara Holland | Lindsey Partelow | |



Athletes at New Milford High School have done well this year in the SWC. The boys cross country team won their 10th consecutive SWC Championship, the girls soccer team captured their first and the field hockey team took their 2nd SWC title in the last 5 years!

Congratulations to all!

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New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
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860-355-8406

Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Superintendent

Dr. Maureen E. McLaughlin
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Director, Human Resources

Mr. John Calhoun
Facilities Manager

Mr. Dan DiVito
Director, Technology

Mrs. Adele Johnson
Director, Pupil Personnel and
Special Services

Mr. Gregg Miller
Director, Fiscal Services

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Director, Food Services

Board of Education
Wendy Faulenbach, Chair
Daniel Nichols, Vice Chair
David Lawson, Secretary
Nancy C. Tarascio-Latour
Lynette Celli Rigdon
Thomas McSherry
Alexandra Thomas
William Wellman
Rodney Weinberg

Congratulations!



We would like to extend a friendly
welcome to the newly elected Board of
Education members:

- Tom Brant
- Danielle Florio-Shook
- David Lawson
- Daniel Nichols
- David Shaffer

and invite everyone to the Board of
Education Annual Meeting on Tues-
day, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the
Sarah Noble Library/Media Center.

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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