

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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Dr. Kerry Parker
Superintendent of Schools

May 1, 2020

Greetings NMPS Family!

We hope you are doing well and experiencing success with the live interactions we implemented this week. Some of you have shared photos of smiling students and teachers which warms all our hearts. We appreciate your hard work and efforts toward our Distance Learning Plan – together we are truly making it work. Well done!

Below are a few important items where we could use your help.

Survey for Parents and Employees

The Commissioner of Education has enlisted the help of the six Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs) to form teams of Connecticut education stakeholders for the purpose of gathering, analyzing, and sharing the issues, concerns, and ideas related to the process of **reopening schools**. An online tool will be used to make the gathering of feedback more efficient and to reflect all the different regions and constituent groups across the state. The tool, "ThoughtExchange," is entirely confidential and anonymous to use. Your participation and feedback are essential to the process and necessary for our State leaders to consider as decisions are made about reopening our schools. We encourage everyone to **use the link below** to share your thoughts and help evaluate the critical issues. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Thought Exchange Link: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/493894984>.

Take Time to Say Thank You

Celebrations this spring look very different. Even though we are not together at school, we are together virtually, so we hope you will take time to celebrate these people. We appreciate their dedication and commitment to our students. They make a difference every day. We are grateful to have them on the NMPS team!

April 1: Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
April 6-10: National Assistant Principals Week
April 22: Administrative Professionals Day
May 1: School Principal's Day
May 1: School Lunch Hero Day
May 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6: Nurses Day

Message from the School Medical Adviser, Evan Hack, MD

During this pandemic, our primary focus has been on staying safe and healthy. It is so important to remember that keeping current with your child's checkups and vaccinations is essential to keeping them healthy. We have already seen nationwide significant declines in routine well-child visits and vaccination rates. This could lead to the emergence of several vaccine preventable illnesses in our community in the months to come that could reach epidemic levels. These include Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Meningococcal Meningitis, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and others. With guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC, pediatric practices throughout the country are taking extraordinary measures to prioritize well visits and keep those patient areas clean and separate from ill patients. Please contact your child's primary care provider to schedule his/her yearly well visit and for information regarding how their office is functioning during this pandemic.

Thinking of you all and wishing you good health!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kerry Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kerry Parker