



New Milford Public School District

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Welcome Spring

May 1, 2023

Dear New Milford Families and Friends:

Although we have had a few chilly days, and entirely too much rain, I am enjoying seeing students engaged outside again. With the warmer weather approaching, I encourage you to take advantage of the outdoors. Nature offers vast opportunities for exploration, discovery, and learning. As we wind down to the last two months of school, I wanted to take a moment to share some updates and important information with you.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for your continued support and involvement in the education of your children. Your partnership is vital to their success, and I am repeatedly inspired by the dedication and care you show towards their learning journey.

On April 25, Dr. Kuchar, our Business Administrator, Ms. Odoksta, our Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and I presented the 2023-2024 Annual Budget to the Board of Education. The advertised budget can be reviewed [here](#). Due to a reduction in state aid, the increased costs of health care and transportation, as well as other expenses impacted by inflation, this was a challenging budget to prepare. Unfortunately, as a result of all these factors, the district will be experiencing reductions in staffing. As you might imagine, these were very difficult decisions. Despite these reductions, we worked tirelessly to ensure the quality of instruction and programming our students deserve.

If you did not have the opportunity to view the BOE meeting on April 25, you can see the [slide presentation here](#). It includes links to the [YouTube video](#) as well as a link to the student created [academic program video](#). We are so grateful for the work of these students: Jana Gallevo ('23), Bryce Ocden ('23), Juan Hernandez ('24), and Marianne Cabrera ('26), whose work showcased our students at all grade levels in the district.

If you missed the fanfare just prior to spring break, we announced our 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year:

Daniel Sullivan - NMPD Special Education Professional of the Year

Rebecca Smith - B.F. Gibbs Teacher of the Year

Leila Poeschl - Berkley Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Maucione - DEOMS Teacher of the Year

Brendan King - NMHS Teacher of the Year

Linette Curiel - District Teacher of the Year



Photos can be found on the district Facebook Page.

Follow us on FB @ "New Milford Public Schools" and look for our thumbnail picture of **The Knight!**

As we move forward in the school year, there are a few upcoming events and opportunities I would like to bring to your attention.



Calendar Changes - Since we have not used emergency closing days in our calendar this year, we will be returning TWO days.

Schools will be **CLOSED** on **Friday, May 26, 2023** and on **Monday, June 19, 2023**.



The month of May brings the launch of the testing season. Advanced Placement Exams and NJSLA testing schedules will be provided to you from your principal and/or guidance offices. Remember, a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast always help.

Other May Happenings:

May Begins the Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Month - Epic Reads recommends [53 Books to celebrate and appreciate this heritage](#).

May 1 Principal's Appreciation Day

May 8-12 National Teacher Appreciation Week

May 9 & 10 BOE Meeting Dates

May 10 National School Nurses Appreciation Day



May 14 is Mother's Day - Best wishes to all the moms, grandmas, step moms, godmothers, and other special women in our lives who feel like moms to us! Hope you can put your feet up and be pampered a bit!

May 14-20 National Special Education Week

May 15 SEPAC Meeting

May 17 NMHS Spring Concert

May 18 DEOMS National Junior Honor Society Induction

May 19 Gibbs Field Day

May 18-19 Berkley Kindergarten Orientation

May 22-23 Gibbs Kindergarten Orientation

May 23 Gibbs Arts Show, and DEOMS Spring Art Show and Concert

May 24 NMHS World Language Honor Society Induction, and Berkley Art Extravaganza

May 25 Berkley Field Day

May 26 and May 29 Schools Closed (black out day returned) & Memorial Day Monday



May 31 Coffee with the Super and Friends JR DeLalla, DEOMS Principal - One School, One Book



That's a wrap! *The Addams Family* electrified and entertained the audiences at the High School
We are so proud of the production. The set, lighting, direction, costumes, orchestra, and performances were superb! *No one even noticed the wheelchair!*





There is no time to waste in preparation for this summer's ARP ESSER funded production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Students in grades 8-12 may audition (live) for principal roles on May 3 & 5, AND we are welcoming our students in grades 3 - 7 to audition (via video submission) for munchkins and ensemble parts. Performances are July 7, 8 and 9.

[Grades 8 - 12 audition materials](#)

[Grades 3 - 7 audition materials](#)

Congratulations to the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the class of 2023:

Valedictorian



Salutatorian



Finally, I will be proposing a calendar change for the 23-24 school year. The change is to include the closing of school on Eid al-Fitr, celebrated on April 10, 2024 to recognize the culmination of the sacred month of Ramadan celebrated by Muslims all over the world including families here in New Milford. This high holy day deserves recognition on our calendar among the other days we traditionally close schools for Judeo/Christian Holidays.

I remind you I am always available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at any time. Thank you for entrusting me with your children's education. I look forward to continuing our work together throughout the rest of the school year.

Sincerely,

Danielle M. Shanley
she/her/hers