



New Hartford Public Schools Newsletter

Brian Murphy, Superintendent of Schools

May 2022



*From the desk of...
Brian Murphy,
Superintendent of Schools*

The end of the 2021-2022 school year is fast approaching. It is a school year that has seen our students display tremendous resiliency and return to a sense of normalcy. We are so proud of all of our students who have met every challenge presented to them over the last year. We would also like to express a heartfelt thank you once again to all of the parents who supported the New Hartford Public Schools during the trying times of the pandemic. Finally, a special thank you to our fabulous staff in the district whose dedication to every child is unparalleled. We continue to be blessed to work with your child, and our staff is committed to providing the best educational opportunities for every student in the district.

I am pleased to inform you that the New Hartford Public Schools' budget was approved at town referendum in May. I would like to thank everyone for all of their support during the budget process. The district will be able to meet the needs of every student and continue to provide meaningful learning opportunities for all students. We will continue to invest in all aspects of our school infrastructure to provide a safe learning environment. A special thank you to the New Hartford Board of Education for their leadership and commitment to every student in the district.

The district continues to improve our academic offerings to increase student achievement levels and enhance student engagement strategies. The district implemented two new targeted literacy programs (S.P.I.R.E./Heggerty) to help students with learning loss caused by the pandemic over the last two years. We will continue these two literacy strategies next school year because of the amazing success of the programs.



The district also successfully implemented a district wide Tutoring Academy this past school year to help with learning loss. Many students benefited from this personalized instruction before school. We will continue to offer the Tutoring Academy again next school year.



We are pleased to announce that the district's new Science Program (Mystery Science) was a tremendous success. The new K-5 program is fully aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. The program builds on conceptual understanding, application and problem solving skills.

The district continues to invest in technology based learning. We offered every student a Chromebook during the school year. We will continue to replace antiquated electronic devices and purchase additional Promethean Boards for classrooms. These smartboards have amplified sound



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instructional practices and improved student engagement. We have also increased our software catalog which has helped to differentiate instruction throughout the district. Our various software investments and new platforms have improved access for students. I am also pleased to inform you that our Advanced Manufacturing Program in the 5th and 6th grade had another extremely positive year. The program culminated with all of the 6th grade students visiting Goodwin University to meet with professors who talked about the multitude of professional opportunities that are available in the state of Connecticut.

RULER The implementation of our RULER approach has helped students recognize and regulate their emotions with helpful strategies. This approach helps students understand the causes and consequences of their emotions. The New Hartford Public Schools is one of six school districts in the state who have been identified by the Connecticut State Department of Education to participate in a statewide pilot Behavioral Health program because of our district's sound student Social-Emotional practices. Participation in this pilot program will help other school districts around the state to learn about implementing best practices in the area of student behavioral health.

The 2021-2022 school year was a memorable year that has made our school community stronger by working together. Our district goals will continue to focus on offering initiatives that improve the learning opportunities for every student. We have the most dedicated, talented staff who are committed to seeing your child flourish. The success of the New Hartford Public Schools is due to the collaboration of students, parents, and staff. We are honored to be given the responsibility of educating your child every day, and we will continue to do our best every day to meet the needs of your children. I hope you have a fantastic summer!



The district continues to focus on improving school climate. The past two school years have crystallized the social and emotional needs of our students.

Sincerely,
Brian Murphy
Superintendent of Schools



New Hartford Public Schools Newsletter

Student Services
Director Notes: Barbara McLean

May 2022

S.P.I.R.E

In alignment with our goal to improve teaching and learning, special education teachers have been piloting a specialized reading program called S.P.I.R.E., which stands for specialized program individualizing reading excellence. S.P.I.R.E is a skills based reading intervention that is founded in the philosophy of Orton Gillingham. This program is meant to support the struggling reader and is recommended for small group instruction. Each lesson takes approximately 50-60 minutes and is broken down into 10 steps: Key words/sounds, hearing sounds, word building, decoding words/sentences, building background knowledge, reading, sound dictation, pre-spelling, spelling, and sentence dictation. Each step within the lesson takes a systematic approach to teaching phonological awareness, phonics, spelling, handwriting, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. Our teachers are excited about their student's progress.

"S.P.I.R.E empowers my students and gives them the confidence they need to feel successful in the classroom. It is very individualized, and really breaks concepts down reading into small, manageable skills that build on each other. It's exciting to watch my kids grow as readers!"
-Drenka Marku Special Education Teacher

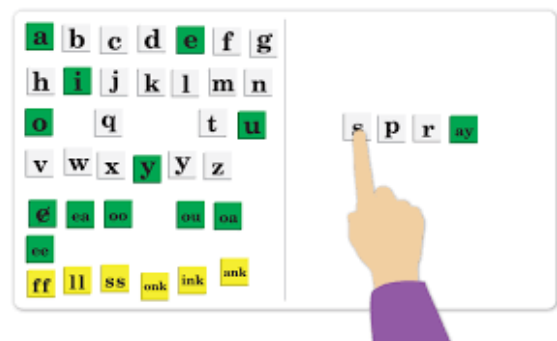
Foundational Skills and the Common Core

These foundational reading skills are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Skills are developed through grades kindergarten to grade three and focus on "demonstrating an understanding of the basic concepts of print, an understanding of spoken words, syllables, sounds (phonemes), phonics word analysis, and reading with fluency and accuracy.

"The CCSS offers a progression of skills, so much so that special education teachers are able to individualize and scaffold supports, so that students can progress toward rigorous grade level expectations while building upon their present levels of understanding. We believe that all students will learn to read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently (Anchor Standard 10). S.P.I.R.E allows for a systematic step by step approach toward strengthening the necessary foundational skills needed to go from learning to read to reading for understanding.

Continuous Improvement

As a District, we recognize the importance of using research based practices when supporting literacy development. We remain committed to building the capacity of our educators through training that supports rigor and curricular alignment. We are excited to include S.P.I.R.E as another research based approach to support our foundational literacy needs. The District will continue to work toward assuring that we have staff with training to support student needs. The department of Student Services is proud of our progress, and will continue to strive toward excellence. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in improving student learning.





New Hartford Public Schools Newsletter

Antolini School -
Principal Notes: Amanda Shaw

May 2022

Sixth Grade Spring Happenings

Spring of sixth grade is a busy and exciting time. Students begin looking forward to the transition to middle school while engaging in many year-end activities to top off their elementary school experience.

School Play

Every spring, students in sixth grade have the opportunity to participate in the play. This year's production of *Fairy Tale Misfits* was quite a success. Mrs. Harris directed a cast of characters that included *Sleepless Beauty*, *Fork in the Road*, and *Indecisive Goldilocks*. This is the first stage experience for many students, and it is always a highlight of their final year at Antolini. For students who are not interested in acting, lighting, set, and stage crew are all options for behind-the-scenes support. Together, the cast and crew work to make the performances come to life.

Field Trips

Several field trips happen during the spring of sixth grade. First, students visit Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. In Social Studies, students study the history of immigration in the United States, learning about patterns of immigration through the years and discovering a bit of their own ancestry, as well. The visit to Ellis Island enhances what they learned in the classroom, and students especially enjoy finding their family's names on the Wall of Honor, visiting the abandoned hospital buildings, and hearing stories of immigrants who came to Ellis Island with the hope of starting a new life in America.



Next, each sixth grade class spends three days and two nights at White Memorial in Litchfield learning about our local

ecosystems. Spring is a great season to visit White Memorial as the plant and animal life is beginning to reemerge after a long New England winter. The hikes and scientific studies that students participate in help them see the beauty and importance of the natural world. The night hike is often noted as a favorite memory for students, as it is a new adventure for many of them. This is also an important bonding experience for students before they head to middle school.

Additionally, for the first time this year, sixth graders visited Goodwin University in East Hartford. Over the course of the year, Matt Dadona from Goodwin has worked with Mrs. Pfeffer and our students through our advanced manufacturing program. Students engaged in the engineering process beginning with identifying a real world problem, conceptualizing a solution, creating a design, making adjustments, and finally developing a product. They were able to use 3D printers and robotic arms during their Goodwin experience, introducing equipment that they may use in future careers.

Finally, in May, students visit Northwestern Regional 7 Middle School. They have the opportunity to tour the school, sit in on classes, navigate the lunchroom, and



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Principal Notes: Amanda Shaw

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ask questions about middle school life. This helps to ease some of the uneasiness that students feel about moving on to a new school. They love running into siblings and friends during this visit.

Final Goodbyes

The Moving Up Ceremony and our last-day-of-school assembly are fun, yet emotional, events. When we look at the faces of the sixth graders, we can still see the eight-year-olds who nervously stepped through our doors four years ago, but we also see the adolescents who are more than ready to forge their own paths in middle school and beyond. They've grown so much during this time, and we are excited to see what the future holds for them. Whatever it is, we know it will be amazing!



I would like to thank the incredible staff, students, and families of New Hartford for allowing me to be part of your lives for the last 22 years. It has been an incredible journey of learning and growth-and a whole lot of laughter. I will always cherish my time in New Hartford. You have all had an impact on me in some way, whether you realize it or not. There are no words to express the joy you have brought to my life. I am eternally grateful.

*With love,
Amanda*





New Hartford Public Schools Newsletter

Bakerville Consolidated and New Hartford Elementary
Principal Notes: Kelly Carroll

May 2022

Transitions

The end of the school year is a time for celebration! Each and every student has grown academically and socially, and we are all so proud of their tremendous gains. The end of the year also signifies that it is time to move on to the next grade level.

We will be welcoming many new students into our district as kindergarteners in the fall! This is an exciting milestone in which we meet many of our new students and families for the first time. To become acquainted with our incoming kindergarten students, we offer several opportunities to socialize with new friends and meet the teachers. In partnership with the PTO, we hold the Kindergarten Mingle at Brodie Park in August. All new kindergarteners are invited to meet their new friends and have fun playing! Just before school begins in August, we hold a Kindergarten Orientation. Families meet the teacher and see the classroom. Kindergarteners take a ride around the block on the bus!

Current kindergarten and first grade students move on to the next grade level with ease. They know their way around the school and know all of the teachers and staff very well.

Kindergarteners move on to first grade with established friendships and familiar school routines. First graders head to second grade to become the role models of the school. It's no secret that families wait with anticipation by the mailbox for classroom assignments to arrive in August! Teachers send each child a welcome letter to help them feel ready to join their new classroom. Students can introduce their new teacher to their parents and show them their

new classroom during Open House in September.



For our second graders, the end of this year signifies new beginnings as they leave Bakerville and New Hartford Elementary for third grade at Antolini. In June, all of our second graders will take a field trip to Antolini to see the school they will call home in the fall. They will have the opportunity to take a tour of the school and meet new teachers. For some, this will be their first time meeting their peers from the other primary school. It is a very exciting day! In August, the PTO holds a Third Grade Mingle at the Antolini playground, where the incoming third graders meet new friends and learn who is in their class. Although the teachers at Bakerville and NHES will miss our second graders, we are incredibly proud to see them off to their new adventures in third grade!





New Hartford Public Schools Newsletter

Heather Mathes
Curriculum Coordinator

May 2022

Summer is fast approaching and teachers are often asked by families, “What can I do over the summer to support my child?” Here are some of the most frequently asked questions and their answers!



Q: What are some things I can do to keep my child interested in reading during the summer?

A: Finding engaging, just-right books is key! Students have had the opportunity to read a variety of books with their teachers this year. Series books are a great way to keep your child engaged in reading. Check out our district website for grade level suggestions. There are also several books, like Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, Charlotte’s Web, and The BFG, that have been made into movies. You can read the book with your child and then watch the movie! Your child might also enjoy listening to books. Your local library or Audible are great places to access a wide variety of audio books. Finally, summer reading challenges will be sponsored by your local library, the state of Connecticut and the New Hartford Public Schools. We will share this information with families closer to the end of the school year and it will also be available on our district website.

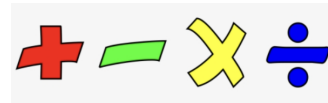
Q: How can I help my child select a just-right book?

A: Finding the just-right book is very important. There are a few things to consider. First, find a genre or series that your child is interested in. Have your child read a page or two aloud. They should be able to read most of the words. Then,

ask them to tell you a little bit about what they read. If they can do both without much support, then the book is just-right!

Q: What are different ways my child can practice their math facts?

A: Reviewing flashcards with tricky facts or playing card games where students add, subtract, multiply or divide using cards are easy ways to practice their facts and you can take them anywhere you go! Websites like mathplayground.com and mathengaged.org offer a wide variety of games that students of all ages can play. To further support other math skills and concepts you can play board games or mix math into your daily routine. Check out www.bedtimemath.org for some ideas!



Q: Will my child have access to online programs like Lexia and Dreambox?

A: Yes, your child can still use both of these online programs. They can access them from the classroom pages of our district website.



Playing outside, conducting an experiment, playing an instrument, or creating an art project are also important things to add into your summer days! In addition to all of these suggestions, you can always check out our district website. The summer learning section will offer other ideas for ways to support your child throughout the entire summer. Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy and safe summer! See you in the fall!





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NEW HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS APPROVED SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022-2023

JULY - (0)

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

4--Fourth of July Holiday

AUGUST - (1)

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

16--Board of Education Meeting
26, 29, 30--Professional Days
31--First Day of School

SEPTEMBER - (21)

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

5--Labor Day Holiday
13--Open House ANT/BAK
14--Open House ANT/NHE
20--Board of Education Meeting

OCTOBER - (19)

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

7--Professional Day
10--Columbus Day Holiday
18--Board of Education Meeting

NOVEMBER - (18)

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

8--Professional Day
15--Board of Education Meeting
21 & 22--1:00 Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences
23, 24, 25--Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER - (17)

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

6--Board of Education Meeting
23--1:00 Early Dismissal
23-31--Winter Recess Begins

JANUARY - (20)

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

2 - New Year's Holiday
13--Early Dismissal PD
16--Martin Luther King Holiday

FEBRUARY - (17)

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

17--Professional Day
20-21--February Break

MARCH - (23)

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

10--1:00 Early Dismissal PD
22 & 23--1:00 Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences

APRIL - (14)

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

7--Good Friday
10-14--April Recess

MAY - (22)

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

29--Memorial Day Holiday


JUNE - (8)




M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30




12--**180th Day/Last Day
1:00 Dismissal
13--Professional Day

APPROVED BY THE BOE: Approved by the BOE 2/1/2022

Early Release Days Dismiss at 1:00 PM/Emergency Dismissal at 12:00 Noon
Late Openings are on a Two Hour Delay/Three Hours when determined necessary
PTO Meetings - 2nd Monday of the Month at 7:00 PM

 Board of Education Meetings

SNOW DAY LEGEND:
 = School Closing
  = Late Opening
  = Early Release
 (CLOSINGS WILL BE ADDED TO THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, IF NEEDED)

 Early Release Days
 Professional Day for Teachers - No School
 No School Days

Term 1
August 31 - November 11
Report Card
November 18, 2022

Term 2
November 14 - March 10
Report Card
March 17, 2023

Term 3
March 13 - Last day
Report Card
Last Day of School