



CONNECTIONS

Together our students achieve the extraordinary.



Milford School District | 100 West Street, Milford, NH 03055 | www.milfordk12.org

HELLO MILFORD!

We are excited to share with you our first edition of "Connections," the Milford School District Bi-Monthly Newsletter.

Connection is defined as the act of connecting two or more things or the state of being connected. We are hoping that this publication will serve as a vehicle to promote greater communication, collaboration, and partnership within and across our community. Connections will provide parents, staff, and students highlights and news from across the district, and announcements of any key upcoming events.

We hope you enjoy seeing all the wonderful things happening in our schools. Milford School District is full of incredibly talented and dedicated educators, support staff, students, families, and community partners. We look forward to celebrating all the great work happening in MSD.

Dr. Jessica Huizenga
District Superintendent
Milford School District



THIS WEEK'S NEWS...

from Heron Pond Elementary School

PTO Sponsors Ice Cream Social

We welcomed our 134 Grade 2 students and their families to our PTO hosted Ice Cream Social on Monday, August 26, 2019 from 3:30-5:30pm. Students were able to meet their teachers, visit their classrooms, and enjoy an ice cream treat from our PTO. Thank you PTO!

New Hires in HPES

Heron Pond welcomes the following teachers and professional staff members:

Grade 3	<i>Jennifer Petit and Kristin Oldenburg</i>
Grade 4	<i>Brianna Durand and Shannon Ouellette</i>
Music Teacher	<i>Keith Joyal</i>



Chantal Alcox
HPES Principal
chantal.alcox@milfordk12.org

New Classes for Specialized Instructions

Heron Pond has established Language Based Learning Disability classes for all grades. We have also established a Co-Teaching Team at Grade 4 and Grade 5. Each Co-teaching team includes two classroom teachers and a special education teacher. We are excited to be able to offer our students specialized instruction in a variety of ways.

NWEA Testing Has Begun

NWEA testing began September 9th. The Fifth Grade students were the first ones to take it. Thanks to all the parents who sent their children well-prepared.

First MES-PTO Meeting Held

Our first MES-PTO meeting was held Wednesday, September 11, 2019. We are looking forward to all we can accomplish together this year with the support of our wonderful PTO!

Picture Day Success

This year's Picture day was fast-paced. It was held yesterday.

Special Education Teachers

Stephanie Brown, Cassandra Mello, and Cassandra Haynes

We are also excited to welcome two NEW positions to Heron Pond:

Social Worker *Stephanie Bielik*

Reading Specialist *Christina Vogel*

Responsive Classroom Committee Makes Opening Ceremony Happen



We held our annual Opening Ceremony outside on the beautiful morning of Friday, September 6, 2019. We welcomed and recognized our new staff members and representatives from each class shared class Hopes and Dreams for the year. Among other things, we discussed our Helping Hands Program in which students are recognized for demonstrating behavior that is responsible, respectful, and caring.

The following students and staff member won our weekly Helping Hands drawing for demonstrating Respect, Responsibility, and Caring:



2nd - *Eddie O'Hearn-Despres*

3rd - *Jamison Clarke*

4th - *Amelia Kammann*

5th - *Isaiab Ferguson*

Staff - *Mrs. McCormack*

UPCOMING EVENTS

17 - Grades 4/5 Open House **6-8 pm.**
Book Fair will be *hosted by PTO.*

18 - Early Release: Walkers will be dismissed at **1 pm**
followed by the bus students.

- Grades 2/3 Open House **6-8 pm.**
Book Fair will be *hosted by PTO.*

THIS WEEK'S NEWS...

from Milford Middle School



The middle school had a great start to the new year! It is always a pleasure when the students return to the building. Their return to us always brings a new level of excitement to the school every year. The incoming 6th grade students were so excited to be here. We had a very productive summer. Teachers were in and out of the building all summer long, meeting with content area partners, working on curriculum, and preparing for the start of the new year.

We would like to welcome our new staff members to Milford Middle School:

Diane Becker: Grade 8 Mathematics

Adriana Linn: Grade 6 & 7 Spanish

Shayne Bernard: Cafeteria Staff

Pam Cook: Para-Educator

Joe Gallagher: Para-Educator

Robyn Greene: Grade 7 Science

Erin Richardson: Social Worker

Molly Cook: Para-Educator

Kim Koch-Thibodeau: Para-Educator

Mary Fino: Para-Educator

This year we changed our schedule so that students would become familiar with their schedules and the building schedule quicker and easier than in the past. The new schedule offers students with new and exciting opportunities and will in the next few years provide the basis of a partnership with the high school. The new schedule specifically designed to provide a daily block of flexible time for multi-tiered interventions and enrichments for all students. These "Titan Time" blocks are fluid in design so that students can move in and out of enrichments and interventions throughout the year. Our goal in developing the schedule was to open up future opportunities and experiences for the students.

We are also implementing a new advisory program called Responsive Advisory. This is the middle school version of the Responsive Classroom program. All the teachers, administrators and some of the para-educators have been trained in the program beginning last year and continuing throughout this school year. Information on the program demonstrates that students, as they buy into the program more and more, develop appropriate connections with adults, develop a feeling of belonging, and ultimately there is

Back to School *Smiles*





a lessening of truancy and tardiness. The program helps students to build empathy, which will assist in helping students to understand the root causes of bullying behaviors and how to recognize and stop these behaviors before they start.

We look forward to working with our students, their families and the community this year to enhance our students' experience. We are planning to develop with the assistance of the Milford Special Services department, MMS PTO and CAST a series of parent information nights throughout the year on subjects of importance to parents.

Thank you,
Tony DeMarco
 Principal
tony.demarco@milfordk12.org



SPECIAL MENTION

September 10, 2019 - Getting involved with Rotary Club could be a special way in making a difference in the community. This is what happened to 8th Grader **Aidan Dunbar** who became an honorary Rotarian because of his great contribution to the Club. Congratulations!



THIS WEEK'S NEWS...

from Jacques Memorial School



Happy New Year! The beginning of the school year always marks a time of promise and possibility, and 2019-20 is no exception! With a talented staff and a supportive community, our students are poised to reap the benefits of this extraordinary partnership. All of our efforts directly support the positive experience of our students, and our goal is to provide a phenomenal environment in which all students at Jacques Memorial School can flourish, achieve academic excellence, become emotionally and physically stronger, and grow their talents. Students and staff have hit the ground running,

practicing routines and establishing expectations so that learning can be seamless for the remainder of the year.

* * *

Jacques Memorial School is very fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated staff. We are indebted to our returning staff members, and we welcome those who are new to our schools. We welcome our new Kindergarten teacher: *Meredith Ritter* who just recently earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Sociology from Keene State College; *Stacy Stanley* who has

served as both a second grade and kindergarten teacher for over ten years at the Simonds School in Warner, New Hampshire; and, *Shannon Nunez* who taught fourth grade at the Dr. Norman Crisp School in Nashua for nine years.

* * *

Lisa Palance and *Shannon Cote* will be supporting students as the newest members of our Title One team. Bringing their talents from Heron Pond and joining the Jacques team, we also welcome *Helene Bureau* and *Jennifer*

Crawford as our new special educators.

* * *

There are several new positions at Jacques as well. *Kim Kelliber* will support students as our new reading specialist. *Tracy Holland* will be supporting families and students as our new school Social Worker. *Chris Joy* will be working to support behavior needs of students as our new Mental Health Counselor at both Jacques and Heron Pond. As our new Media Generalist, *Andrea Wyka* will enhance instruction by integrating technology and helping to instill a love of literacy in our students in our school library. *Shari Shaw* will be sharing her talents and passion as our new music teacher.

* * *

It was great meeting many of you at our Annual “Meet and Greet” and “Ice Cream Social Events” at Jacques Memorial. Thank you so much for coming! A very special thank you to the PTO for providing the special ice cream treat for our students and families and for donating backpacks, water bottles, lunch



boxes and school supplies for our students for our summer “Meet and Greet” events. What a great way to welcome our students!

* * *

Parents and Guardians are invited to attend our annual **Open House** events scheduled for Kindergarten students on Tuesday, **September 24th** and for first grade students on Thursday, **September 26th** from **5:30-7:30pm**. Classroom teachers will provide information about the curriculum, expectations, communication, and how you can support



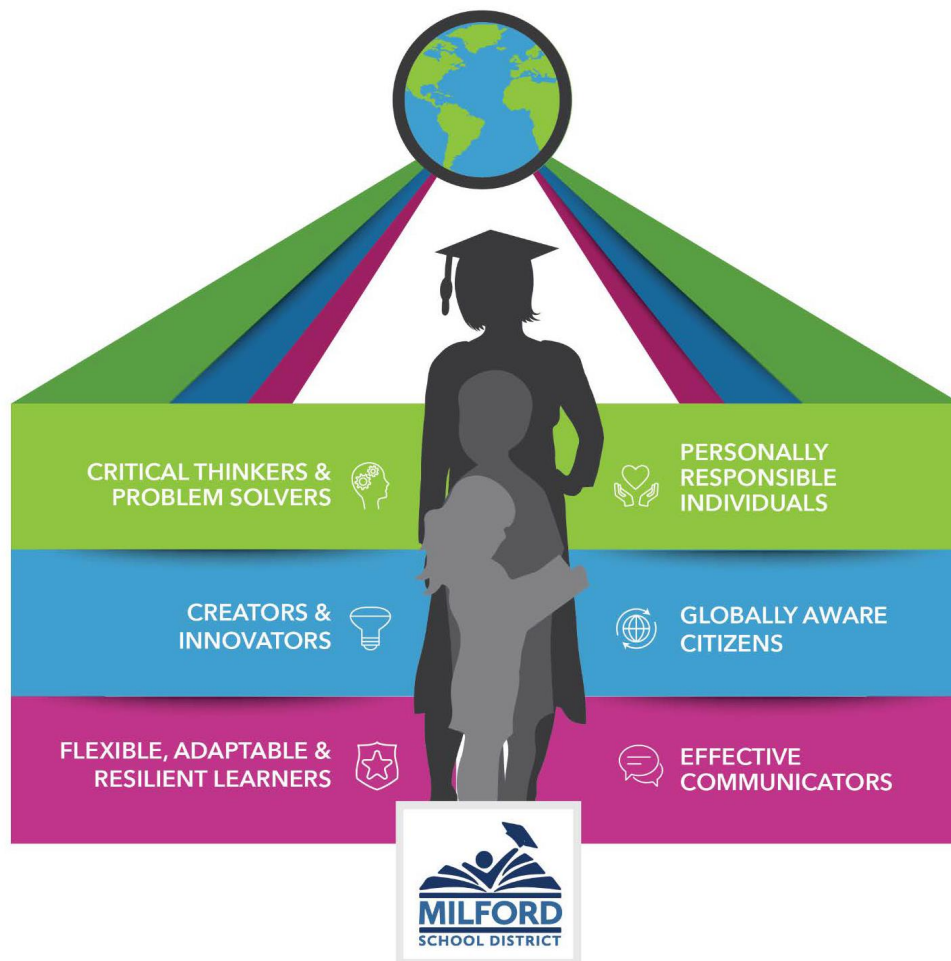


Jacques Memorial School....
Milford's door to the future!

your child's education. Our school goal is to see 90% of our families at this event. I hope you can attend!

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your principal. I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

Tim O'Connell
 Principal
tim.oconnell@milfordk12.org



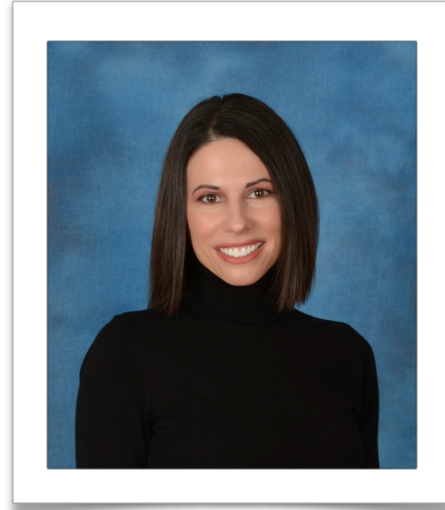
PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

Thoughts from the Superintendent

Our plan is bold, with many moving parts, and will take multiple years to achieve.

I am so excited to welcome everyone to the 2019-2020 school year here in Milford! Last year, the Superintendent's Advisory committee made up of teachers and staff in every school building suggested developing a District Newsletter that could inform, celebrate, and connect us together. My hope is that you enjoy this first edition of **"Connections,"** and see all the incredible energy and outstanding work happening in just these first few weeks of school. It's been an excellent start across the district. Our athletic teams continue to dominate in area sports, our parent boosters, and PTO organizations, clubs, and local agencies are all working diligently to raise funds and provide great opportunities for students. We have launched many new programs, welcomed back both new and veteran staff who are passionate and dedicated to their craft and our students. We have expanded choices for students across the district; some of which you will see in this edition.

It's an exciting time in Milford. Our Strategic Plan is being launched this year, and we are hard at work focusing on our key goal areas of student success, culture, communications, and community engagement. Our plan is bold, with many moving parts, and will take multiple years to achieve.



However, I believe that together, and in partnership, there is nothing we can't accomplish as a community. We are grateful for the community partnerships we have that continue to support and move our district Vision and Mission forward.

We look forward to sharing and celebrating our successes with you, and hearing from you about ways we can continue to improve, and support you in whatever capacity you are connected to the district. No organization or change process is perfect, so we appreciate your support and patience as we work to meet the needs of ALL children in the Milford School District.

One of my favorite sayings is from Dr. Seuss. "You're off to great places, today is your day, your mountain is waiting, so get on your way." He has a special way of reminding us all to dream big, see the possibilities, and accomplish the extraordinary! I look forward to doing that with all of you! Together we can!

Best Regards,
Dr. Jessica Huizenga

THIS WEEK'S NEWS...

from Project DRIVE



The first few weeks have been busy and exciting at Project DRIVE. We have implemented numerous activities and programs focusing on the students' social and emotional learning. Mindful moments have been added to morning meeting. This week the focus is on deep breathing, a skill that will continue along with additional techniques students can use discreetly at their desks as needed. Last week we began the first of our weekly scheduled restorative justice talk circles, one for high school and one for middle school. Talk circles are the structural framework used to build relationships and address conflict within a community, which is what we strive to build at Project DRIVE.

The theme on our shoutout wall this month is Flexibility which was chosen after the Lynn Lyons presentation. The goal is for the students to learn the importance of being flexible, and able to adjust to change, as opposed to being rigid and unbending. We also include a daily shoutout to a staff member and student, along with the daily affirmation.

Michael J. Hatfield, MSed, CAGS
 Director of Special Services
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Our Shout Outs section is an opportunity to highlight and celebrate people or events across the district. If you have a shout out you'd like to make, please



Promoting and Encouraging Literacy through Games

By **Kris Reilly, Special Educator**

12/10/19 - Heron Pond Elementary
6:00-7:30 pm

In this fun interactive workshop, you will learn about the components of reading. Through play, we all develop our social and literacy skills. You will learn and play some games to promote your child's interest in reading. You will have the opportunity to make and take home a game to play with your child. We look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Overview of the Brain and Disabilities

By **Stacy Picard, School Psychologist**

10/16/19 - Milford Middle School
6:00-7:30 pm

This is an interactive workshop. Together we will explore how the brain functions and how this relates to disabilities. Bring your questions! We will explore the brain together.



New Externship Program Launches with Hitchiner and Spray Systems



ACT students have started this year learning basic career and technical skills that they can use inside and outside their classroom, such as knife skills, power tool skills and of course visits to the Hitchiner and Spray Systems externship sites. These paid externships will start soon and we will keep you updated in all the happenings associated with this groundbreaking initiative throughout this year. ATC teachers and staff are looking forward to more opportunities for our students to experience the real world while they are still in school and broaden their horizons with up to date technologies and career paths.

Milford High School News

Milford High School is off to an exciting start! Faculty, staff, and administration welcomed 817 Milford students and 21 ATC sending town students on August 28th and 29th.

ing the Milford Memorial Day parade, and later that week entertained the crowd with a space themed performance during the half-time show at the football team's season opener.

The marching band was in fine form dur-

THIS WEEK'S NEWS...
from Milford High School

As the school gears up to meet the opportunities and topics presented in the district's new strategic plan, MHS's dedicated educators have organized themselves into teams, focusing on topics such as school safety, scheduling, teaching and learning, student and faculty wellness, and the school to community connection. Milford High School is building on their strong foundation while embracing new opportunities to research, learn, and grown together.

Next week, on Tuesday and Thursday, the new principal, Chali Davis, will hold assemblies by grade. The purpose of the assemblies is to allow the students to get to know a little bit about their new principal, interact in some fun activities, and find out how they can become involved in the teams that have been formed as their voices are important as we develop and implement new programs and initiatives.

The MHS open house will be held on Thursday, September 19th. Please come out and meet your young person's teachers; we are looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you into our classrooms.

Chali Davis
Principal
chali.davis@milfordkr2.org



We have gotten off to a fabulous start in the Nurse's Office! We are sending out a HUGE thank you to all who attended one of the registration days in August. We were able to connect with parents about medical concerns, medication during the school day, and our upcoming dental clinic. We have already collected 2/3 of the dental forms of the total number of students who participated last year. Please continue to keep those blue forms flowing back to us!

The number one reason that students come to the Nurse's Office is because they have either a headache or stomach ache. We are seeing many students who have not eaten breakfast, have no way to stay adequately hydrated during the day, and are tired from not getting enough sleep. Students need to have energy to learn. Making sure that they have something available to eat for breakfast, a water bottle, and solid night of sleep helps them tremendously! We do have some reusable water bottles for those who need one. If your student often says, "I don't have time to eat before school", storing a box of their favorite kind of granola bars or some other snack in their locker is always a great option for those days when they have rushed out.

This year, we are trying to connect with students through technology. Students are allowed to use their phones while passing in the halls. We have created a QR Code Board that students can scan for information concerning various health topics. Students who want to access the QR codes can download a QR Reader app. We do have paper copies for all of the posted material in the office but we are trying to meet students where they are at, and they certainly love their phones! The topics on the board are changed frequently and are updated to help support our Health and Wellness teachers and both our school and district health goals. I am always open to suggestions for new topic ideas.

Diana Zoltko, MSN, RN, NCSN, SNIII
(aka Mrs. Z)

sports

The NHIAA Annual Meeting will be taking place on Monday, September 16th in Concord. Our own Jacob Wilson will be receiving



the Walter Smith Award. The Award is given annually to one female and one male "who have overcome special circumstances and contributed significantly and positively to the NHIAA as a player, manager, or fan."

On Friday September 20th during the home Varsity Football game

against Pelham, we will be collecting donations as part of the NH Tackles Hunger program. All donations will go to our local food pantry – SHARE.



The Varsity Football Team kicked off the 2019 season with a 35 to 21 victory over Hollis-Brookline. Senior Gavin Urda had a dominating overall game rushing for over 300 yards with 2 (two) touchdowns and defensively made 11 (eleven) tackles along with 2 (two) interceptions.

Currently, the Varsity Girls Soccer and Volleyball Teams are off to undefeated starts as are the JV Volleyball and JV Boys and JV Girls Soccer Teams.



MHS Girls Soccer Team sold a total of 2,472 mums to fund winter soccer training for the entire team, buy apparel, and support dinners for away games. Way to go!

**New Hampshire
TACKLES
HUNGER**

Friday, September 20th

Donate Non-Perishable Food Items
At Your School's Football Game

Items Needed:
Peanut Butter · Jelly · Tuna · Soups
Pasta · Sauce · Canned Fruits/Vegetables
*Please No Glass

Cash Donations Also Accepted

Marc Maurais
Athletic Director



Cross-District Collaboration

On September 13th, Social Workers from SAU 39 (Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan), as well as Courtney Porter, President of the New Hampshire Social Workers came to Milford School District to work with and share information on Social and Emotional Supports in schools.

They spent the morning with our Mental Health and Guidance staff to discuss Tiered Systems of Behavioral Support, the different roles and responsibilities of those staff members in supporting students, families, and staff. They provided us with an incredible amount of information regarding the referral process, differences in roles and responsibilities between school guidance counselors and social workers, wrap-around services and resources to social services agencies around Souhegan Valley.

We are so lucky to have a new Mental Health team in place here in Milford, and to begin making connections across the district and state. This will only strengthen our ability to best meet the needs of students and families across our community.



TECH UPDATE

The IT department had a busy, successful summer! Great strides have been made in keeping the technology run securely throughout our district and supporting our district-wide Google Classroom initiative utilizing our 2000+ Chromebooks.

The technology team has gone a long way in bringing portable and wireless computers and the internet to students, teachers, and staff -- making them reliable tools for teaching and learning. We have replaced over 400 older chrome devices, resolved several wireless network issues, and added wireless capacity by increasing the WiFi speed to 5Ghz band. We have also expanded the use of TechTubs to allow easier sharing of chromebooks in the younger grades.

We continued to modernize and optimize our network infrastructure by increasing server virtualization and switch upgrades. We focused on our desktop environment by upgrading and replacing older hardware and bringing all Windows and Mac software up to the latest and most secure versions, as well as reinstalled and upgraded to the latest Adobe suite for the ATC.

We also brought on a new Technology Specialist, Maria Marien who is based in the High School building and will be very involved in the new website, newsletter, and our social media presence.

Finally, the new website should be released from the vendor in the next several weeks. Once we have access to the new site, Maria will be preparing it to go live.

Jerry Stajduhar
Technology Director



The Milford Middle School PTO is partnering with the school administration and teachers of MMS to bring our first fundraiser of the school year. We are selling cookie dough in cooperation with Adrenaline Fundraising through September 26, 2019. This frozen product comes in six flavor varieties and is so easy to bake - from the freezer, through your oven, and you'll have fresh baked cookies in 12 minutes. Delicious! Students can earn prizes for certain sales benchmarks - a MMS Titans long sleeved performance shirt, MMS Titans Under Armor backpack, a \$25 Amazon gift card - or ALL THREE PRIZES! Proceeds from our fundraiser will support the students of MMS with funding for field trips, assemblies, and 8th grade end-of-year activities. Find your favorite middle school student and buy your cookie dough today!

CONNECT WITH US

District Office

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Superintendent: Dr. Jessica Huizenga

Asst. Superintendent: Christi Michaud

Business Administrator: Jane Fortson

Milford High School

603-673-4201

Principal: Chali Davis

Asst. Principals: Stephen Claire

Michael Tenters

Milford Middle School

603-673-5221

Principal: Anthony DeMarco

Asst. Principal: Colleen Hackett

Heron Pond Elementary School

603-673-1811

Principal: Chantal Alcox

Asst. Principal: Chris Saunders

Jacques Memorial Elementary School

603-673-4434

Principal: Tim O'Connell

Project DRIVE

Office of Special Education

603-673-6709

Director: Michael Hatfield

Assistant Director: Santana Thibedeau

MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD

2019-2020

Ron Carvell

Chair

Kevin Drew

Vice Chair

Richard Wood

Michael Hannon

Holleigh Ciardelli-Tlapa

Members

Rosemarie Evans

Treasurer

Regina Matthews

Clerk

Peter Basiliere

Moderator