

# NYMILLS

September  
2019

## UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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[www.newyorkmills.org](http://www.newyorkmills.org).  
For the complete District  
calendar, schedule of  
upcoming events and more  
District news

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**FIRST DAY OF  
SCHOOL FOR  
STUDENTS**  
**WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 4**

**MISSION:** "Through combined efforts of students, staff, parents, and community members, our mission is to foster the confidence, knowledge, cognition, and character necessary to instill a strong work ethic, to create an environment of tolerance and respect, and to ignite an attitude of inquiry and enthusiasm for learning that will enable students to become productive, responsible citizens."

### Message from the Superintendent

#### Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community Members,

The beginning of each school year fills me with the excitement of the possibilities ahead as we come together as a learning community. In the next few days, the new school year will commence and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome each one of you back for another great year and exciting beginning. Together, we will create a learning environment focused on the success of each child. It is only by entering into a partnership of family, students, faculty and staff that our students will reach their full potential.

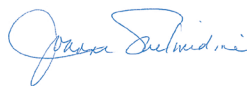
In this newsletter, you will see articles describing our new elementary STE(A)M program as well as new electives for our secondary students. In our school, you will see new faces as we welcome Mr. Steve Davis, teaching high school mathematics and Ms. Amanda Sullivan, our new second grade teacher. We certainly welcome them to our Mills family.

I encourage you to visit our webpage, [www.newyorkmills.org](http://www.newyorkmills.org) for up-to-date information. Thanks to Rebecca Daly, Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Public Relations Assistant, our webpage is being "cleaned up," making it easier for everyone to get the information needed. In addition, Ms. Daly has revitalized our Facebook and Twitter presence. Please follow us @NYMillsUFSD to see what's happening at the Mills.

As partners, we share the responsibility of each child's success. One way to encourage your child's progress is to make sure they attend school every day. We miss our students when they are not here. Your child misses classroom discussions and direct instruction -- two things that cannot be replicated with "make-up assignments".

Thank you for the support and commitment that you show every day. Our district is strong because of you!

Respectfully,



**Joanne Shelmidine, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

# What's New in Grades 7-12

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This spring and summer season has been a busy one preparing for additional opportunities and projects for students in grades 7-12. We have added several new Dual Credit courses through MVCC to our course catalog including: Personal Finance, Marketing, Introduction to Drone Technology and Dual Credit Biology through Tompkins County Community College. We are excited to be able to offer these new opportunities to our students for the 2019-2020 school year!

In addition, a committee of teachers and I have been working on developing processes and procedures to try and reduce chronic absenteeism among our students. This has become a growing concern and we need everyone's support in improving attendance. The committee will monitor progress, work on interventions, determine guidelines for student consequences and reward improvement during quarterly assemblies. This will be a topic for our opening assemblies during the first week of school.

In addition to focusing on improving attendance and tardiness, our assemblies will continue to expand the Positivity Project school-wide and explore Mental Health and Social Emotional topics that concern the teenagers of today. The preliminary schedule is as follows:

**September**-DASA/Bullying/Cyberbullying

**November**-Bias Language

**January**-Being a Leader to Improve School Culture

**April**-Digital Citizenship/Social Media

Last but not least, I would like to take a moment to welcome a new staff member to our school: Mr. Stephen Davis has joined our Math Department replacing Mrs. Sanderson who has moved to another position. Welcome Mr. Davis!

Enjoy the rest of your summer, we'll see you soon!



**Mary Facci**

*K-12 Executive Principal*

## From the School Counselor's Office

Welcome back! We hope that everyone enjoyed their summer and are excited and ready for a great school year. Your counselors are here to support every student academically, emotionally and socially as they grow and progress from kindergarten to high school graduate. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**Debra Ellis**, 7-12 School Counselor  
dellis@newyorkmills.org | 315-768-3395

**Amanda Woodward**, K-6 School Counselor  
awoodward@newyorkmills.org | 315-768-3394

**Vanessa Boyer**, School Social Worker  
vboyer@newyorkmills.org | 315-768-3395



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## Dear Parents and Students,

We hope that you had an enjoyable and restful summer! The building and its surrounding grounds look great and we excitedly await your child's presence. We are very eager to begin this school year with a few important goals in mind: **1)** every student reading on grade level by grade three; **2)** Improved attendance; and **3)** A 10 percent increase in student proficiency. We hope to obtain these goals through school and home cooperation/communication, academic and social-emotional support at school and student-parent engagement.

As with any new school year, this year brings the addition of a few new faces and some familiar faces in new places! We are happy to announce that Mrs. Amanda Sullivan will be joining our faculty as our new second grade teacher, along with the support of Mrs. Kim Zogby, a seasoned professional in Special Education here at NYM. Additionally, Ms. Crowley has moved to Kindergarten, Mrs. Kehrl to third grade and Ms. Massoud to our new STEM position. We also welcome a new Art teacher, Arifa Velletto, who we will have from OHM BOCES.

### Some important dates to remember:

**August 28:** Kindergarten Orientation, 6:00 p.m. Auditorium

**September 19:** Instrumental Recruiting Night, 7 p.m., Cafeteria

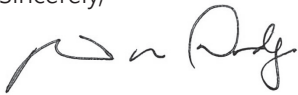
**September 4:** School Opens, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**September 25:** Elementary Pictures

**September 9:** K-12 Open House, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Again this year, the Parent Loop will be utilized for drop off and pick up. These times of the day are very hectic and we ask for your patience and diligence. During drop-off or pick up, please wait for the vehicle(s) in front of you to leave. During dismissal, we will load 5-6 vehicles at a time, send them on their way and move up the next set of vehicles. Please do NOT pass other cars in the loop. Lastly, we would appreciate if you could please let us know when your child will be late or absent by contacting the Attendance Office (315) 768-3378. Thank you again for your anticipated cooperation and we are extremely excited to get under way! Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



**Brent M. Dodge**

*K-12 Principal*

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## New STEM Program for Elementary Students

We are thrilled to offer a new program that will enhance your child's understanding and familiarity with **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math**. My name is Ava Massoud, and I was formerly a third-grade teacher here at New York Mills. I have been in the district for over 15 years, and I am excited to be the new STEM teacher for grades K-6. The program I will be implementing is called Engineering by Design (EbD), which aligns with the Next Generation Science standards. One of the beliefs of this program is, "The ingenuity of children is untapped, unrealized potential that, when properly motivated, will lead to the next generation of technologists, innovators, designers, and engineers." (<https://www.iteea.org/EbD.aspx>)



I am honored to be given this opportunity as I want to make a space where students can express themselves in a way where they can create, problem solve and develop skills, talents, thinking and mental rigor. More importantly, a place where failure and mistakes are embraced, as they are the gateway to success. As Thomas Edison once said, "I haven't failed—I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work. Many of life's failures are people who didn't realize how close they were to success when they gave up." Creating this kind of environment for children has a lot of potential to change the way we inspire authenticity and future innovators of the 21st century. I look forward to working with all of your children, and I thank you for your continued support.



# Transportation Safety Tips

The New York Mills Transportation Department is pleased to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year. We hope your summer was relaxing, fun and memorable! With the beginning of the school year right around the corner, we know how exciting it can be for parents and students. Some of you are eager to start the new school year and others will be putting their little ones on our buses for the very first time. Regardless, we understand the preciousness of our cargo and will start off on the right foot! We look forward to getting to know your child and having a wonderful school year.

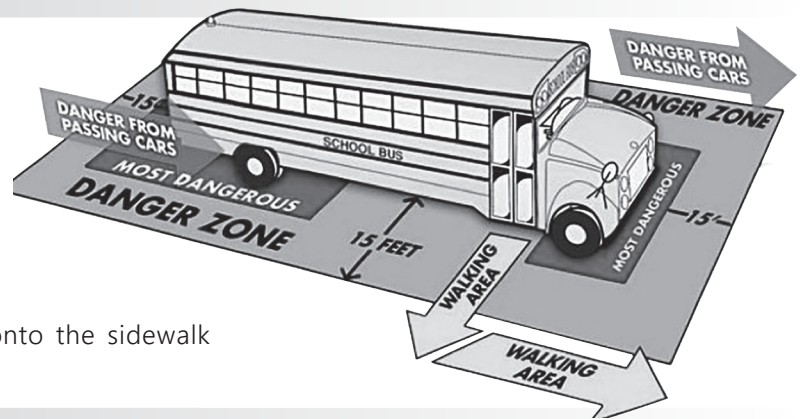


## SAFETY FIRST!

As always, our number one goal is safety! We intend to provide the safest transportation possible for the children that ride our buses. Not only do we provide state mandated safety training several times a year for our drivers and monitors, *we are consistently discussing safety and situations that can arise daily.* We also strive to teach our students safety and to avoid dangers at the bus stop as well. We go over safety procedures with our students three times a year required by law.

## RULES AT THE BUS STOP

- **Be in view** at your bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick-up; the driver will not wait for late students.
- If you must cross the street, ALWAYS cross in front of the bus so the driver can see you. **Wait for the driver's signal before you cross the street.**
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching.
- When departing from the bus, move away onto the sidewalk immediately.



## RULES WHILE RIDING IN THE SCHOOL BUS

- Stay in your seat.
- Keep the noise level down.
- No eating or drinking.
- No swearing or rude language/gestures.
- No fighting, harassing or intimidating others.
- Obey the driver's requests.
- No throwing things inside or out of the bus windows.
- Keep hands, feet and head inside the bus and to yourself.

**Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right.** Students are expected to follow the same behavior standards while riding on the school bus as when on school property and in school buildings.

1st offense – Verbal warning to the student by the bus driver.

2nd offense – Written warning to student/parent or guardian by principal; possible assigned seat.

3rd offense – Possible suspension from riding privileges.

As always, safety is our highest priority and if at any time you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Dispatcher (Patty Ward) at 315-768-7948. On behalf of all of our staff, we hope that you have a happy, healthy school year. WE WELCOME YOU!

## KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

We would like to remind you that a responsible person must be at the pick-up and drop-off point daily. If no one is at the stop when the bus arrives, the student will remain on the bus until the end of the run. If you are running late, please contact the Transportation Department and let the Dispatcher know so that she can communicate to the driver.







# Fall Sports Schedules

## Boys Varsity Football

### SEPTEMBER

21 12:00 p.m. South Lewis  
28 12:00 p.m. Morrisville-Eaton

### OCTOBER

4 7:00 p.m. @Lansing  
12 12:00 p.m. Weedsport  
19 12:00 p.m. @Bishop Grimes  
26 1:30 p.m. @West Canada Valley

## Boys Modified Football

### SEPTEMBER

10 4:30 p.m. @Clinton  
24 4:30 p.m. Adirondack

### OCTOBER

1 4:30 p.m. @Notre Dame  
8 4:30 p.m. Morrisville-Eaton  
15 4:30 p.m. @Cooperstown  
21 4:30 p.m. Sherburne-Earlville

## Girls Varsity Field Hockey

### SEPTEMBER

4 4:30 p.m. VVS  
6 4:30 p.m. Mount Markham  
11 4:30 p.m. @Weedsport  
12 4:30 p.m. Sherburne-Earlville  
16 7:00 p.m. @Sauquoit Valley  
18 4:30 p.m. @Morrisville-Eaton  
20 4:30 p.m. Canastota

### OCTOBER

1 4:30 p.m. @Herkimer  
5 10:00 a.m. @Cicero North Syracuse  
8 4:30 p.m. @Sherburne-Earlville  
10 4:30 p.m. Sauquoit Valley  
14 6:00 p.m. @Mount Markham  
16 4:30 p.m. Morrisville-Eaton  
18 4:00 p.m. @Canastota

## Girls Modified Field Hockey

### SEPTEMBER

13 4:30 p.m. @Weedsport  
17 4:30 p.m. Canastota  
19 4:30 p.m. Sherburne-Earlville  
23 4:30 p.m. @Morrisville-Eaton  
25 4:30 p.m. Weedsport  
27 4:30 p.m. @Sauquoit Valley

### OCTOBER

1 4:30 p.m. Herkimer  
3 4:30 p.m. @Canastota  
7 4:30 p.m. @Sherburne-Earlville  
9 4:30 p.m. Morrisville-Eaton  
15 4:30 p.m. @Little Falls  
17 4:30 p.m. Sauquoit Valley  
21 4:30 p.m. Herkimer

*\*Please note that these schedules are subject to change.*

*For cancellations and schedule changes, please visit [www.schedulegalaxy.com/schools/71](http://www.schedulegalaxy.com/schools/71)*



# Fall Sports Schedules

## Boys & Girls Varsity Cross Country

### SEPTEMBER

- 11 4:30 p.m. Mount Markham, Herkimer @Waterville (Waterville/ME)  
18 4:30 p.m. Remsen, Hamilton, Sherburne-Earlville, Town of Webb (Boys only), Clinton  
25 4:30 p.m. Sauquoit Valley, Little Falls, Adirondack @Dolgeville

### OCTOBER

- 2 4:30 p.m. Poland, West Canada Valley, Cooperstown (Cooperstown/Cherry Valley) @Westmoreland  
9 4:30 p.m. Canastota, Oriskany @Holland Patent  
19 10:00 a.m. Waterville (Waterville/ME, Mount Markham, Herkimer, Oriskany, Hamilton, Sherburne-Earlville, Cooperstown (Cooperstown/Cherry Valley, Dolgeville, Little Falls, Holland Patent, Westmoreland, Clinton, Sauquoit Valley, Town of Webb (Boys only), Remsen, Poland, West Canada Valley, Adirondack @Canastota

## Boys Modified Cross Country

### SEPTEMBER

- 11 4:30 p.m. Herkimer, Mount Markham @Waterville  
18 4:30 p.m. Hamilton, Sherburne-Earlville, Remsen, Clinton  
25 4:30 p.m. Sauquoit Valley, Little Falls, Adirondack @Dolgeville

### OCTOBER

- 2 4:30 p.m. Poland, West Canada Valley, Cooperstown @Westmoreland  
9 4:30 p.m. Oriskany, Canastota @Holland Patent  
19 10:00 a.m. Remsen, Mount Markham, Hamilton, Waterville, West Canada Valley, Oriskany, Herkimer, Cooperstown, Dolgeville, Little Falls, Holland Patent, Westmoreland (Co-ed), Clinton, Sauquoit Valley, Poland, Adirondack @ Canastota

## Girls Modified Cross Country

### SEPTEMBER

- 18 4:30 p.m. Hamilton, Sherburne-Earlville, Remsen, Clinton  
25 4:30 p.m. Sauquoit Valley, Little Falls, Adirondack @Dolgeville

### OCTOBER

- 2 4:30 p.m. Poland, West Canada Valley, Cooperstown @Westmoreland  
9 4:30 p.m. Oriskany, Canastota @Holland Patent  
19 10:00 a.m. Waterville, Hamilton, Oriskany, Mount Markham, Remsen, West Canada Valley, Holland Patent, Adirondack, Sherburne-Earlville, Westmoreland, Herkimer, Cooperstown, Clinton, Dolgeville, Little Falls, Sauquoit Valley, Poland @ Canastota





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Michelle Jordan

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**Dr. Joanne Shelmidine**, *Superintendent of Schools*  
**Mary Facci**, *K-12 Executive Principal*  
**Brent Dodge**, *K-12 Principal*

### Visit us on the Web

<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

## 2019-2020 Board of Education Meeting Dates

The New York Mills Board of Education invites community members to attend its meetings that are held on the dates below beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Library. Please note - these meeting dates are subject to change.

**Tuesday, September 10, 2019**

**Tuesday, October 1, 2019**

**Tuesday, November 5, 2019**

**Tuesday, December 3, 2019**

**Tuesday, January 7, 2020**

**Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2020**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2020**  
*Budget Workshop*

**Tuesday, April 14, 2020**  
*Budget Work Session*

**Tuesday, April 21, 2020**

*Budget Work Session*

**Tuesday, May 5, 2020**

*Public Budget Hearing*

**Tuesday, May 19, 2020**

*Budget Vote and Board Election*  
*Noon–9:00 p.m.*

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**

