

***New Fairfield
Public Schools
are Committed to
a Safe and
Caring Learning
Community***

During recent years, our district has established many new programs and initiatives to ensure that New Fairfield's schools are safe, caring, and comfortable places for teaching and learning.

This brochure provides a brief description of each, with a contact for more information. We are committed to ensuring that all individuals who are in our schools each day feel a part of warm, welcoming and secure communities.

Kathleen L. Matusiak, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

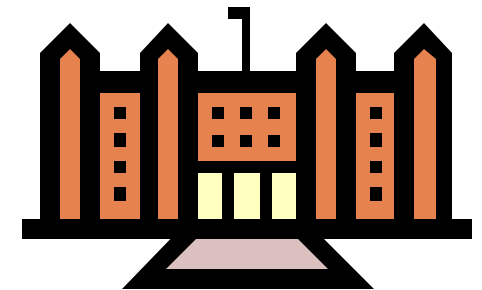
If you would like to become a member of the school district's Community Coalition for the Prevention of Youth Violence, please contact the Superintendent of Schools at the number listed below. This is a dedicated group of individuals representing the schools and the community who are committed to safe and caring communities in our schools. Abiding by eight Action Plans to prevent youth violence, the Coalition meets approximately three times during the school year.

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

***Safe and Caring
Learning
Communities***



“Academic, social and personal excellence”

New Fairfield, Connecticut

Peer Mediation Programs

Our Board of Education approved Conduct Codes that allow students in Grades 3-12 to choose to participate in Peer Mediation and receive a lesser consequence for certain offenses. Our goal is to assist students learn helpful conflict resolution skills that they can use throughout their lives. (Contacts: Elise Cooper: MHHS, Guidance: NFMS and NFHS, 312-5808)



Child Study Teams

Each school has a Child Study Team that is comprised of several staff members who have different areas of expertise. Teams meet regularly to discuss the specific needs of individual students in an effort to develop Action Plans with strategies to address their needs. (Contact: School Principals/Psychologists)

Special Friend Program

When a family is in crisis (death, divorce, relocation, terminal illness, etc.), the child's availability to learn may be affected. The Special Friend Program is an enrichment experience designed to supplement the educational and personal development of elementary school children. (Contact: Classroom Teacher/School Social Worker)

G.E.M.S. Program

(Guiding, Empowering, Mentoring for Success)

Adult volunteers are recruited each year to mentor students in grades 6-12. Mentors spend approximately one hour of quality time with a student in the school setting. An orientation and ongoing training is provided by our Pupil Personnel Services staff. New G.E.M.S. mentors are always needed. (Contact: Ms. Kate Luce, 312 5855)

Remedy

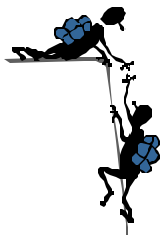
A drama group open to high school students who write skits about topics such as substance abuse prevention, anti-bullying, peer pressure, hate crimes, etc. After they perform these skits for other students in the district, a dialogue follows. (Contact: Mr. John LaMendola, 312-5861)



Student/Employee

Assistance Counselor

A Student/Employee Assistance Counselor is available to help students with substance abuse issues. (Contact: Sharon Shea, 312-5852 or 775-5149)



Pupil Personnel Services

Guidance counselors are available at the secondary level, and in all schools there is a Social Worker and a School Psychologist to assist students and their parents. (Contact: Marie Hopkins, 312-5774)

Each of our schools has programs to promote positive Character Education and anti-bullying including the district's "Operation Respect" program. In addition students and staff at the secondary level are recognized for their "personal bests" through the schools' Renaissance programs.



In addition to our K-12 Board of Education approved Conduct Codes, our schools routinely conduct mock emergency evacuation drills to ensure that, in a real situation, students and staff know how to proceed. A districtwide Safety Committee meets throughout the year to discuss the effectiveness of such drills, review our Emergency Plan, and discuss many other safety related matters.

A School Resource Officer (SRO) works with the schools to ensure security and responds to safety issues in the schools.

Visitors are asked to sign in at each school and to pick up a Visitor's Badge which is worn while in the building. This enables students and staff to greet the person and to be sure that his/her presence is appropriate.



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