

CSDNB DISTRICT DISTRICT

JUN
20
23

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 09

A Publication of the District of New



HURRICANE SURGE

NBHS Boys Volleyball Team Advances to
Second Straight State Tournament Appearance

HELLO NEW BRITAIN FAMILIES AND STAFF MEMBERS:

Thank you for continuing to read our new newsletter, District Dispatch. We have many things to celebrate and also much work to do. This newsletter will keep you informed of the great things that we are seeing from the district level of our school system. Our staff members and families are critical pieces in our plans to grow and improve CSDNB. Thank you for taking the time to stay in touch with us!

In Partnership,



Superintendent Tony Gasper



CSDNB DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the Consolidated School District of New Britain





NBHS Boys Volleyball team finishes 2023 season with top record in program history.

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CSDNB DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the Consolidated School District of New Britain

VOLUME 1 / ISSUE 09

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**THIS ISSUE AND MORE
CAN BE FOUND ONLINE!**

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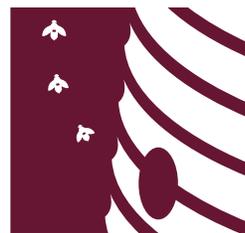


The Consolidated School District of New Britain

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Authorized by: Superintendent Tony Gasper



**CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF
NEW BRITAIN**

In partnership with family and community, the Consolidated School District of New Britain works to provide the best personalized and comprehensive whole-child education at every level so students will be prepared for, and positively contribute to, a profoundly different future.

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SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION



Eileen Marquez

Eileen Marquez, CSDNB's 2023 Teacher of the Year, was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by Dr. Tony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools. Marquez has grown to be one of NBHS's most well-respected staff members, due to the diligence and integrity she carries herself with. She expects greatness from her students and, in every sense of the word, expects greatness from herself. Marquez completed additional coursework allowing her to shift from inspiring students in the history department to the Public Service Academy. She educates students who want to be teachers and guides them through their journey both in-school and after-school as the Educators Rising program leader. If you take a look into her classroom, you will see an example of what teaching and learning should look like. Marquez is inspiring a new generation of teachers who are gaining recognition across the state and nationally as they prepare for the national Educators Rising competition in Orlando this summer.



Johnsiry Asia Rosa

Johnsiry Asia Rosa, a 5th-grade student, was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by Gina Cavallo, Lincoln Principal, and Kevin Emery, his teacher. Johnsiry has proven to be not only a hard worker but a great peer and mentor to those around him. When asked at the beginning of the year what his goals were, Johnsiry said struggled with the English language and committed to becoming a better reader and writer. He dedicated himself to that goal while also making sure that the other multilingual students were growing as well. Johnsiry can be found interpreting directions, translating documents, and doing whatever he can to help others with a smile. Johnsiry has accomplished the goal set for this year. He has taken himself from an early grade 1 reading level in iReady to grade three and has surpassed his typical growth. His DRA level has also shown a steady increase. Johnsiry is kind, caring, respectful, and a pure joy to have in class.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION



Paul Rykowski

Paul Rykowski, Adult Education student, has completed an impressive thirteen credits of work this year and will graduate this June. Rykowski is a hardworking individual who dedicated himself to completing his studies in a relatively short amount of time. Rykowski works locally in manufacturing and plans to go to college this fall, attributing much of his success to his fiancé for motivating him day in and day out.



Eric Jiantonio

Eric Jiantonio, counselor, was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by Adult Education Principal Mark Fernandes. Jiantonio is a dedicated staff member who ensures the students in Adult Education succeed. For many students, Jiantonio's commitment to making himself available for them to complete their necessary hours has directly resulted in their success in virtual studies. Jiantonio is always willing to go the extra mile to support his students.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION



Yuri Diaz

Yuri Diaz, breakfast/lunch aid, was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by Northend Principal Rolanda Booker after she recently saved a child's life in the school cafeteria when a student started choking. Diaz acted swiftly to perform the Heimlich Maneuver, staying calm under pressure and using her training. Diaz is a true hero!



Victoria Narvaez

Victoria Narvaez, a preschool student, was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by Terry Turcotte, RELC principal. Victoria has made exponential growth this year with her independence, coping, and communication skills after entering preschool with limited ability to communicate. She has grown in her ability to use sign language to express her needs and meet her academic goals. She has become a mentor for other deaf and hard-of-hearing students and a role model for her peers. We look forward to seeing her further growth throughout next year!



Photo by Paul Salina

HURRICANE SURGE

NBHS Boys Volleyball Team Advances to Second Straight State Tournament Appearance

In 2021, the New Britain High School Boys Volleyball Team took home just four wins in their second season as a program. Most of the players were brand new to volleyball and could have quit. They could have tried different sports. But they didn't. The team dedicated themselves to growing the young program and putting New Britain on the map for Boys Volleyball as a family. The team went on to qualify for the state tournament in both 2022 and 2023.

"In the beginning, we were losing a lot, and we wanted to get better. After that first season together, we really started to take the sport seriously because we wanted to become a top team and win," said Davin Siharath, an NBHS senior and captain who recently became the first player from the program to commit to playing volleyball in college. "We trained outside of school, joined club, and played all year long. We weren't where we wanted to be, and that gave us the drive that brought us to where we are today."

Coach Michelle Abraham said that drive is what she is most proud of when it comes to the Boys Volleyball team. While the team is relatively new, Abraham is no stranger to the sport of volleyball. A 1985 NBHS graduate herself,

Abraham was a three-sport athlete playing volleyball, basketball, and softball. She has been coaching the girls team since 1988 and founded the boys program in 2019.

"When you establish a program, you want to win, but it takes time," said Abraham. "Our success really is coming from these boys. They are working all the time. They're in the gym, they're finding ways to play outside together. They go to parks, they drive to Bristol to play at an outdoor facility. They put in the work, and it shows."

As a coach of boys and girls volleyball, Abraham has over 380 wins, 19 state tournament appearances, 5 league championships, and 1 state championship. She is a member of the New Britain Sports Hall of Fame, the 2022 CT High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year, and the 2018 National High School Coaches Association Finalist. This year, the Boys Volleyball team added more accolades to the list earning the 2023 CCC East Co-Conference Championship title and advancing to the CIAC Class L Tournament for the second year in a row, just five years after the team's inception.

"Her stats are impressive, but anyone who knows Coach



Abraham will tell you she doesn't coach for the accolades. She does it for the kids," said Lisa Kawecki, Assistant Coordinator of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness for CSDNB. "She's an incredible coach, a mentor for others, and we are lucky to have her in New Britain. She sets the bar high."

Abraham says she started coaching to give back to the city she grew up in, to provide the same experience she had as a student-athlete and all the benefits that came with sports. She says her coaching philosophy comes down to the importance of building a rapport with students and trust.

"I'm most proud of this team's continuity and drive. They saw what was out there and what they needed to do to be successful and set their own goal," said Abraham. "I don't put limits on them. They know what they're capable of doing and they strive for it. When we lose they're visibly upset, and that indicates to me how much they want to win and how much they're invested in the program and getting New Britain sports back to where they used to be."

The culture Abraham strives to create in her teams is evident when you take a look at her players. Lexus Sanchez, a senior captain, was new to volleyball his sophomore year and says the

sport has changed him off the court as well.

"Volleyball has helped me a lot mentally. I used to get down on myself a lot, I felt I wasn't good at much, and then volleyball came and showed me I have to be passionate about whatever I'm going to do. I have to push myself to my limits and put my heart into it," said Sanchez. "The way this team has grown means a lot to me."

In just three years, Sanchez has built up his own impressive resume. He made All-Conference his junior and senior seasons and was named Second Team All-State last year.

The Hurricanes advanced to the 2023 CIAC State Tournament as the 7 seed with an impressive 15-5 overall record. As the 7 seed, they secured a home match, showing huge growth as a program in just a few short years. Abraham said she hopes the program's success will garner more exposure for all New Britain athletes, giving more student-athletes the opportunity to play at the next level as colleges and universities take notice.

"Most of us remember when we weren't the best team. We put in so much work, so many hours in and out of the gym and I'm so proud of how far we've come," said Siharath. "Now we get the chance to see all of the hard work pay off, and it's amazing."

DAVIN SIHARATH

Senior Captain, Setter

All Conference 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
Second Team All-State 2021-2022
Stats: 744 assists, 178 service points,
and 155 digs

LEXUS SANCHEZ

Senior Captain, Outside Hitter & Middle
All-Conference 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
Second Team All-State 2021-2022.
Stats: 380 kills, 66 blocks, 172 digs,
and 146 service points

JOSE PAGAN

Senior Libero

All-Conference 2022-2023
Stats: 347 digs, 405 serve receptions,
135 service points 312/330 serving

DANIEL SENIOR

Junior Outside Hitter and Middle Blocker
All-Conference 2022-2023

Stats: 166 kills, 151 service points 281/294,
185 digs, 195 serve receptions



"Most of us remember when we weren't the best team. We put in so much work, so many hours in and out of the gym and I'm so proud of how far we've come. Now we get the chance to see all of the hard work pay off, and it's amazing."

DAVIN SIHARATH



GET TO KNOW

MAYA KELLY

CSDNB's 2023 NBHS Salutatorian



Name:

Maya Kelly

Favorite Food:

Pasta dishes or ice cream

Fun Fact:

Holds a 3rd Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo

Next Year's Plan:

Plans to attend the University of Connecticut, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

Maya Kelly is an All-Conference soccer player, Girls Soccer Captain, Girls Basketball Co-Captain, Society of Young Scholars Alumni, Science National Honor Society member, National Honor Society member, and the NBHS 2023 Scholar Athlete Awardee.

What was it like transitioning from a small school (HALS Academy) to NBHS?

At first, I didn't really like high school. Going from a school with 50 people in my class to 400 was a really big adjustment. It was really overwhelming. I tend to need a little time to get my feet wet, but I joined soccer right away. I was anxious at first, but getting to know people outside of my classes helped a lot. It gave me a family and helped me develop my time management skills early on. I also joined the Health Services Academy. Now if I'm walking in the hallway and I see a big group of people, I always know someone and I don't feel isolated anymore.

How did the Health Science Academy affect your experience at NBHS?

I really liked being a part of the Academy. Through my experiences, I learned I really like the medical field but don't like the direct patient care side. I loved the coursework in biomedical innovations and actually creating new stuff that can be used. It really helped my exposure and helped me to realize I like the lab work. I like working behind the scenes doing research.

What staff member had the greatest impact on you?

I have two! As a teacher, Ms. Bristol. I still find myself going to her during lunch to catch up. She does a lot for her students and was really helpful in class and even outside of class. She's fun to talk to and really supportive of her students. The other person is Coach Pat. He came to our soccer team last year at a time when we didn't have a coach. He stepped up and helped us go from a team that had 0 wins my sophomore year to making States this year. He is super supportive and always wants us to have fun while improving our skills.

What is your biggest piece of advice for incoming freshmen?

My biggest piece of advice is to join as much as you can. Try out new things, even if you don't like it, you're better off just starting it and seeing if it's something you like or not. Maya Kelly is an All-Conference soccer player, Girls Soccer Captain, Girls Basketball Co-Captain, Society of Young Scholars Alumni, Science National Honor Society member, National Honor Society member, and the NBHS 2023 Scholar Athlete Awardee.

GET TO KNOW

ADRIANA GUTOWSKA

CSDNB's 2023 NBHS Valedictorian

Name:

Adriana Gutowska

Favorite Food:

Popcorners Sweet Chili or Tacos

Fun Fact:

Holds a blue belt in jiu-jitsu

Next Year's Plan:

Plans to attend the University of Connecticut, majoring in Wildlife



Adriana Gutowska moved to New Britain from Poland at 8 years old and overcame initial language barriers to rise to the top of her class. Today, she is the captain of the Girls Soccer Team, a Science National Honor Society member, and a National Honor Society member.

What clubs, sports, or organizations have been the most impactful or important to you?

This year I was part of varsity soccer, National Honor Society, and Science National Honor Society. Outside of school, I used to do volunteer firefighting at Newington, and I also do jiu-jitsu. I find jiu-jitsu to be the most impactful. It always provides an escape for me when I'm stressed, and everyone feels like a family. I also love the sport itself and feel like it helps me make myself tougher and stronger. I am also in the health academy. I wanted to see if I would be interested in a medical career, but have found that I am not. My experience was good, though. Ms. Bristol and Mr. Zayas are both great teachers and people!

What staff member had the greatest impact on you?

I would like to thank Mr. Tabs [Thomas Tabellione] for the hallway walk junior year.

What is your biggest piece of advice for incoming freshmen?

I would say to find good friends, because even if the classes are boring or you dislike school then you can at least be able to have fun with your friends.



Adriana Gutowska and Maya Kelly met on the bus in 6th-grade on the first day of school. The bus ride was the first in a new school district for Maya. Without knowing anyone, she took the seat next to Adriana, and the rest is history. The HALS alumni have been close friends since, participating in many clubs and organizations together and rising to the top of the Class of 2023!

Congratulations Adriana and Maya!

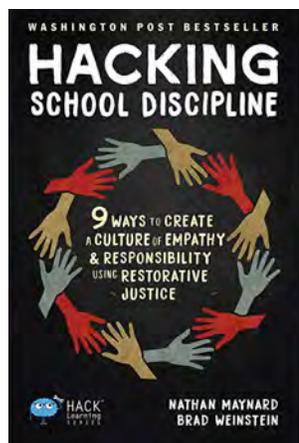
DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



Improvements in iReady Scores

Spring iReady Testing has been completed for all current students in grades K-8. Scores are being compiled to be presented to the board at a later date. Compared to last spring (Spring 21-22 compared to Spring 22-23) most schools made an average of 5.1% improvement in Literacy in students scoring in tier 1 and a 4.7% average increase in students performing at tier 1 in Math.



Book Study for Principals

School Leaders for grades 6-12 have begun reading the book "Hacking School Discipline" as they continue to plan strategies for cultivating relationships through restorative practices in their buildings.



Sister Act Nominated for 10 Halo Awards

We are thrilled to announce that the New Britain High School production of Sister Act has won a Halo Award, after a record-setting 10 nominations!

Congratulations to NBHS Senior Meylin Valdiviezo who took home the Halo for Best Choreography!

The Halo Awards, sponsored by the Seven Angels Theatre in Waterbury, is a recognition of excellence in High School Theater in Connecticut with similar awards and categories to the Oscars or the Tony Awards. Other nominations included:

Best Contemporary Musical
Best Dancing
Best Chorus

Arthur Sanchez-Leroux
Best Leading Actor

Nylajshia Liebler
Best Leading Actress

Daniel Senior
Best Comedic Male

Mary Petrisko
Best Comedic Female

Derick Lopez
Best Supporting Actor

Max Szczepanik
Best Lighting Design/Execution

Meylin Valdiviezo
Best Choreography

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



Students Run Final Mile with HMF

The Hartford Marathon Foundation hosted students and staff from Slade Middle School, Vance Elementary School, and Lincoln Elementary School at Martha Hart Park for the final mile run of their FitKids in School Susie Beris MD Youth Running Program. At the celebration, DICK's Sporting Goods presented HMF with a \$20,000 grant to support and expand the FitKids in School program for the 2023-2024 school year!

We thank HMF for their continued partnership and look forward to inviting more schools to run this fall, thanks to DICK's Sporting Goods!



Lincoln Elementary School Celebrates Children's Mental Health

Lincoln Elementary School partnered with several community providers to host 'Children's Mental Health Day' for all students to continue building awareness, understanding, and compassion for mental health. Throughout the day, students were invited to participate in various activities that encouraged them to practice positive coping strategies.

May is recognized nationwide as Mental Health Awareness Month. According to the CDC, positive mental health is essential to a child's development as they strive to reach developmental and emotional milestones, learn healthy social skills, and learn how to cope when there are problems.

We thank Whitsons Culinary Group for providing a healthy snack, Master Yang's Tae Kwon Do, Bhogah Yoga, Bring the Hoopla, Sound Meditation, and the YMCA Youth Outreach Program for helping us to make today possible!



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What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



CSDNB Celebrates Essay Winners

Congratulations to the CSDNB CT CHRO Kids' Court Essay Competition winners!

Students in grades 6-12 were invited to use their writing skills for good and enter the districtwide human rights and social justice essay writing competition. The districtwide winners were hosted at central office for a congratulatory breakfast and award ceremony. CSDNB was proud to submit our district winners' pieces to the statewide competition.

Just before the breakfast, we got the news that THREE of the ten statewide finalists are from New Britain! Congratulations to Anzor Khamdamov and Deaney Lopez of HALS Academy and Zharia Lang of New Britain High School, who have all advanced! We are rooting for you at the state level to bring home the win! Congratulations to all of our building and district winners!



NBHS Seniors Awarded Over 500K

New Britain High School recently held their annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony. Over \$500,000 was awarded to students who are moving on to higher education. We congratulate all the awardees and thank all of the donors who made this happen!



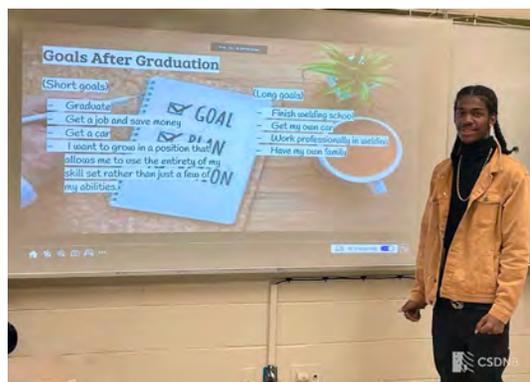
DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



NBHS Seniors Share Senior Presentations

Senior presentations are complete! Over 400 12th-grade students shared incredible stories of resilience, strength, and bravery as they fulfilled the graduation requirement presenting their capstone to a panel of staff. Congratulations to all the seniors who successfully completed their presentations, and thank you for sharing your personal experiences and advice for others.



217 NBHS Students Qualify for the Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy

New Britain High School offers so many unique opportunities. One of our favorites is the chance to graduate with the CT Seal of Biliteracy.

The CT Seal of Biliteracy recognizes public high school graduates who have attained a level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. The Seal celebrates the value of language diversity, encourages the study of languages, and recognizes the value of learning English while maintaining a native language.

The Seal will be affixed to diplomas and transcripts of students who have met the criteria of being biliterate. Students who have earned The Seal will also wear a purple and teal stole at Graduation, as pictured.

217 New Britain High School multilingual students recently tested and qualified for The Seal!! 87 of the recipients are current seniors! The rest are sophomores and juniors. In addition to acknowledging student achievement, this recognition will help open doors for students to work in the 21st century.

New Britain students earned The CT Seal of Biliteracy in the following six languages: Spanish, Arabic, French, Portuguese, Ukrainian, and Tagalog.

Congratulations to this year's NBHS Seal of Biliteracy recipients!

DISTRICT UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



Brookside Event Builds Confidence

Students at Brookside School had the opportunity to attend mock interviews and resume writing workshops after spending nearly a month practicing in preparation for the big day.

"Small steps can sometimes move mountains and help others build confidence," said Brookside School Principal Jason Miramant. "

Ms. Damiani, Brookside's Career Coach, worked to prepare the students, which included ensuring everyone was able to 'dress for success.' We want to thank our community partners for helping to make this day and congratulate our students for putting in the work to better themselves.



Chamberlain Elementary School Renovation Nears Completion

Superintendent Tony Gasper and Mayor Erin Stewart teamed last month up to host a cookout for the Chamberlain Elementary School neighbors, who have been extremely patient throughout the construction process. The event included guided tours of the brand-new building and a cookout by Whitsons Culinary Group.



Armella, who will start Kindergarten this fall, attended the cookout with her parents. There, she met Paul Salina, the City of New Britain Director of City/School Relations and Business.

Salina started kindergarten at Chamberlain in 1953, just a year after the school was initially opened. The two will have a shared kindergarten experience, 70 years apart!

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



Smalley Staff Gets Creative with Countdown

The Smalley 'A-Z Alphabet Countdown' officially kicked off in May. Every day, teachers at Smalley are coming up with clever ways to engage their students for the last 26 days of the school year. For 'F day,' students dressed for their "FUTURE career!" Check out these community heroes!



Surprise Donation Pushes Ben Cheney Memorial Fundraising over \$100,000

For over a decade, the Cheney family has been fundraising for the NBHS Golden Hurricane Marching Band in honor of their late son, Ben Cheney. These funds have helped purchase instruments and provided countless experiences to students.

Ben, an NBHS '08 graduate who cared deeply for the marching band, was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 2012. For ten years, Ben's family and friends fundraised for the Golden Hurricanes to honor and remember Ben. They held their 10th and final BENefit in September 2022, culminating with a final fundraising total just shy of \$100,000, or so they thought.

At last month's BOE meeting, there was a surprise presentation regarding the Ben Cheney Memorial. Nelba Márquez-Greene, LMFT, Founder and Executive Director of the Ana Grace Project, made a final donation to push the family's efforts over \$100,000. The beautiful donation came thanks to the continued efforts of Newark Academy, under the direction of Julius Tolentino, who chose to bestow this year's concert proceeds of \$4,000 to the Ana Grace Project.

We thank the families of both Ben Cheney and Ana Grace Márquez-Greene, who continue to come together to support New Britain's children in memory of their beloved children.

DISTRICT UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?

NBHS Hosts Final Student of the Quarter Breakfast

New Britain High School hosted students and families for breakfast to recognize and celebrate outstanding individuals at their final 'Student of the Quarter' ceremony.

Students were nominated by staff for a multitude of reasons. Examples included demonstrated growth, character, resiliency, kindness, and academic performance. Congratulations to all students recognized for this honor!

We thank Chef Nelson and the ProStart students for catering the event.



Congratulations to Lydia Colon! CSDNB Paraeducator of the Year

"Lydia remains calm and professional, even during times of high stress. That is a rare quality that benefits everyone she works with," said Anita Fazio, Gaffney Elementary School Principal. "She genuinely loves the students, which is apparent in her empathy and affection towards them. Working with Lydia is a breath of fresh air. She genuinely makes all staff feel comfortable and appreciated."



Congratulations to Eileen Marquez! CSDNB Teacher of the Year

"Teaching, in its truest form, is a service that allows the teacher to give back to the community in which they work. In its truest form, it inspires the next generation of teachers, lawyers, professionals, and all-around great citizens. In its rarest form, it is Mrs. Eileen Marquez," said Antoine Billy, NBHS Associate Principal.

**See Page 24 for School Paraeducators
and Teachers of the Year**

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



NBHS Sophomore Represents Educators Rising Program with Governor Ned Lamont

Isaias Rodriguez Sanchez, a New Britain High School sophomore, joined Governor Ned Lamont, CT State Dept. of Ed. Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, and other key figures who have played an integral role in developing and strengthening the educator pipeline in CT at a press conference last month announcing an investment of over 3 million dollars into the pipeline.

Rodriguez Sanchez, who plans to become a teacher, provided an exemplary example as to why these investments are so critical as he spoke about the importance of the Educators Rising program and the opportunities afforded to him because of the program, including becoming a National Senator for Educators Rising.

“Educators Rising is not only important, it’s essential. If we want to cultivate our teachers and make sure we have quality, diversified teachers in the future, Educators Rising in the answer,” said Rodriguez Sanchez.



Watch the full press conference here:



Pulaski Science Fair Returns

The Pulaski Middle School science fair recently returned, featuring interactive displays, inventions, experiments, and demonstrations. We thank all of the individuals who volunteered to judge the event, congratulate the winners for their outstanding work, and commend all participating students for their dedication to their projects over the last few months!



DISTRICT UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?

Artists Celebrated at Annual Art Show

We recently had the opportunity to celebrate so many young artists and staff at the annual New Britain Public and Parochial Art Show!

The event included awards and the NBHS National Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

Congratulations to all of the honorees:

Julie DeLeon, *Chamberlain*
 Liam Salcedo, *DiLoreto*
 Isabella Padilla-Perez, *DiLoreto*
 Selina Casanova, *DiLoreto*
 Evangeline Garcia-Liao, *DiLoreto*
 Kaidance Ramos, *DiLoreto*
 Katelyn Cotto, *DiLoreto*
 Lena Kumiega, *Gaffney*
 Isla Naples, *HALS*
 Carlos Pomales Torres, *HALS*
 Maya Dabrowska, *Holmes*
 Caleb Karikari, *Holmes*
 Matthew DeFronzo, *Holmes*
 Maria Rybczyk, *Lincoln*
 Alexis Appugllon Pacari, *Lincoln*
 Caleb Rodriguez Toledo, *Lincoln*
 Maya Akberzai, *Lincoln*
 Luca Villanueva, *NBHS*
 Luna Lima, *NBHS*
 Marializ Gonzalez, *NBHS*
 Mya Hoskie, *NBHS*
 Sara Maasse, *NBHS*
 Jasmine Rose, *NBHS*
 Ixel Vela, *NBHS*
 Melody Roman Abreu, *NBHS*
 Niyalah Charlot, *NBHS*
 Yaretzy Vazquez, *NBHS*
 Naveah Lopez, *Northend*
 Malia Rahim, *Northend*
 Gianna Nauss, *Northend*
 Inessa Olivieri, *Slade*
 Ricardo Cruz, *Smalley*
 Gian Chamorro Ramirez, *Smith*
 Ailin Raya Jacobo, *Smith*



DISTRICTUPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



NBHS Teacher Recognized Nationally

The Computer Science Teachers Association and Infosys Foundation USA chose New Britain High School's Daniel Sorge as one of just 10 winners nationwide of their Teaching Excellence Awards!

Sorge began teaching at NBHS three years ago and has helped strengthen the computer science pathway. Teaching courses such as mobile app development, principles of IT, and explorations of computer science, Sorge has created a pipeline of students poised to pursue advanced placement course offerings.

Sorge's teaching philosophy is founded on the belief that all students can achieve greatness. Through a student-centered, personalized learning environment, Daniel seeks to connect with students so that they can find meaning in their learning. In computer science classes, students are challenged to become creators, not just consumers, of technology. In addition to his students, Daniel is driven by his wonderful wife and two young girls who inspire him every day.

As a winner of the award, Sorge will receive a complimentary registration for the CSTA 2023 Virtual Conference, one year of CSTA+ membership, and a \$7,500 stipend in recognition of his outstanding work. Read more about the award here:



Space in the Community

CSDNB was chosen as one of two school districts in the state to host Space Foundation! Students at Gaffney and Holmes had the chance to enjoy space-themed activities with special visitors from Space Foundation, including former astronaut Lt. Col. Duane "Digger" Carey, USAF (Ret.), before a community-wide event. The Space in the Community event included demonstrations, and several hands-on activities featuring rockets, robots, drones, an obstacle course, and more.

"We are proud to host this community event to help inspire the youth of New Britain to take an active interest in space exploration and the possibilities it holds for our future," said Jenn Wright, Assistant

Coordinator of STEAM and Summer Learning. "This incredible opportunity allows our students to apply aspects of their STEM learning to this real-world field of study."

We thank The Petit Family Foundation for sponsoring these great events!



DISTRICTUPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



NBHS Artists Featured in Congressional Art Competition

Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Since the Artistic Discovery competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated.

Students submit entries to their representative's office, and panels of district artists select the winning entries. Winners are recognized both in their district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC. The winning works are displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol. An exhibition showcasing Connecticut's 5th Congressional District will be held at the Mattatuck Museum and online from May 1-May 23, 2023. Congratulations to the following students who will be featured in the exhibit: Trish Claudio, Nayelie Zuniga, Malania McLeod, Sara Maasse, Mya Hoskie, Niyalah Charlot, Destiny Lopez, Brianna Martinez, Itzel Cid, Jasmine Rose, Sarah Cameron, Yaretz Vazquez, Layleen Breyette and Desiree Villanueva!



Layleen Breyette: Tempera Paint



Brianna Martinez: Digital Art



Trish Claudio: Acrylic on Canvas Board



Nayelie Zuniga: Digital Art



Yaretz Vazquez: Mixed Media

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?

STANDOUT STAFF



Heather Bartoletti
Kindergarten Teacher
Smith Elementary School

"As a former second-grade teacher and current kindergarten teacher in CSDNB, Heather has always shown the true aspects of being a great teacher. Being that this is only her second year in the district, she has nonetheless displayed being a team leader by helping support new teachers in her grade level and others as well. She exemplifies what it means to help those around her and support her students to their full potential. She is always willing to mentor new teachers, using her personal time to go observe and brainstorm new teaching strategies, and she really brings a sense of community to Smith with her bright personality. We are so lucky to have Heather as a peer and mentor in our school!"

- submitted by anonymous staff member



4th-Grade Team
DiLoreto Elementary and Middle School

"I would love to give a staff appreciation shout-out to the 4th-grade team at DiLoreto consisting of Theresa Falkowski, Christina Valentine, Peg Murray, Maria Donnelly, and Jenna O'Neil."

"They are a great team that keeps us safe and guides us in the right direction. They make sure learning is fun, and they are kind, smart, and patient! I am lucky to be a student of the 4th-grade team at DiLoreto, and I want them to know I appreciate every one of them, and they are seen by all of their students and loved!"

- submitted by HillaryErin Medina (parent) and son, Dalton (student).

STANDOUT STAFF



Fornita Holley
Special Education Teacher
Slade Middle School Bridges Program

"Ms. Holley goes above and beyond with her students. No matter how the previous day went, she greets them each morning with a smile and treats every day like a new start. She supports them academically and socially/emotionally with unlimited empathy and patience. Ms. Holley is a team player with parents and staff- always texting guardians to update them and celebrate successes or let them know when their student is having a tough time. As a new staff member, I could not have gotten through this year without Ms. Holley's guidance and patience in teaching me the district and program procedures and supporting my transition to CSDNB."

- submitted by Katherine Betlej
(fellow staff member)



Dr. Shamel Lewis
Principal
Jefferson Elementary School

"Dr. Lewis is an awesome principal who connects with each and every student so well. He's very soft-spoken, and I'm short of words to explain his personality as a principal. We are so lucky to have him as the principal of my son's school."

- submitted by Priyanka Garb (parent/guardian)

DISTRICT UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?

Grade 5 to Grade 6 Transition: Student Devices, Accounts and AUP

Grade 5 Students will return their student devices at the end of the year, regardless of their condition. Those devices will be assessed and used accordingly based on condition as loaners, carts devices, or parts for repairs. Students will receive a replacement device at the start of Grade 6 in their middle school. The new device will remain with the student through grade 12. Participating in the student device insurance program will help ensure the device stays in good working order for years to come.

Please be aware that student account passwords change in Grade 6. Students will receive the new account information from their middle school. It is important parents use their own PowerSchool accounts instead of their child's to avoid losing access.

Students are required to have passed the Acceptable Use Policy quiz by the start of grade 6 in order to gain web access on the school system's network. While hundreds of fifth grade students have already completed it in the past month, it is important that all grade 5 students complete this process. The quiz is accessed through the powerschool portal for students. Students will get an alert when they log into PowerSchool if they still need to take this quiz.



For complete instructions on the AUP process, please scan the QR code below:



Device Tickets and Insurance Summary

Currently, we have over 1700 students participating in the student device insurance program! Hundreds more students have enrolled this year than last year!! Thank you all for participating. Here are some quick numbers on the program's progress

Insurance Claims

Count	Insurance Claim Type
174	Broken Keyboard
620	Cracked Screen
262	Internal Damage
263	Replacement Charger
23	Replacement Protective Case
1342	GRAND TOTAL

Student Tech Tickets Summary

Count	Ticket Issue Type
200	Account Issue
373	Charger or Case Issue
1290	Damaged Device
16	Destroyed Device
856	Lost Device
1347	Performance Issue
4082	GRAND TOTAL

Ticket Status Summary

Count	Status
939	Open Tickets
157	New Tickets
24	Work in Progress
46	Work on Hold
242	Awaiting Insurance
21	Awaiting Invoice Payment
3143	Work Completed
449	Device Locked Out
4082	ALL TICKETS

*WORD OF ADVICE:
Insure your student's device...*



Just
\$20/ SCHOOL
YEAR
provides accidental
coverage for your
student's device

CSDNB'S STUDENT DEVICE INSURANCE PROGRAM

We all know accidents happen.

Without CSDNB's Student Device Insurance Program, you could be on the hook for costly repairs and replacement costs.*

The Student Device Insurance Program is designed to protect students and families in the event that a CSDNB-issued device is damaged or malfunctions due to no fault of the student.*

Don't let an accident ruin your day, enroll today!

Sign up is easy with MySchoolBucks!

MySchoolBucks Store is accessible through PowerSchool Parent Portal.

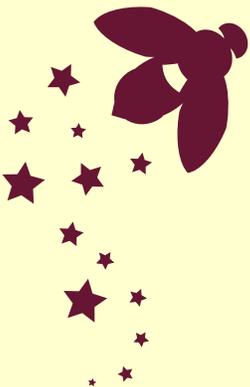
2023 PARAEDUCATORS AND TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

2023 Paraeducators of the Year

Anita Felder, *Chamberlain Elementary School*
 Lydia Colon, *Gaffney Elementary School*
 Julie Russell, *Holmes Elementary School*
 Theresa Staranchak, *Jefferson Elementary School*
 Nancy Baerga, *Lincoln Elementary School*
 Lucy Snow, *New Britain High School*
 Priscilla Thibodeau, *New Britain Transitional Center*
 Irene Volyanik, *Northend Elementary School*
 Glenda Soto, *Pulaski Middle School*
 Sacha Mendoza, *Roosevelt Early Learning Center*
 Nancy Beaudoin, *Smalley Elementary School*
 Carmen Martinez, *Smith Elementary School*
 Lorraine Cervoni, *Vance Elementary School*

2023 Teachers of the Year

Abigail Perez, *Brookside School*
 Tamara Smith-Andersen, *Chamberlain Elementary School*
 Kristy Olson, *DiLoreto Elementary and Middle School*
 Julie Flynn, *Gaffney Elementary School*
 Daniel Broderick, *HALS Academy*
 Jessica Morneault, *Holmes Elementary School*
 Christine Hagar, *Jefferson Elementary School*
 Wendy Novajasky, *Lincoln Elementary School*
 Eileen Marquez, *New Britain High School*
 Nicholas Pendergrass, *New Britain Transitional Center*
 Michael Saccuzzo, *Northend Elementary School*
 Karen Duplin, *Pulaski Middle School*
 Alicia DeNove, *Roosevelt Early Learning Center*
 Jeffrey Marino, *Satellite Careers Academy*
 Mark Meister, *Slade Middle School*
 Rachel Cunningham, *Smalley Elementary School*
 Danielle Griswold, *Smith Elementary School*
 Jessica Planas, *Vance Elementary School*



2022-2023 CSDNB DISTRICTWIDE RETIREES

Kevin Anderson, *Custodian I*, Roosevelt Early Learning Center, July 10, 2022
 Susan Girolomoni, *Principal*, New Britain Transitional Center, July 15, 2022
 Patricia Cassidy, *School Secretary*, New Britain High School, July 29, 2022
 Carol Kla, *Paraeducator - Inclusion*, Smith Elementary School, August 4, 2022
 Lynn Desimone, *Paraeducator - KEY*, Gaffney Elementary School, August 9, 2022
 Dayma Silva, *Paraeducator - Inclusion*, Chamberlain Elementary School, August 19, 2022
 Deborah Russo, *Grade 6 English/Social Studies Teacher*, Pulaski Middle School, August 23, 2022
 Leslie Suydam, *Paraeducator - Inclusion*, Pulaski Middle School, August 30, 2022
 Michael Foran, *Assistant Superintendent of Schools*, Office of the Superintendent, August 31, 2022
 Linda Gioia, *Administrative Secretary II*, Pupil Services Department, August 31, 2022
 Patricia Dunford, *Computer Systems Specialist*, MIS Department, September 20, 2022
 Olive White, *Grade 5 Teacher*, Northend Elementary School, September 23, 2022
 Donna Bradanini, *School Nurse*, Slade Middle School, November 2, 2022
 Alan Sullivan, *PE Teacher*, Pulaski Middle School, November 8, 2022
 Sharon Pra, *Paraeducator - Bridges*, Slade Middle School, November 24, 2022
 Kevin Kane, *Chief Financial Officer*, Finance Department, November 30, 2022
 Nina Dubnansky, *Special Education Teacher*, Smith Elementary School, December 9, 2022
 Wendy Steiner, *Paraeducator - Inclusion*, Jefferson Elementary School, December 21, 2022
 Rolando Centeno, *Behavior Support Assistant*, New Britain Transitional Center, December 21, 2022
 Pamela May, *Secretary to the Principal*, New Britain High School, January 6, 2023
 Debra Barnicle, *School Social Worker*, Gaffney Elementary School, March 10, 2023
 Luz Sepulveda, *Paraeducator - Inclusion*, Lincoln Elementary School, March 10, 2023
 Joanna Mechlinski, *Transportation Specialist*, Transportation Department, March 10, 2023
 Lynn DelCegno, *School Secretary I*, New Britain Transitional Center, March 31, 2023
 Donna Roman, *Bookkeeper II*, Finance Department, April 7, 2023
 Jerilyn Crispin, *Paraeducator - Inclusion*, Jefferson Elementary School, June 15, 2023
 Linda Retano, *School Nurse*, New Britain High School, June 23, 2023
 Amy Gagne, *Grade 3 Teacher*, Vance Elementary School, June 30, 2023
 Andrea Russo, *Art Teacher*, Holmes Elementary School, June 30, 2023
 Joel Simmone, *Physical Education Teacher*, New Britain High School, June 30, 2023
 Keith Ontko, *Physics Teacher*, New Britain High School, June 30, 2023
 Helena Rogers, *Health Teacher*, New Britain High School, June 30, 2023
 Robert Ramsey, *Biology Teacher*, New Britain High School, June 30, 2023
 Maria Jimenez, *Career Coach*, Satellite Careers Academy, June 30, 2023
 Renee Reliford, *Social Studies Teacher*, Slade Middle School, June 30, 2023
 Kristen Ramsey, *Art Teacher*, DiLoreto Elementary and Middle School, June 30, 2023
 Michelle Fournier, *Speech and Language Pathologist*, New Britain High School/CLIMB, June 30, 2023
 Darlene Dexter, *Grade 3 Teacher*, Chamberlain Elementary School, June 30, 2023
 Halina Fajer-Wolczacki, *ESL Teacher*, Gaffney Elementary School, June 30, 2023
 Karen Bajek, *Grade 3 Teacher*, Gaffney Elementary School, June 30, 2023
 Catherine Sadlak, *Mathematics Teacher*, New Britain High School, June 30, 2023
 Maurice Simpson, *School Counselor*, New Britain High School, June 30, 2023
 Theresa Staranchak, *Paraeducator - Inclusion*, Jefferson Elementary School, June 30, 2023
 Wanda Lickwar, *District Coordinator of Bilingual, ESL, Dual Language, and World Language*, June 30, 2023
 Debra Kane, *Grade 6 Teacher*, Pulaski Middle School, August 1, 2023
 Urszula Gajda, *Paraeducator - Inclusion*, Pulaski Middle School, August 22, 2023

CSDNB Smiles

All Around CSDNB
May 2023





Many more photos of this experience can be found on CSDNB's social media!

KINDERGARTEN

at the Consolidated School District of New Britain!



**REGISTER NOW FOR
KINDERGARTEN!**

Now enrolling Class of 2036!

Registration for new kindergarten students for the 2023-2024 school year occurs through an online registration process.

Visit csdnb.org/register to get started!

New student registration is only required for students who will be new to the Consolidated School District of New Britain for the 2023-2024 school year. If your student currently attends Gaffney Preschool, Gaffney KEY Preschool, or Roosevelt Early Learning Center Preschool, you do not need to complete the online registration form to register your student for Kindergarten. Your student will automatically be enrolled into kindergarten, and you will receive more information over the summer when our Back to School Guide is available.

If you have any questions, please reach out to our Central Registration Office at 860-223-5501



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2022-2023 School Year

JULY					AUGUST					SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
				1	1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30	31				

NOVEMBER					DECEMBER					JANUARY					FEBRUARY				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4				1	2	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30	30	31				27	28			

MARCH					APRIL					MAY					JUNE				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5				1	2
6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31						29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30

Districtwide

- =No School ●=Holiday (School/District Closed)
- August 24 Convocation AM/Building Meetings PM
- August 25, 29, 30 Professional Development
- August 31 First Day of School for Students (Full Day)
- September 5 Labor Day
- October 10 Indigenous Peoples Day
- November 8 Election Day, Prof. Dev. (No School for Students)
- November 11 Veterans Day
- November 23 No School
- November 24-25 Thanksgiving Recess
- December 22-January 2 Winter Break
- January 6 Three Kings' Day
- January 16 Martin Luther King Day
- February 17 Lincoln's Birthday (Recognized 2/12)
- February 20 President's Day
- * February 28 Snow Day
- April 7 Good Friday
- April 10-14 April Break
- May 29 Memorial Day
- June 15 Last Day of School (Regular Half Day)
- June 19 Juneteenth Holiday

Special Observance Days

Faculty will make appropriate accommodations for students affected by these and other special observance days.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sep. 25-27 Rosh Hashanah | Mar. 7-8 Holi |
| Oct. 4-5 Yom Kippur | Apr. 5-13 Passover |
| Oct. 9-16 Sukkot | Apr. 6-22 Bright Week |
| Oct. 24-25 Diwali | Mar. 22-Apr. 21 Ramadan |
| Jan. 6 Three Kings' Day | Apr 21-22 Eid al-Fitr |

Pre-K ▲

- ▲ September 28 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ October 26 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ November 30 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ January 25 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ February 22 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ March 29 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ April 26 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ May 24 PD (Early Dismissal)

Elementary School ◆

- ◆ November 29 End of 1st Trimester
- ◆ December 6 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ December 7 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ December 8 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ March 14 End of 2nd Trimester
- ◆ March 28 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ March 29 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ March 30 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ June 12 End of 3rd Trimester

Middle School ◆

- ◆ August 24 Orientation - HALS, Pulaski, Slade
- August 30 Grade 6 Only First Day (Early Release)
- ◆ November 29 End of 1st Trimester
- ◆ December 6 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ December 7 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ December 8 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ March 14 End of 2nd Trimester
- ◆ March 28 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ March 29 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ March 30 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ June 12 End of 3rd Trimester

High School ■

- August 23 Freshmen Orientation
- August 30 Freshmen Only First Day (Early Release)
- August 31 First Day of School - All Grades
- September 15 Open House (6:00-8:00PM)
- October 3 Progress Reports Available in PowerSchool
- October 13 Conferences (6:00-8:00PM)
- November 3 End of Quarter 1
- November 14 Report Cards Available in PowerSchool
- December 13 Progress Reports Available in PowerSch
- January 26 End of Quarter 2
- January 27 Second Semester Begins
- February 2 Report Cards Available in PowerSchool
- March 1 Progress Reports Available in PowerSchool
- March 2 Conferences (6:00-8:00PM)
- March 22 SAT School Day for Gr. 11 Only, (Early Release)
- April 4 End of Quarter 3
- April 17 Report Cards Available in PowerSchool
- May 12 Progress Reports Available in PowerSchool
- May 3 Senior Presentations (Early Release)
- May 10 Senior Presentations (Early Release)
- June 8 End of Quarter 4
- June 9-14 Final Exams



CSDNB

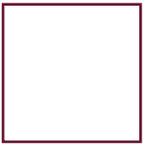
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CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

272 Main Street • P.O. Box 1960 • New Britain, CT 06050-1960



In partnership with family and community, the Consolidated School District of New Britain works to provide the best personalized and comprehensive whole-child education at every level so students will be prepared for, and positively contribute to, a profoundly different future.

The Consolidated School District of New Britain strives to pursue excellence one student at a time.

The Consolidated School District of New Britain

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Authorized by: Superintendent Tony Gasper



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