SDISTRICT SDISPATCH

VOLUME 1

A Publication of the Consolidated School District of New Britain



Honoring Veterans and Giving Thanks

IN THIS ISSUE: Highlights from November, the National Month of Gratitude



HELLO NEW BRITAIN FAMILIES AND STAFF MEMBERS:

Thank you for continuing to read our new newsletter, District Dispatch.

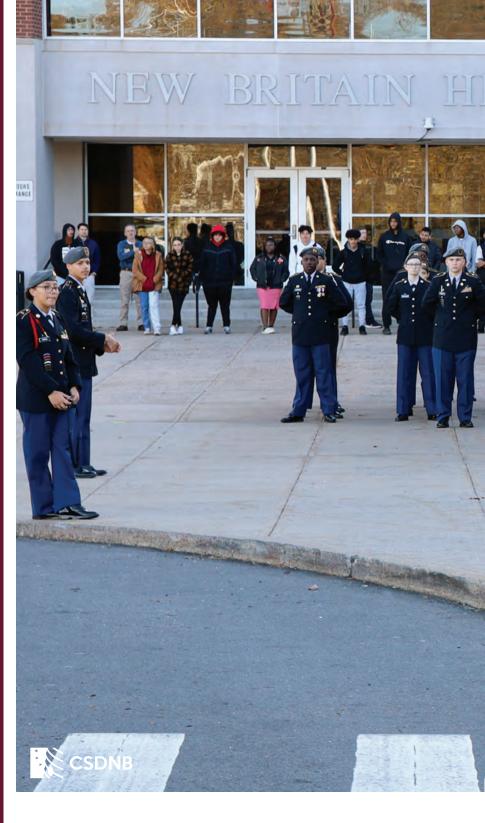
We have many things to celebrate and also much work to do. This newsletter will keep you informed of the great things that we are seeing from the district level of our school system. Our staff members and families are critical pieces in our plans to grow and improve CSDNB.

Thank you for taking the time to stay in touch with us!

In Partnership,

Superintendent Tony Gasper





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VOLUME 1 ISSUE 03



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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.

NEW BRITAIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Gayle Sanders-Connolly, President Merrill Gay, Vice President Joseph Listro, Secretary

Anthony Cane

Monica Dawkins

Anthony Kane

Matthew Marino

Annie Parker

Diana Reyes

Tina Santana

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Tony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools
Ivelise Velazquez, Deputy Superintendent
Kristina DeNegre, Academics and Accountability Officer, PK-5
Tyrone Richardson, Academics and Accountability Officer, 6-12
Maryellen Manning, Chief of Staff | Relationships & Accountability
Rebecca Gonzalez, Chief of Operations
Ann Alfano, Chief Financial Officer
Jeffrey Prokop, Chief Information Officer
Nicole Sanders, Director of Talent and Equity

Mark Spalding, Director of Pupil Services

Diana Rios, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Ryan Langer, Communications Officer

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The Consolidated School District of New Britain

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Authorized by: Superintendent Tony Gasper, December 2022

RECOGNITION





Luke Lacki New Britain High School

Luke Lacki is the Computer Repair Specialist at New Britain High School. Luke was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by Chief Information Officer, Jeff Prokop. Prokop says that while Luke performs well in his typical daily duties in a very large high school, it is his excellent customer service and continual willingness to go above and beyond that makes him truly stand out. Luke provides support at the request of building administrators and assists with several projects that often require him to work beyond his regular work day.



Mary Segarra New Britain Adult Education

Mary Segarra is the Program Facilitator for New Britain Adult Education. Mary was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by New Britain Adult Education Principal, Mark Fernandes. Fernandes says Mary does everything and anything that the program needs. This year alone, Mary registered over 300 students into the program, placing them in appropriate courses, tracking their progress, and monitoring their attendance. Mary has been going above and beyond this way for the past 3 years, all while completing her Master's Degree and working towards her 6th year in Educational Leadership.



Nicholas Kerr Roosevelt Early Learning Center

Nick Kerr is a Paraeducator at Roosevelt Early Learning Center. Nick was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by Roosevelt's Principal, Terry Turcotte. Turcotte says Nick was working with a student during breakfast when the student began choking on a graham cracker. Nick reacted quickly by jumping out of his seat to aid the student in distress by patting the student's back until the cracker became dislodged. Nick is recognized for this for always being alert and

potentially life-saving act and attentive to the students' needs, whatever they may be.



HONORING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

New Britain High School Army JROTC Hosts Veterans Day Ceremony

On Thursday, November 10, New Britain High School Army JROTC hosted a Veterans Day Ceremony honoring our American veterans. Several students, staff members, and other invitees gathered near to observe as over 100 Cadets in their Dress Blue uniforms stood proudly in formation before the school's flagpoles.

Cadet Second Lieutenant Alondra Aviles Baez, the Battalion Personnel Officer, served as the master of ceremonies, conducting the proceedings throughout the event.

Cadet Battalion Commander, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Rudolph Montgomery, and Cadet Command Sergeant Major Angely Ortiz, both students who plan to join the U.S. Military upon graduation, took turns at the podium to reflect on their own personal connection with the holiday. "This is a special day to honor and give thanks to all the veterans who proudly served in the United States Armed

Forces," said Cadet CSM Angely Ortiz, as she addressed the crowd while directing their attention to the NBHS JROTC instructors. "I have the greatest honor of working with two veterans, Senior Army Instructor Lieutenant Colonel Hinrichs and Army Instructor Master Sergeant Grooms. Thank you for serving our country and being such inspiring leaders and mentors."

"This holiday is a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good," said Cadet LTC Rudolph Montgomery, who spoke proudly of his father's 21 years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps. Montgomery also thanked Master Sergeant Grooms and Lieutenant Colonel Hinrichs for their service and leadership as he brought his speech to a close by reciting the veteran-themed poems' A Hero's Welcome' by Robert Longley and 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke. (Poems can be found on page 6)











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CADET LTC RUDOLPH MONTGOMERY

The ceremony was planned almost entirely by Cadets. Cadet Captain Sapphire Santiago, the Battalion Operations Officer, developed the plan in early October, passing out assignments and checking in on the progress throughout the month: Cadet Second Lieutenant Alondra Aviles Baez, the Battalion Personnel Officer, was the master of ceremonies and was put in charge of the ceremony program and script; Cadet Second Lieutenant Barbara Rivera-Diaz, the Logistics Officer, coordinated the technical production of the ceremony by reserving the PA system and other necessary equipment; Cadet First Sergeant Jovan Orozco commanded the Color Guard.

The New Britain High School Madrigal Singers also contributed, adding their special touch, by performing 'God Bless America' and the 'Star-Spangled Banner' under the direction of Jason Ferrandino.

New Britain High School Army JROTC Senior Army Instructor, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Hinrichs, and Army Instructor, Master Sergeant (Retired) Grooms, invite all school district members to join the Cadets for next year's Veterans Day Ceremony.

A Heroes Welcome

by Robert Longley

Time to come home dear brother Your tour of duty through You've given as much as anyone Could be expected to do

Just a few steps further The smoke will start to clear Others here will guide you You have no need of fear

You have not failed your brothers
You clearly gave it all
And through your selfless actions
Others will hear the call

The Soldier

by Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

NOVEMBER 11, 2022

VETERANS DAY

Honoring all who served





EMPTY BOWLS

CCSU and Smalley Partner Up to Host Fundraiser Supper

On November 17, students and staff from Smalley Elementary School partnered with Central CT State University to make a difference in the community as they participated in the global 'Empty Bowls' movement.

The Empty Bowls concept was designed by artists and craftsmen in an effort to raise money for a local charity to help feed the hungry. Fundraiser attendees were given the opportunity to choose from over 200 handmade bowls to fill with soup and bread before taking the bowl home. All proceeds from the event supported the Friendship Service Center in New Britain, which provides regular meals, shelter and services to the homeless.

Smalley Elementary School hosted the event, provided decorations, secured food donations from local businesses and entertained attendees through student performances.

"The Empty Bowl was an amazing event! We were thrilled to collaborate with CCSU on such a worthy cause, bringing awareness to food insecurities," said Andra Foligno, Smalley principal. "This event provided Smalley students with an opportunity to give back to the community and do some good. Bowls were created with love to raise money for those in need. The event raised over \$1,500."

Thank you to everyone who made the Empty Bowls event possible. We are grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community with our incredible partners.



A PURPOSEFUL AND TRANSPARENT BUDGET PROCESS

by Superintendent Tony Gasper

the start of the school year, I introduced what I call "The Essential Ten." These are ten key areas in which I have focused my work to help improve outcomes for the children of New Britain. One of the Essential Ten is "a purposeful and transparent budget process."

The recommended budget for the coming school year is one of the most important tasks for every school superintendent, and we have been busy preparing the budget for the 2023-2024 school year. I believe that the best way to build a useful budget is to take input from a large number of people. In this way, we have spent much of October and November meeting with a wide variety of school and district leaders. The leader of every school and district department each met with our Chief Financial Officer (Ann Alfano) and me twice over the past eight weeks. These professionals were very thoughtful and reasonable in their requests. Additionally, I asked that all of these "budget owners" meet with a team of their own before meeting with me. Therefore, more than 200 staff members had input into the budget that I will recommend to the Board of Education in early January.

In early January, the Board of Education will deliberate the budget that I propose to them, and they may make changes as they see fit. Once they ratify a requested budget, this request will be sent to the City, where the Board of Finance and Taxation and the Common Council will deliberate and decide on a total dollar amount to be allocated to the Board of Education. If the City's allocation to the BOE is different from what was requested, the BOE will meet to make the necessary adjustments.

All of the schools, department leaders, and I have worked hard to prepare a recommended budget that directs money to where we think it will do the most good for the kids of New Britain. In some school districts, there can be accusations of "padding" the budget - meaning that numbers are intentionally inflated for political purposes. I can assure you that we have done no such thing with our budget process. Our process asked all budget owners to think critically about student needs, staff needs, and where our finite amount of funding would have the most impact.

The process has not been easy! Just like in your household, the school district feels the impact of inflation. It costs millions of dollars each year to provide heat, electricity, transportation, and supplies to our schools. When you add 5-10% of inflation to these costs, the increases can be substantial. We will look for every operational efficiency that we can to offset the impacts of inflation, but this will be very difficult to do. We will do our best to avoid cuts that have an impact on student learning.

DEPARTMENTUPDATES

A behind the scenes look at what our departments have been working on over the past 30 days.

ACADEMICS

Board of Education Appoints Academics & Accountability Officer

On Monday, November 7, the New Britain Board of Education appointed Mr. Tyrone Richardson to serve as our Academics & Accountability Officer for grades 6-12. Mr. Richardson will fulfill the important role of supervising, coaching, and evaluating our secondary-level schools and principals. He will serve as a counterpart to Kristina DeNegre who is the Academics & Accountability Officer for grades PK-5. He comes from a very similar role in Hartford Public Schools where he's also served as a principal, instructional coach, and teacher. His start date with CSDNB will be December 8, 2022. Mr. Richardson was the clear standout from a talented field of candidates and through a rigorous interview process.



Superintendent Tony Gasper (right) and Deputy Superintendnt Ivelise Velazquez (left) stand alongside newly appointed Academics & Accountability Officer for Grades 6-12, Tyrone Richardson (center) at November 7 Board of Education Meeting



Kindergarteners Celebrate Their Ability to Write and Illustrate Stories

Kindergarteners in Mrs. Lamarre's class at Vance had an author's celebration after completing their first writing unit and publishing their first books. The students proudly illustrated their stories to demonstrate their understanding of a story's beginning, middle, and end.

Gathering Assessment Data to Measure Student Progress and Needs

Elementary Schools Students in grade 3-8 will be finishing up the first round of Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB's) by Thanksgiving. This data will provide us with critical information on how students are making progress against grade level standards. Administrators convening data teams to assist teachers as they pinpoint what each student needs.





Comprehensive Reading Showcase Feedback in Review

The Comprehensive Reading Steering Committee met on October 25th and on November 21st to review the feedback we received from the Comprehensive Reading Showcase. Another session will be held on December 14th with the top two vendors. To date, the district has collected over 100 feedback forms regarding the 5 programs that were on display at central office from teachers, parents and administrators.

CSDE Visit by the Lt. Governer

The district was honored with an invitation by the Connecticut State Department of Education to host Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz to kickoff her annual statewide Computing Challenge. The "Coding for Good" competition encourages students to create applications designed to inspire health and wellness for all while raising awareness about computer science opportunities in schools and in the workforce. Check out next month's District Dispatch to learn more about the challenge and Lt. Governor Bysiewicz's visit to Smith Elementary School.



Pulaski Multicultural Night

Pulaski's annual tradition of Multicultural Night made its return after a lengthy pause due to the pandemic. To prepare, student in multiple content areas researched different countries, customs and cultures, recipes, folktales, scientific contributions and people from around the globe.





School Supplies Collected for Smalley

Thank you to the CCSU Volleyball players, coaches, and parents who collected over 10,000 pencils and several cases of paper for Smalley Elementary School students! These players are also looking forward to volunteering in the classrooms once the playing season is over!

NBHS Student of the Quarter Breakfast

New Britain High School was happy to celebrate 16 outstanding students on Friday at their Student of the Quarter Breakfast. Students and their families joined us for a delicious breakfast, catered by our ProStart Culinary Team, which was then followed by the presentation of awards. Students were selected for this award by different departments in the building for their perseverance, hard work, and overall positive impact on our school community. A big thank you to our families for supporting these students in their success!



Group photo of NBHS Students of the Quarter



Superintendent Tony Gasper congratulates NBHS Student of the Quarter on their achievement



ProStart Culinary Team serves breakfast to NBHS Student of the Quarter honorees and their families

ATTENDANCE

Student Attendance Improvements

On the 50th day of school, the district recorded a chronic absenteeism rate of 36.45%. as compared to a rate of 41.62% at the end of 2021-2022. This means that a little more than one third of New Britain students have missed about 10% of school (5 days) since the beginning of the year. To continue to decrease the rate of chronic absenteeism educators meet weekly to identify which families need to be contacted by phone or in person or which students need check-ins daily with an adult in their school to track their engagement and improve their attendance. Administrators are seeing some success as they become strategic about how to work with families to bring students to school consistently. If a family needs assistance from school staff to improve their child's attendance, we urge you to reach out to principals. Together, we are finding ways to have better attendance overall.

PUPIL SERVICES

A Lesson on Thankfulness

On Friday, November 18th, OIC hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner for NBHS Bridges students. The meal was home cooked by Ms Paulette Fox. Students participated in a formal dinner and engaged in conversation focused on thankfulness. It was a wonderful experience for staff and students!



Ms. Paulette Fox pictured with NBHS Bridges students at the OIC Thanksgiving Dinner

PERSONNEL & TALENT

2022 CABE/CAPSS Convention: Public Education: Moving Forward for ALL Children

We had an opportunity to participate on a panel focused entitled Creating Opportunities through Teacher Residency Partnerships with various educators and leaders throughout the State. Our participation highlighted our commitment to the teacher residency program as a strategy to diversify the workforce. Look forward to more information regarding the 2023 - 2024 Cohort in the next month.

Kudos to staff for their patience and understanding during the class coverage grievance process. The Talent Departments appreciates your collaboration and commitment to our students.

The Talent Department would like to thank administrators for a solutions oriented approach to staffing needs given the national teaching shortage. Our Recruitment and Placement Specialist continue to vet applications, cold call and interview potential candidates. As of November 22, 2022, we have 42 vacancies (4.6% of certified teacher population) compared to 36 vacancies (4.2% of certified teachers) on November 29, 2021. The approximate year to year comparisons indicates little change. We recognize the hardships staff vacancies have on teacher practice and student engagement and achievement but our goal is to continue to make job offers and onboard as quickly as possible.

EdRising: Increasing Educator Diversity Symposium

On November 16, over 35 NBHS EdRising members led by their advisor, Mrs. Eileen Marquez, attended the Increasing Educator Diversity Symposium hosted at Quinnipiac University. There were two question and answer sessions on diversity with panelists that included Ms. Daisy Torres, Director of Services for Multilingual Learners, Dual, and World Languages for Hartford Public Schools; Dr. Terrell Hill, Superintendent of Windsor Public Schools; State Senator Doug McCrory, Senate Chair of the Education Committee; as well as college professors and college students. Six members from NBHS helped facilitate the event, acting as a moderator, giving introductions, and helping with student transitions throughout the university. Two students were even interviewed for the nightly news.







Bridging the Digital Divide: Computer Science K-12

The Consolidated School District of New Britain has partnered with Sacred heart University to further promote Computer Science skills into the lower grades! Steam Teachers from across the district have been working hard at honing their computer science skills to deliver as part of Steam instruction. This is part of the school district's work in achieving the state's goal of "By 2025, all K-12 schools in CT will offer computer science instruction."

With these skills starting in elementary school and carrying them throughout middle school, we can hardly wait to see what our students create by the time they are coding at NBHS's MET Academy!

CSDNB STEAM Teachers Honing Their Coding Skills:







TECHNOLOGY

Technology Spotlight: CSDNB Communication Platforms

Stay connected to your child's school through the use of the school district's communication platforms. This month we highlight School Messenger and the Clever Portal. Clever not only provides quick and easy access to our littlest learners, but also provides a one stop portal for all of our students to their resources. Teachers can message parents as well as invite parents and guardians to view posted resources from the Clever Portal. All teachers have access to this resource, and families gain access once a teacher has invited them into the portal.



Please scan the QR Code for more information about Clever Messaging.

School Messenger is the district's messaging software, used for absence calling, weather announcements, and many other school and district related messages. If you are not receiving any phone calls but think you should be, please reach out to your child's school. If you have blocked the calls in the past, they can assist in getting those calls out once more.

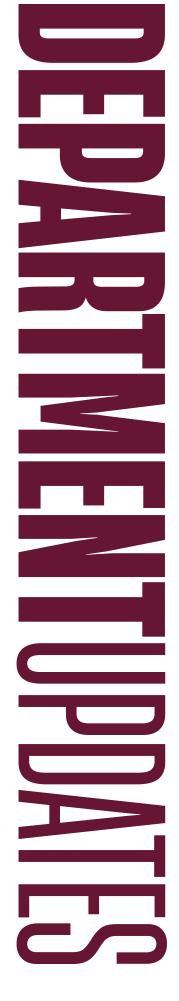
Additionally, you can receive text messages in addition to phone calls from the system. Please remember this service requires the user to "opt in" before you can receive convenient text messages. Please see steps below to opt into text messages.

Opt Into SchoolMessenger Text Messaging!

Opt-In from your mobile phone now!



Just send "Y" or "Yes" to 67587



CSDNB Schiles

Empty Bowls

Photos by Franco Cartiera, Smalley Elementary Teacher



















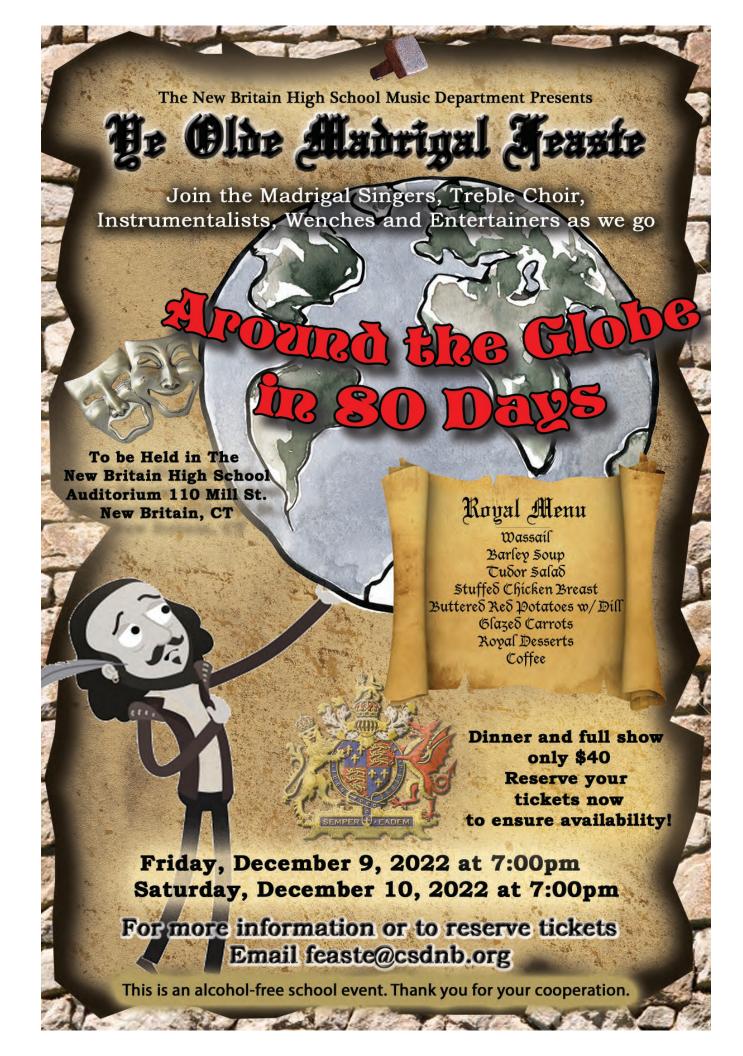














Leading by Example VI

Works by New Britain Public School Art Teachers

Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 5-7pm

New Britain City Hall, Second Floor Gallery

27 West Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051

Show runs from Nov. 9 - Jan. 27

Event Organized by Leona C. Clerkin, Coordinator of Fine Arts / Principal of HALS Academy

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



Just

\$20/SCHOOL YEAR

provides accidental coverage for your student's device

*see reverse side for details

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!

*see reverse side for details

Sign up is easy with MySchoolBucks!

MySchoolBucks Store is accessible through PowerSchool Parent Portal.



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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.



2022-2023 School Year

		JULY				A	UGUS	ST	1 Day		SEF	TEMI	BER	21 Days		00	стов	ER	20 Days
M	Т	W	Т	F	M	Т	W	Т	F	M	Т	W	Т	F	M	Т	W	Т	F
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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			17 Days	DECEMBER			15 Days		JANUARY			19 Days		FEBRUARY			18 Days	
M	Т	W	Т	F	M	Т	W	Т	F	M	Т	W	Т	F	M	Т	W	Т	F
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21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24
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	MARCH		23 Days APRIL		L	14 Days		MAY			22 Days			10 Days					
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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	2	30	31						29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30

Districtwide

- 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
- April 7 Good Friday
- April 10-14 April Break
- May 29 Memorial Day
- June 14 Last Day of School
- June 19 Juneteenth Holiday

Special Observance Days

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

July 9-13 Eid al-Adha October 4-5 Yom Kippur October 24-25 Diwali March 7-8 Holi April 16-22 Bright Week April 21-22 Eid al-Fitr September 25-27 Rosh Hashanah October 9-16 Sukkot January 6 Three Kings' Day April 5-13 Passover March 22-April 21 Ramadan

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 13 End of 2nd Trimester
- ◆ March 28 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ♦ March 29 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- March 30 (Evening Conferences)
- June 9 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 13 End of 2nd Trimester
- ◆ March 28 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- March 29 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- March 30 (Evening Conferences)June 9 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 PowerScho
- 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 Releas
- April 3 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 7 End of Quarter 4
- June 8-13 Final Exams
- June 14 Last Day of School (Half Day) (Make-up day)
- June 16 Graduation (Tentative)



