

SEP
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VOLUME 2
ISSUE 01

CSDNB DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the Consolidated School District of New Britain

#CSDNBDAY1

SMILING STUDENTS RETURN
FOR A GREAT YEAR AHEAD!

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

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Jefferson Elementary School students high-five their way into school, as members from throughout the community cheer them on.

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ISSUE 01

CSDNB DISTRICT DISPATCH

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VOLUME 2 / ISSUE 01

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Special Thanks to:
Members of the Senior Leadership Team and CSDNB staff members who have contributed updates & photos.

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

Scan below!

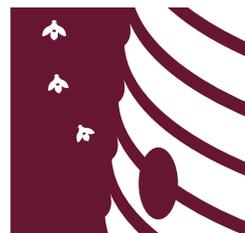


The Consolidated School District of New Britain

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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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CSDNBCT



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 2023

Hello New Britain,

I remain honored to serve as your superintendent of schools. I firmly believe that the best days of our school district and city are in front of us. Last school year, we worked hard to improve the ways in which we deliver instruction to students, plan our budget, communicate with the community, and develop our curriculum. In the coming year, I believe that we are poised to do more great things together.

I believe that over the next few years, we have it within our power to become a beacon for urban public education in the region. What I mean by this is that we can continually improve our school system to become one that others look to as an example. I know that we have the skill and passion to make this a reality but it will certainly take time. While we have many strengths we also have many challenges. I am committed to celebrating our strengths while improving on our areas of challenge.

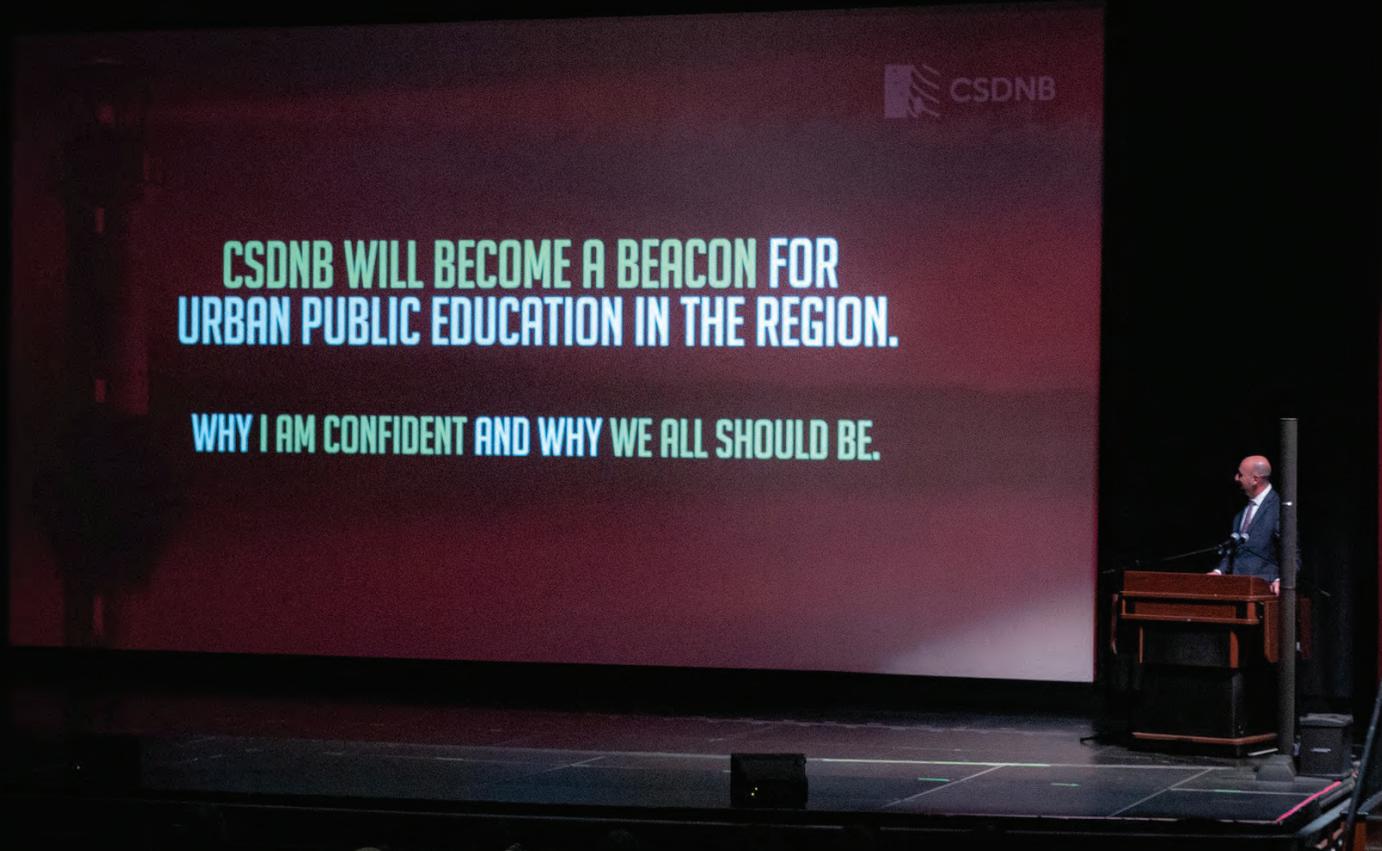
We will do this work with honesty, persistence, and dedication. We will partner with our families, the City, and other local partners to make this school system one that other want to emulate.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Gasper, Ed.D.".

Tony Gasper, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Gasper, Superintendent of Schools, presents at Welte Auditorium, Central Connecticut State University.

BECOMING THE BEACON

CSDNB welcomed back staff in late August for the 2023-2024 school year at our annual Convocation. For the first time, Convocation was held at Central Connecticut State University, a move that allowed more staff to be present than ever before, including all teachers and paraeducators in addition to many community partners and supporters.

Dr. Gasper announced "Becoming The Beacon" as this year's theme as CSDNB continues to focus on learning and growing to be world class leaders in all aspects of our work, sharing examples of greatness and success from classrooms, grade-level teams, and buildings across the district.

Speakers included Mayor Erin E. Stewart, Board of Education Secretary Joey Listro, CCSU President Dr. Zulma Toro, CT State President Dr. John Maduko, Deputy Superintendent Ivelise Velazquez, and a special recorded message from Dr. Susan Szachowicz, Retired Principal of

Brockton High School, success story, and Senior Fellow with the Successful Practices Network supporting CSDNB.

Convocation also included performances and appearances from the New Britain High School Tropical Storm, NBHS Madrigals Quartet, NBHS JROTC, and, for the first time, the HALS Academy Guitar Ensemble.

Continuing tradition, we also took time to recognize our Paraeducator of the Year, Lydia Colon, and Teacher of the Year, Eileen Marquez. We'd like to again congratulate both of these staff members for their outstanding service to New Britain!

We'd like to extend a special thank you to Ms. Anwaar Al-qamus, NBHS rising senior, for joining us as our student MC in addition to all of the individuals who made this event possible for our staff!



"We can make the constant, purposeful changes in our adult practices that will improve the lives and outcomes for all of New Britain's children!"



SUPERINTENDENT TONY GASPER





Let's have a great school year, New Britain!

Welcome back New Britain! On Monday, August 28, 2023, CSDNB officially welcomed back over 10,000 students for the 2023-2024 school year. The first day of school is always a special occasion, and this year was no exception. It was a day filled with excitement, anticipation, and a sense of new beginnings as students, teachers, and parents gathered to kick off the academic year.

"The first day of senior year was definitely exciting. I had a lot of mixed emotions. I moved to the United States when I was in sixth grade. I did not know any English and I struggled a lot the first couple of years. Being back to school as a senior made me look back at how I was back then and how much I grew academically and as an individual," said Danyelix Echevarria Figueroa, New Britain High School Senior. "I am really excited to participate in EdRising and the Girls Volleyball team one last year. I definitely encourage all the freshman to join a club and make the most out of high school because it goes by so fast."

Danyelix held CSDNB's first Instagram Takeover on #CSDNBDAY1, giving a behind the scenes look at student life at NBHS as she shared pictures and videos from day one, including a lesson she was able to lead in one of Ms. Eileen Marquez's educational courses, and interviewed students around the building about how they were feeling as the school year kicked off. To view Danyelix's full takeover, visit @CSDNBCT on Instagram and click on the 'Takeovers' highlight bubble.

The first day also included a return home for the Chamberlain Elementary School Wolves. For the past two years, Chamberlain students and staff have been housed at a temporary location while the school, originally built in 1952, underwent a major renovation. Students and staff were overjoyed to start the school year off in their new building. Make sure to check back next month for a special update on the building, including a look at some of the new technology available and an upcoming ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony to be held.





From left to right: Deana Sims, Midelys Colon, Nathanael Ruiz, Danyelix Echevarria Figueroa, Madison Corr

NBHS ED RISING CLUB COMPETES IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

This summer, members of the New Britain High School Educators Rising club represented New Britain in Orlando, Florida at the National Club Championships.

Students competed in events such as Ed Rising Moment, Children's Literature, Inside our Schools, Exploring Non-Core Subject Teaching Career, Impromptu Speaking, and Researching Learning Challenges.

Congratulations to all of our students and staff who attended, showcasing their Hurricane Pride and passion for the teaching profession.

New Britain High School students placed in the top five in four events and even had two students make it to the top three!

"An Unforgettable Experience..."

MADISON CORR

New Britain High School senior
Vice President of Marketing, Ed Rising Club

I recently went to Florida for the National Educators Rising competitions and competed in 'Inside Our Schools' with a group.

From the first day we got there, it was wonderful. The hotel was amazing; I was surrounded by my friends, and not to mention, we had the opportunity to meet and connect with students from all over the country who shared our passion for education. I and my group competed the first day we arrived.

We had practiced together so many times before this, but this time we really outdid ourselves. We were extremely confident after we finished, and we were truly proud of our group and presentation. The rest of the days were very enjoyable, I witnessed many other competitions and diligently took notes to prepare me for next year, as well as supported many of our students in their various competitions. In addition to this, I made great memories by



the pool, at Universal, and in our hotel rooms. I became a lot closer with a lot of individuals on this trip, and although my group did not place in the top 10, many of our other students did, and I had an incredible time at the award ceremonies. The award ceremonies were filled with excitement and pride as our fellow students received recognition for their hard work and achievements. It was inspiring to see their dedication pay off, and it motivated me to strive even harder for success in the future.

Overall, the trip was a truly unforgettable experience that not only enhanced my knowledge and skills but also created lasting friendships and unforgettable memories. I am grateful to my peers, Ms. Marquez, and our other chaperones for helping us get here and making this trip a great experience. Thank you!

Thank you to Eileen Marquez, Colleen Moffett-Mals, and David Hemme Jr. for chaperoning this great experience!

Congratulations!

Abel Velazquez (Class of '23)
Impromptu Speaking
5th Place

Esme Bryant and Angiebel Torres
Researching Learning Challenges
5th Place

Midelys Colon
Ed Rising Moment
3rd Place

Milon Angelo (Class of '23)
Lesson Planning and Delivery
1st Place





Russell Taylor, CSDNB Manager of Security, poses alongside New Britain High School Safety Officers at the Senior Prom.



A SAFER SCHOOL ZONE AHEAD

A Look at School Safety and Security at CSDNB

CSDNB continues to strive to ensure a safe and healthy learning and working environment is provided to all students and staff. Our Facilities and Operations team has been working diligently to ensure all of our schools are safe and secure.

“I want to create a level of integrity with the students and staff through clear lines of communication and a higher level of consistency in our service that instills trust,” said Russ Taylor, District Manager of Security.

Earlier this year, Taylor joined the Operations team, bringing an impressive amount of experience to the team as a 6th degree black belt in Parker American Kenpo karate, a retired Captain and Master Instructor in Behavior Management with the CT Dept. of Corrections, a USMC Reserve Persian Gulf Veteran, and a former municipal Police Officer with the City of Bristol, CT.

“I was working as the Safety, Security and Transportation Manager for Job Corps in Chicopee Massachusetts following my retirement from State of Connecticut Department of Corrections last October” said Taylor. “I saw a need as CSDNB was looking for a Security Manager and wanted to bring my knowledge and passion closer to home.”

Taylor now supervises a team of 20 security officers, district-wide, and has been committed to increasing the knowledge of his entire staff through supplemental training.

“It is vitally important that security staff receive the necessary and most up to date training in emergency preparedness, de-escalation and other topics to be able to intelligently and effectively provide for the safety of all staff and students. They have to have the knowledge

“

I want to create a level of integrity with the students and staff through clear lines of communication and a higher level of consistency in our service that instills trust.

RUSSELL TAYLOR
CSDNB Manager of Security

”

and skills to perform their duties with integrity and confidence,” said Taylor. “It is better to have training and not need it than to need training and not have it.”

Over the past few months, staff have attended a number of trainings that include topics such as crisis prevention and intervention, cyber security, CPR/First Aid, threat assessment, youth mental health, adolescent development, trauma, crisis intervention, de-escalation, and behavioral health resources.

“The trainings have provided a higher degree of assurance and confidence in dealing with complex student behavioral concerns and have improved operations and staff relations,” said Rebecca Gonzalez, Chief Operations Officer.

In addition to training, the team has met regularly with New Britain Police Chief Matthew Marino, the City Safety Committee, and other key stakeholders to ensure our schools are safe. The team will continue these conversations in addition to reviewing all classroom and building emergency procedures in response to a district-wide security audit recently completed and shared with the New Britain Board of Education.

“Our recent third-party security audit will serve as an excellent roadmap for our work in the coming years. Our focus on school security will have many facets: adult protocols, student training, adult training, Board policy updates, and infrastructure work as school sites,” said Dr. Tony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools. “Some of this work will be visible and obvious to students, teachers, and families but most of it will not. But be assured, we will be working throughout the coming school years to make ongoing improvements in school safety and security.”



ENVIRONMENT

Calm, safe, clean, healthy learning environments

- The Essential 10 -

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



ARC LAUNCHES IN THE CLASSROOM

Last year, students, staff, families, and community members were invited to review new options for literacy curriculum and help CSDNB identify the American Reading Company (ARC) as the best fit. ARC partners with schools and districts to establish, scale, and sustain high performing continuous improvement systems where students, educators, and their communities flourish. All students deserve the opportunity to achieve reading success using proven resources and methods like foundational skills instruction, daily reading and writing practice, and books that build knowledge while reflecting each child's world.

In August, CSDNB trained nearly 400 staff members in ARC in week one of the curriculum roll out. Grade-level teams focused in on an overview unit, planning to use ARC tools, and assessment. For the first 8 weeks of school, reading teachers will be supporting classroom teachers in this rollout and our team will be making adjustments as needed as we continue to move towards our goal of ensuring all of our students are reading and writing on, or above, grade level.

Pictured Above:

Ms. Ivelise Velazquez, Deputy Superintendent, visits Ms. Anderson's classroom at Northend Elementary School. Ms. Anderson has done a fantastic job setting up her classroom to promote literacy by creating a clear schedule and including books in virtually every corner of her room.



DON'T MISS OPEN HOUSE!

Most of our schools have scheduled Open House events in September to kick off the new school year with a warm welcome. Our Open Houses give families the chance to tour their school campus, visit classrooms, and meet teachers. Experience the vibrant atmosphere of our schools firsthand, and gain insight into the enriching learning experiences we have planned for the year ahead.

Whether you're a returning member of our school community or new to the district, we're dedicated to creating a supportive and inspiring environment for every student. Mark your calendars, spread the word, and get ready for an amazing school year!

[View the full schedule of open house events by scanning the code below:](#)



DISTRICT UPDATES

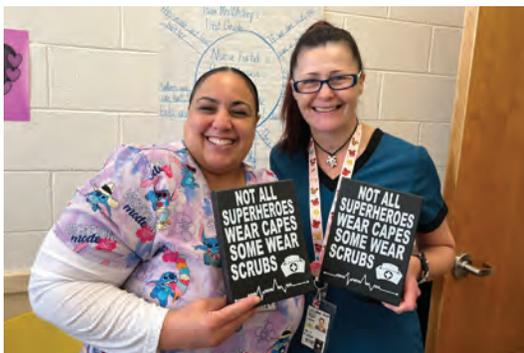
What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



ARE YOUR CHILD'S IMMUNIZATIONS AND PHYSICAL UP TO DATE?

The State of Connecticut requires that all children entering kindergarten, middle school (6th grade), or high school (9th grade) must have an up to date physical exam ("check up") and up to date immunizations. Additionally, All students need to have an up to date immunization record ("shot/vaccination record") on file with the school nurse.

If you have any questions about the medical requirements or about medical care for your child during the school year, please feel free to contact any of our school nurses, the nursing supervisor (maddy@csdnb.org), or the nurse on duty at the Central Registration Office (860-223-5501).



EVERYONE'S BUZZING ABOUT THE BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!

Thousands joined us at our annual Back to School Bash in August as we celebrated and prepared for the start of the 2023-2024 school year with students, families, staff, and community partners.

During the bash, students and families had the opportunity to not only meet and greet with school staff but with over 30 incredible community partners. We want to give a big shout-out to all the partners who joined us and set up booths with resources for families, including backpacks and school uniforms.

Whitsons Culinary Group was able to serve over 2,000 meals to our city's children alone! Thank you Whitsons!!



Be sure to check out more photos of the Back to School Bash in the CSDNB Smiles section of this newsletter!

DISTRICT UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



GREAT ENERGY AT NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION

Over 45 people attended this year's two day New Teacher Orientation. The professional development sessions provided an overview of important focus areas such as best practices, DEI, Technology Services, Human Resource and much more. This year's orientation had a great energy and we look forward to seeing all of our new staff members grow over the coming years!

We'd like to extend a special congratulations to Resident and RELAY graduates who have secured their first teaching job in the district. We are so proud of you!



CSDNB VACANCY RATE DOWN

CSDNB currently has a 4% vacancy rate! Kudos to everyone who has been involved with recruitment effort this summer. Our Recruitment and Talent Specialists continue to work to identify the best candidates for open positions.



SUCCESS AT SUMMER SCHOOL

Over 600 K-5 students enrolled and attended summer learning programs this year! Students worked on reading, writing, math, science, and social skills while building confidence, foundational skills, friendships, knowledge, and having fun!

For many students, a major benefit to attending the summer SEE and CREATE programs comes in the form of experiential learning. In addition to time with a classroom teacher, all students had the opportunity to form a connection, and learn, with a community-based organization or partner who provided the chance for students to engage in a variety of activities such as dance, LEGOs, art, spoken-word poetry, sports, games, computers, hula hooping, gardening and food education, STEM, drama, art, TaeKwonDo, and more. For the first time, 20 New Britain Living Legends also volunteered their time to work with students to teach them about their roles within the community.

We thank all of the students, families, staff, community partners, and Living Legends who made this year's summer learning so successful!

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



BARBERS FOR A CAUSE

Three of our elementary schools recently partnered with several local businesses to offer FREE back to school haircuts for their students. We have to thank all of the local barbers and stylists who donated their time and skill for such a great cause and a special shout out to the Chamberlain Elementary, Holmes Elementary School and Smalley Elementary School staff teams who set up these great opportunities.



HOLMES GO TRI SUMMER SWIM PROGRAM A SUCCESS

The Holmes Go Tri summer swim program at the YMCA was a great success again this year, with a record number of students participating!

The mission each summer is to give as many students as possible the opportunity to become not only more comfortable and stronger in both shallow and deep water, but to also improve upon stroke techniques, better strategies for overcoming fears, and to install a sense of great achievement in reaching personal goals each week.

Mrs. Naples, a Holmes 1st grade teacher, former UK national swimmer, and a current triathlete, reported that the groups worked very hard every week, and their work ethic was a testament to their individual growth.

"It was a joy to work with each and every student this summer, especially seeing them achieve the deep water jump and swim during the final weeks. I hope that many students will choose to continue their lessons at the YMCA during their elementary school years," said Mrs. Naples.

The Holmes Go Tri summer swim program was made possible by Mrs. Naples, Holmes School PTA, and New Britain-Berlin YMCA.



HELP US KEEP OUR SCHOOL ZONES SAFE

Busses are rolling and the drop off lanes are full! CSDNB encourages all community members to please help keep our students, staff, and community members safe by remembering to drive carefully and patiently in our school zones.

Drivers should remember to:

- Obey all speed limits
- Refrain from using cell phones in school zones
- Yield at all crosswalks for pedestrians
- Obey crossing guards and NBPD
- Use the sidewalks when available
- Watch out for all moving vehicles

DISTRICT UPDATES

CSDNB Smiles

Summer 2023





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

CSDNB Smiles

Summer 2023





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

*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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2023-2024 School Year

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

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

MARCH <small>19 Days</small>					APRIL <small>17 Days</small>					MAY <small>22 Days</small>					JUNE <small>5 Days</small>				
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	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	29	30	27	28	29	30	31								

Districtwide

- = Holiday (Schools/District Closed)
- = No School ● = Half Day ■ = Professional Development
- August 23 Convocation AM/Building Meetings PM
- August 23, 24, 25 Professional Development
- August 28 First Day of School (Full Day)
- September 4 Labor Day
- October 9 Indigenous Peoples Day
- October 18 Prof. Dev. (Half Day for Students)
- November 7 Election Day, Prof. Dev. (No School for Students)
- November 10 Veterans Day Observed
- November 22 Half Day
- November 23-24 Thanksgiving Recess
- December 21 Half Day
- December 22-January 1 Winter Break
- January 5 Three Kings' Day Observed
- January 15 Martin Luther King Day
- January 31 Prof. Dev. (Half Day for Students)
- February 16 Lincoln's Birthday Observed
- February 19 President's Day
- March 4 Prof. Dev. (No School for Students)
- March 29 Good Friday
- April 8-12 April Break
- May 15 Prof. Dev. (Half Day for Students)
- May 27 Memorial Day
- June 7 Last Day of School (Early Dismissal)
- June 19 Juneteenth Holiday

Special Observance Days

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sep. 15-17 Rosh Hashanah | Mar. 31-Apr. 6 Bright Week |
| Sep. 24-25 Yom Kippur | Mar. 10-Apr. 9 Ramadan |
| Sep. 29-Oct. 6 Sukkot | Apr 9-10 Eid al-Fitr |
| Nov. 12 Diwali | Apr. 22-30 Passover |
| Mar. 25 Holi | June 17 Eid al-Adha |

Pre-K ▲

- ▲ September 27 PD (Half Day)
- ▲ October 25 PD (Half Day)
- ▲ November 29 PD (Half Day)
- ▲ January 24 PD (Half Day)
- ▲ February 28 PD (Half Day)
- ▲ March 20 PD (Half Day)
- ▲ April 24 PD (Half Day)
- ▲ May 29 PD (Half Day)

Elementary School ◆

- ◆ November 27 End of 1st Trimester
- ◆ December 12 Conferences (Half Day)
- ◆ December 13 Conferences (Half Day)
- ◆ December 14 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ March 6 End of 2nd Trimester
- ◆ March 19 Conferences (Half Day)
- ◆ March 20 Conferences (Half Day)
- ◆ March 21 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ June 7 End of 3rd Trimester

Middle School ◆

- ◆ August 25 Grade 6 Only First Day (Half Day)
- ◆ November 27 End of 1st Trimester
- ◆ December 12 Conferences (Half Day)
- ◆ December 13 Conferences (Half Day)
- ◆ December 14 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ March 6 End of 2nd Trimester
- ◆ March 19 Conferences (Half Day)
- ◆ March 20 Conferences (Half Day)
- ◆ March 21 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ June 7 End of 3rd Trimester

High School ■

- August 21 Freshmen Orientation (10:00AM)
- August 25 Freshmen Only First Day (Half Day)
- August 28 First Day of School - All Grades
- September 28 Open House (6:00-8:00PM)
- October 30 End of Quarter 1
- November 3 Progress Reports Available in PowerSchool
- November 6 Fall Conferences (6:00-8:00PM)
- January 17 End of Quarter 2
- January 18 Second Semester Begins
- January 23 Report Cards Available in PowerSchool
- March 22 End of Quarter 3
- March 28 Progress Reports Available in PowerSchool
- March 29 Tentative SAT School Day (Half Day)
- April 2 Spring Conferences (6:00-8:00PM)
- May 8 Senior Presentations (Half Day)
- May 15 Senior Presentations (Half Day)
- June 3-6 Final Exams
- June 7 Last Day of School (Half Day) (Make-up day)
- June 7 End of Quarter 4
- June 10 Report Cards Available in PowerSchool
- June 11 Graduation (Tentative)



CSDNB

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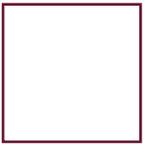


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CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

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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