BAD STRICT The Fall Issue



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 02

# An Apple a Day... Keeps Absenteeism Away

A Look at Lincoln Elementary's Attendance Challenge: Class with best attendance takes a trip to Rogers' Orchards!



## 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,

ED

Superintendent Tony Gasper





# **BISTRICT DISTRICT DISPATCH**

A Publication of the Consolidated School District of New Britain

Lincoln Elementary School attendance challenge winners pose for photo at Rogers' Orchards.



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VOLUME 1 / ISSUE 02

#### **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS**

Articles by: Members of the Senior Leadership Team and CSDNB Communications Team

Art & Communication Direction by: Pawel Figat & Ryan Langer

Translations Provided by: Mayra Rodriguez & Majedah Nassir

Special Thanks to: CSDNB staff who submitted photos

The Consolidated School District of New Britain

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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

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## WWW.CSDNB.ORG







I believe in recognizing and celebrating our students and staff members who distinguish themselves by doing more than what is asked of them. It's important to thank the students and staff members who are good citizens of our school district. As a small token of my thanks, we've created a challenge coin that I give to these kids and adults who are nominated to my by our principals. Not many will receive this recognition so to get one is very special. I hope to use this newsletter to share with you the stories of these great kids and adults.

In Partnership,

Superintendent Tony Gasper





#### **Sebastian T.** Student at Lincoln Elementary School

This month I had the privilege of meeting Sebastian T. He's worked hard to become a role model in his classroom and community. He's the very first recipient of the Superintendent's Challenge Coin in recognition of being an excellent citizen of our school district.



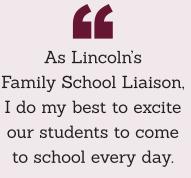


### AN APPLE A DAY... Keeps Absenteeism Away

Every day matters at Lincoln Elementary School, where Family School Liaison Ms. Sarah Montano held an attendance challenge offering students the chance to win a class field trip to go on an apple-picking adventure.

"As Lincoln's Family School Liaison, I do my best to excite our students to come to school every day," Montano explained. "I try to give our students opportunities to do the things they usually might not get the chance to do. I thought apple picking would be a great way to start the school year and get students excited about what's to come."

Ms. Montano hung a basket outside each classroom in her school, and each day a class had perfect attendance, they would receive an apple in the basket. The classroom that collected the most apples throughout the month of September would win the challenge. By the end of the month, Lincoln's Small Classroom Settings had an overflowing apple basket, having achieved an average of 18 out of 21 days of perfect attendance!



MS. SARAH MONTANO



"I believe this sort of attendance challenge incentive, this field trip opportunity, truly inspired our students to work toward a goal. Our classes worked really hard in September to achieve perfect attendance, and it showed, as the competition was close," Montano stated.

On October 14, the attendance challenge winners would go on to collect even more apples as they ventured out with Ms. Montano on their promised class field trip to Rogers' Orchards.

"It was great to spend a few hours away from the school and to watch our students in their element, running outside, pointing at the things they saw, and seeing their smiles grow as they filled their apple bags."

Students picked apples as they ascended the orchard's hillside, which led to a splendid view of mountains and fall foliage. Students were in awe as if they were on top of the world!















## **NBFD VISITS THROUGHOUT CSDNB**

I used to go to Smith [School] so for me, I feel like this is an opportunity to give back"

Lt. Matthew Deprey, New Britain Fire Department Throughout the month of October, New Britain firefighters visited schools across our city, dedicating their time to raising awareness and discussing fire safety and prevention with students. Students had lots of good questions, to which they received lots of good answers.

"We are happy to be able to come out here and speak to students face to face and answer any questions they might have regarding fire safety and what we do as firefighters," said Lieutenant Matthew Deprey at a visit to Holmes Elementary School. Deprey fondly recalls his own personal experience with visits from the New Britain Fire Department when he was just a young boy at Smith Elementary School. "For me, I feel like this is an opportunity to give back to the kids in the community." Students were taught that fire-related incidents occur more frequently in the colder months ahead due to a lack of precautions taken with things like candles, space heaters, and fireplaces. Firefighters encouraged students to discuss fire safety at home with their parents, by reminding them to test smoke detectors regularly and by creating and practicing a family escape plan in the event of a house fire.

"I learned that I should touch the door to see if it is hot before I open it in case there is a fire in my hallway. If I have to, I can break a window to get out. Also, if there is a lot of smoke, I need to crawl low, so I don't breathe in too much smoke," said a 3rd grader.

In addition, firefighters explained how they are able to save lives by showing students their firefighting tools, equipment,



### More photos of this CSDNB student experience can be found in the CSDNB Schilles photo gallery on page !

turnout gear, compressed air tank, and mask. Firefighters put on all their gear for the students to see and assured them that although their breathing masks can make firefighters look and sound like Darth Vader from Star Wars, people should never be afraid of or hide from firefighters in an emergency. "Firemen are here to help keep us safe, so we shouldn't be scared of them," said a 2nd grader.

The Consolidated School District of New Britain would like to thank the New Britain Fire Department for its continued commitment to not only our students but to the entire community.

#### Top Left

F.F. Jonathan Dilaire discusses the importance of having working fire extinguishers and smoke detectors in the home.

#### Top Right

Lt. Petra Chesanek educates Holmes kindergartners on fire safety and prevention.

#### Bottom Left

M.P.O. Phillip Tougas fully suits up in gear to demonstrate for the students what a firefighter looks like..

#### Bottom Right

[O] Lt. Matthew Deprey and M.P.O. Phillip Tougas answer student's questions concerning fire safety and prevention.



**Reminder: Check your smoke detectors regularly. Keep your family and home safe.** Smoke alarms can only save lives if properly maintained and in good working condition. The New Britain Fire Department will install smoke alarms for residents in the city, no matter whether they own, live, or rent. If anyone in the community needs a smoke alarm for their house, they can contact their neighborhood fire station. **For more information, visit www.newbritainfire.org** 

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

#### ACADEMICS

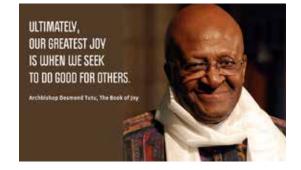
### Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated by City and Schools

In October, many schools continued celebrations in honor of Latino/Hispanic Heritage. As part of the observances, the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent joined representatives from the Mayor's Office, Police and Fire Departments, local clergy and elected officials for the raising of the Puerto Rican flag in Central Park across from City Hall on Monday, October 17, 2022. In all schools, students learned about Latino leaders, historic figures and artists. Several schools hosted special events such as DiLoreto's Multicultural Dinner, Slade's school luncheon, and Smalley's Latino Music Mania and cultural parade, to name just a few.



#### **Professional Learning Sessions**

This month, the Academic Office hosted two professional learning sessions on the power of coaching. The first session, entitled "What Administrators Need to Know About Coaching," was a half-day session in which school teams attended together and planned for the implementation of high-leverage coaching strategies aimed at improving learning outcomes. A second session, entitled "Better Leaders," was attended by half the administrators and coaches. It focused on the role of school administrators as they navigate the day-to-day needs of staff and students and work with coaches to differentiate support to all staff. The rest of the coaches and administrators will attend "Better Leaders" at a later date. Our goal is that through relationship building, leaders can build cohesive teams that support one another to face challenges together.



#### Comprehensive Reading Legislation Presented to the Board of Education

Deputy Superintendent Ivelise Velazquez and Academic & Accountability Officer for K-5 Kristina DeNegre presented information on the new Comprehensive Reading Legislation to the Curriculum Committee of the BOE on October 17th. The presentation included an overview of the legislation, a list of approved reading programs and vendors, and the timeline established by Academic Office staff to select a resource for CSDNB. Amy Anderson and district coaches are hard at work coordinating a "Reading Materials Showcase" (dates and times are forthcoming) for all staff, administrators, and community members to peruse the offerings and provide input. The showcase will be housed on the 4th floor of the Gates building.

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#### ACADEMICS (Continued) Travelers Edge

Travelers EDGE was established in 2007 to increase access to higher education for underrepresented students. It is more than a scholarship, but instead, a well-rounded program that provides different levels of support throughout student's entire college careers. That then allows Travelers to funnel a strong pipeline of future leaders to college and beyond. Many of our students have successfully gone through the program, receiving scholarships that go towards their education, access to an emergency fund, business mentoring from Travelers employees, internships and job shadowing, and professional development workshops. Once they've completed their degree, many graduates are provided with great job opportunities with Travelers.



#### ATTENDANCE Student Attendance Improvements

All elementary and middle schools are using a new attendance tracker that allows the schools to have up to date information on who is out, who is at risk and what strategy is best implemented to increase attendance for each and every child. The tracker allows staff to be proactive in analyzing the challenges faced by students and families in a timely fashion. Staff are learning about high-leverage strategies to keep students engaged and coming to school consistently. Additionally, under the direction of Joe Vaverchak, the district is using the Community Engagement Team to host biweekly meetings with twelve community partners that offer wrap-around services to families to address systemic barriers. All these efforts have put us on a better trajectory with attendance. At the 30-day mark this school year, the chronic absenteeism rate is 35.2% (the precent of students who missed 10% of school), as compared to 40.6% chronic absenteeism overall for 2021-22. While this percent is still higher than the state average, the 30-day percent shows a significant improvement.

#### **PUPIL SERVICES**

#### CSDNB Pupil Services Director Appointed to CCARC Board of Directors

Mark Spalding, our Director of Pupil Services, was appointed to the CCARC Board of Directors for 2022-2023. CCARC is overseen by a voluntary Board of Directors with experience from a variety of disciplines, including education, law, finance, business, nonprofit administration and public service. Family members and self-advocates serve on the Board, as well, lending their voice and perspective to matters that impact their lives. The Board of Directors and its Committees meet on a regular basis to address the oversight of the organization and help ensure high quality delivery of services. **For more information, visit CCARC.COM** 



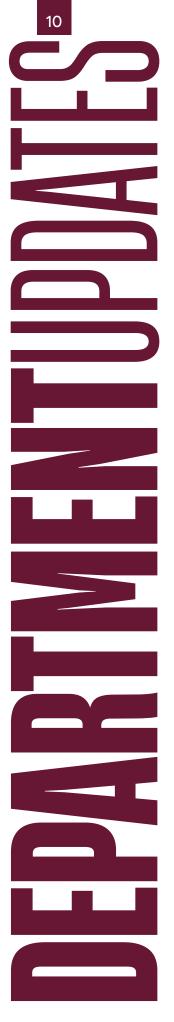
#### The CLIMB Cafe

The New Britain Schools CLIMB Career Program has a wonderful collaboration with Whitson's Foods and the City of New Britain. CLIMB Young Adult workers help run CLIMB Cafe Breakfast Cart and also serve at the monthly Wellness Lunch for city hall employees and board of education employees.



Superintendent Tony Gasper visits CLIMB students at the CLIMB Cafe





### **PUPIL SERVICES (Continued)**

#### Youth Advisory Council

The Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education and the State Education Resource Center initiated their 6th annual Special Education Youth Advisory Council, which is designed to increase student involvement in the special education process and to help students develop strong, effective leadership skills in order to make positive changes in their school and community. The Consolidated School District of New Britain is proud to participate this year. A select group of students attended a Focus Group on October 14, 2022.

#### **Hispanic Heritage Month at NBTC**

In a school district that is full of diversity, it is important to celebrate the cultures that make up our school community. At NBTC we know it is important for all students to recognize, appreciate, and honor their own culture as well as other cultures. The high school classes at NBTC celebrated "Hispanic Heritage Month" by highlighting prominent hispanic people, their contributions to society and their words of wisdom. The high school students fully immersed themselves into this project by acknowledging and researching historic hispanic people, quotes, traditions, food, and music. During September 15, 2022 through October 14, 2022, the students verbally presented daily information and guotes from hispanic people during morning announcements. The students lead a school wide event by making empanadas for the whole school. This process entailed creating school wide flyers, budgeting for the food preparation, asking staff for donations to help make this project a success. We could not have done it without the team efforts from all the staff and especially Ms. Caban who taught the students how to make the empanadas. Here at NBTC we always work together to promote a positive and caring school climate.

#### **Disability Awareness Resource Fair**

Students from New Britain High School and the CLIMB program participated in the 10th Annual Disability Awareness Resource Fair held at the New Britain Senior Center. A great variety of vendors were present, affording students the opportunity to visit each one and learn about resources that are available to them now and after graduation. Some of the vendors included, employment services, public transportation, Legal rights, assistive technology, Post secondary education opportunities, DDS, BRS and so many more. After visiting the fair some of the students when asked about their experience and what they learned responded as follows. "I did not know there were so many different services for us", "I love the drama class at the College", "I really liked that I could ask a lot of questions", "Learning about how to get a job was helpful", " I didn't realize how many options we have. Students not only left with some great knowledge about services to help them, they had a nice bag filled with some great goodies, such as pens, sticky notes, applications, pamphlets, stress balls, and so much more.



#### **FACILITIES**

#### Safety & Beautification Initiatives

Our Maintenance team has been working on improving our campus grounds. Miro Wolczacki from our Maintenance Department recently completed replacement of stainless-steel edging on stairs at NBHS. Great work Miro!

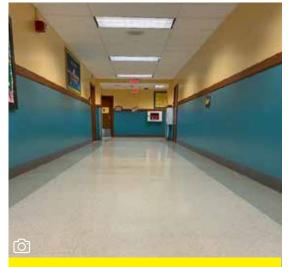
#### It's Heating Season!

We have turned on the heat throughout the district. We appreciate your patience as we work out any kinks with the system. Jefferson, PJP, Smith, and Diloreto retro-fitted with new boilers over the last year. These new high-efficiency boilers will help generate cost savings on our utility bills.

#### **Staff Recognition: Northend Elementary**

We want to recognize our Custodians at Northend Elementary School for the work they are doing in caring for the building and community. The school presents beautifully and we take notice the efforts made by Eddie Velasquez and Giovanni Mazza. Eddie and Gio, it is very obvious to all that you take pride in your work and we appreciate all that you do on a daily basis to ensure the school environment is healthy, safe, and clean.





Northend Elementary is looking beautiful thanks to our custodians Eddie and Gio!



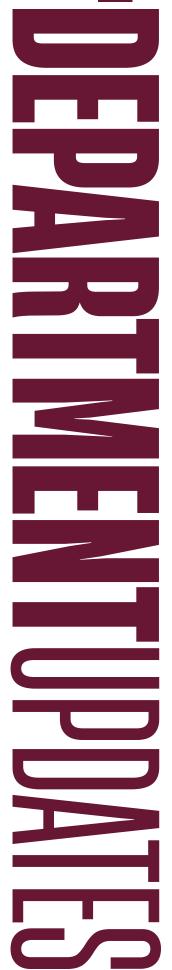
New Britain High School gets new stainless steel edging on stairs.

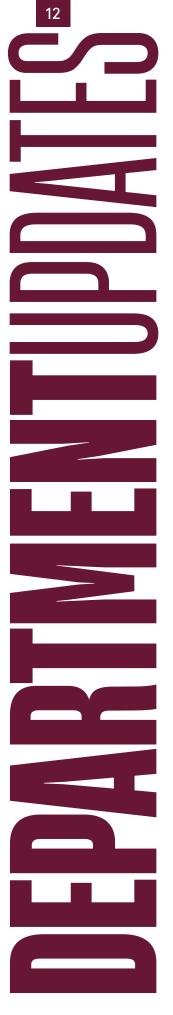


Slade Middle School new synthetic gym floor project is underway!



New boiler at Jefferson Elementary will efficiently and consistently keep school warm.





#### PERSONNEL AND TALENT

The Personnel and Talent Development Department continues to work extremely hard to recruit and promptly onboard teachers, especially special education teachers, in the wake of nationwide teacher shortage.

Our Recruitment and Placement Specialists alongside the Director of Talent and Equity conducted initial site visits with our two Connecticut Teacher Residents and RELAY candidates. In addition, we continue to visit and provide support our three 2021- 2022 TRP graduates. "What a Rockstar! Her class was amazing" was a comment from a district level administrator after visiting a TRP graduate's classroom. Cohort 2022 - 2023 Teacher Residents participated in a panel during the 3rd Annual Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (CALAS) Latino Voices in Education Fall Education Conference. Our Grow your Own pathways to the diversifying the workforce is glowing and growing.

#### YWCA Online Wellness Platform

We continue to encourage participation in YWCA New Britain online wellness platform aimed to promote fitness, nutrition, mindfulness, and fiscal health.

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

#### Word of Advice: Insure Your Student's Device

Student Device Insurance has been selling fast. We have already over 800 students enrolled, and more are added every day! Thank you to everyone who has already purchased their student device insurance for the 2022-23 school year. To date, 275 claims have already been used to repair devices through the insurance program. It's the most affordable way to protect your student device, so get yours today in MySchoolBucks. Remember to bring your charged student device to school everyday.

#### **Network Upgrades Underway!**

Network Upgrades are underway this year which will increase our bandwidth by 250%! Over the course of the year our buildings will be upgraded to 10 gig bandwidth for internet. Our largest schools are the first to receive this network upgrade.

#### **PowerTeacher Tech Support**

We have created a new view in PowerTeacher so that our teachers can see tech support tickets for the students in a roster page layout. This will help easily spot the status of all tech tickets in the class and even access the ticket itself without having to navigate to each individual student.

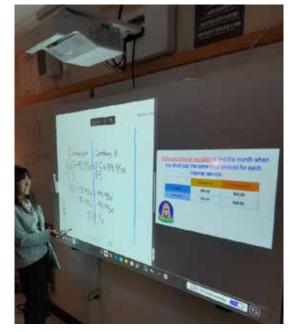
### **TECHNOLOGY (Continued)**

#### Stay Connected with Parent Portal!

Did you know 85% of our students have a connected PowerSchool Parent Portal account? Remember the Parent Portal has additional features not available in the Student Portal, so make sure you are accessing the Parent Portal instead of your child's portal. If you have forgotten your password or are unsure of the email account connected to the Parent Portal, please contact your child's school for assistance.



Please check out the Parent Portal Enhancements Overview by scanning the QR code. It includes information on transportation, menus, and many other features we have added to our Parent Portal!



Slade Middle School is nearing completion of the projector replacement project. This is the last school to be completed

**Important note:** If you require a password reset for your Parent Portal account, you will have to log in using a web browser once the password has been changed. It will prompt you to change the password upon logging in. You cannot use the PowerSchool phone app again until that has been done.

Left Side Menu Icon	Description
Transportation Information	Shows current transportation information and instructions on Transportation Apps.
Forms	Forms available for selected student. This can include surveys as well.
Student Reports	Student Reports (such as Report Cards) are accessed here.
Student Tech Help	Create or View Status on Tech Help Tickets for student technology issues.
MySchoolBucks	One click access to My School Bucks Store. Use store to make district purchases
Food Menus	View the school menu through this section.





**Photo Credit Hartford Marathon Foundation** 

## New Britain Students Celebrate Final Mile at Rentschler Field

More than 130 students from five New Britain Schools were among more than 650 students from 14 schools across CT who recently participated in the HMF FitKids in School final mile event at Rentscher Field. Students from Lincoln Elementary School, Northend Elementary School, Pulaski Middle School, Slade Middle School, and Vance Elementary School were representing took part in the celebration which was the culmination of weeks of training supported by the Hartford Marathon Foundation (HMF) through the Susie Beris, MD, Youth Running Program, designed to help inspire a lifelong love of running.

The FitKids in School program is free for participating schools and has served more than 20,000 elementary and middle school students since it began in 2008. Students participated in a 6-week training program throughout the fall and completed their final mile run at the October 25 celebration in East Hartford.

Each student was given a race shirt and earned a finisher medal to commemorate their weeks of hard work. After

the race, they enjoyed fitness activities to celebrate their accomplishments and were provided snacks compliments of HMF and partners Dunkin', Lesser Evil Snacks, and Bakery On Main.

Through a generous endowment provided by Dr. Susan Beris, a Southbury pediatrician, HMF is able to reach more students and increase inclusion, diversity, and opportunities to support the next generation of lifelong runners. In addition to this existing FitKids in School program and HMF FitKids races offered for 2-11 year old, the following new programs offered this school year will reach more middle and high school students:

Junior Team HMF (grades 6-8): new initiative to expand opportunities for select FitKids in School participants nominated or who apply and are accepted based on their application. Team members will be provided a custom race shirt, two free 5K races, volunteer engagement and mentoring, support and recognition opportunities



Photo Credit Hartford Marathon Foundation

HMF High School Program (grades 9-12): new initiative to support high school running programs and coaches in underserved communities with training resources for coaches, race entries for students and funding to support the purchase of shoes, transportation to events and an annual field trip to inspire a love of running for youth to reap health and wellness benefits in their future

Learn more about upcoming Hartford Marathon Foundation events and programs at www.HartfordMarathon.com







Fire Safety Month



























Digital versions of these photos and more can be found on CSDNB's social media!



Apple Picking Adventure



























Digital versions of these photos and more can be found on CSDNB's social media!



Delicious Apple Crisp!



























Digital versions of these photos and more can be found on CSDNB's social media!



Downtown Halloween Event



























Digital versions of these photos and more can be found on CSDNB's social media!



Downtown Halloween Event



























Digital versions of these photos and more can be found on CSDNB's social media!

# WORD OF ADVICE: Insure 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! \*see reverse side for details

"see reverse side for details

Sign up is easy with MySchoolBucks! MySchoolBucks Store is accessible through PowerSchool Parent Portal.



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JULY					AUGUST				1 Day	SEPTEMBER				21 Days	OCTOBER				20 Days
М	Т	W	Т	F	М	Т	W	Т	F	М	Т	W	Т	F	М	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					
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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			
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20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23
27			30	31		20		-/	20	29	30	31	20	20	26	27	28	29	30

#### Districtwide

- 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
- 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
 September 25-27 Rosh Hashanah

 October 4-5 Yom Kippur
 October 9-16 Sukkot

 October 24-25 Diwali
 January 6 Three Kings' Day

 March 7-8 Holi
 April 5-13 Passover

 April 16-22 Bright Week
 March 22-April 21 Ramadan

#### Pre-K 🔺

- ▲ September 28 PD (Early Dismissal)
- **October 26** PD (Early Dismissal)
- A 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 PowerSchc
  - 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)





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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.

The Consolidated School District of New Britain

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