

OCT  
20  
22

VOLUME 1  
ISSUE 01

# CSDNB DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the Consolidated School District of New Britain



**#CSDNBDAY1**  
*An Overall Success!*

— IN THIS ISSUE: New Britain's First Day of School in Photos —

# HELLO NEW BRITAIN FAMILIES AND STAFF MEMBERS:

I'm pleased to introduce CSDNB's all-new newsletter, 'District Dispatch', a digital publication that will be emailed to you each month during the school year. My goal is to keep our lines of communication open and also highlight some of the great things that are happening across the school district. Each month's newsletter will look back at the previous few weeks and keep you informed about important changes. I hope that you will enjoy hearing about our wonderful school district.

In Partnership,



Superintendent Tony Gasper



# CSDNB DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the Consolidated School District of New Britain



New Britain High School students reunite with classmates on campus on the first day of school.



# WHAT'S INSIDE?

- pg. 03 The Back to School Bash
- pg. 06 Department Updates
- pg. 09 Superintendent's Update
- pg. 10 #CSDNBDAY1: A Photo Gallery
- pg. 15 CSDNB Calendar

OCT  
20  
22

VOLUME 1  
ISSUE 01

# CSDNB DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the Consolidated School District of New Britain

VOLUME 1 / ISSUE 01

## 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



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.

## 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

Maryellen Manning, Chief of Staff | Relationships & Accountability

Rebecca Gonzalez, Chief of Operations

Ann Alfano, Assistant Director of Finance

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

The Consolidated School District of New Britain

2022-2023 Intellectual Property

This publication is owned by the Consolidated School District of New Britain and no part of it may be reproduced without the permission of the District.

Authorized by: Superintendent Tony Gasper, October 2022

[WWW.CSDNB.ORG](http://WWW.CSDNB.ORG)







Students enjoying the fun and soaking in the sun at CSDNB's Back to School Bash at Walnut Hill Park.

## EVERYONE'S BUZZING ABOUT THE BASH!

Excited for the school year ahead, hundreds of New Britain families gathered together for family fun, raffles, and giveaways at the beautiful Walnut Hill Park, for the post-pandemic return of CSDNB's annual Back to School Bash.

With each CSDNB school on-site at welcoming stations, students and parents had the opportunity to meet and greet their school administrators and staff, where they could learn about extracurricular activities or address any questions or concerns they had going into the new school year.

Aside from the individual booth tents designated for each CSDNB school were those of our community partners and vendors from over 40 unique

local organizations. Some community partners distributed informational resources for the many before and after school opportunities available throughout our city, while others gave away backpacks and school uniforms.

"I'm excited," one parent shared. "This is wonderful. I don't think we've ever been to an event like this, and I'm just overjoyed because I get to learn about all of these businesses and programs that my son can join."

Also in attendance for what would be his first CSDNB Back to School Bash experience was Superintendent Tony Gasper. "This is exactly why I wanted to come to work in this district. It's such a great turnout for both our families and our staff. The

staff is so happy to be here and welcome these families. We want to make a strong connection with these families, so every kid comes to school," Superintendent Gasper remarked.

The 2022 CSDNB Back to School Bash was a grand success! We want to thank the New Britain Parks and Recreation Department for their continued partnership with helping us carry out this event, as well as Whitsons Culinary Group, whose team was served free meals throughout the evening.











BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!



# DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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

## ACADEMICS

The Department of Academics has been providing targeted professional development for all K-12 staff, focusing on continuing our ELA and Math curriculum K-5 and content curriculum 6-12. We have rolled out our new Science curriculum 6-8, embedding Gizmos into our work, and our new Social Studies curriculum 6-8. We are excited to receive information from the CSDE regarding the new Science of Reading resources and dive into the work in order to choose the best resource for our students. Lastly, we successfully launched FUNdations in Grade 3 and continue to provide support.

## FINANCE

The Finance Department is in the final stages of implementation to convert to a paperless process and move to an electronic filing system. Doing so will significantly improve the efficiency of the department. The department is also undergoing a review of all of its processes to ensure that the public's money is well cared for. As part of this review process, all employees are encouraged to provide input on what they believe is working well and what can improve.

## CHIEF OF STAFF

The Board of Education continues to work collaboratively with its collective bargaining groups. After a long period of negotiations, both the Board and the Union approved the ratified Local 2407 Paraeducator contract, which is active from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. Thank you to all staff members who dedicate significant time to the negotiation process.

## PERSONNEL AND TALENT

The Personnel and Talent Development Department partnered with fitness industry experts and Nationally accredited trainers from YWCA New Britain to launch an online wellness platform. The platform offers wellness resources, both pre-recorded and live fitness classes, self-care opportunities, and meaningful trauma-informed practices. The CSDNB Wellness Academy began on Tuesday, September 6, with a 4-week 'Jumpstart to Wellness' series on a curated platform called 'Thinkific.' Jumpstart to wellness includes Fitness, Nutrition, Mindfulness, and Fiscal Health.

The department has been working extremely hard in the face of a nationwide labor shortage. Approximately 200 new staff members from various classifications have been hired since June 1.

Our Recruitment and Placement Specialists (RPS) have been diligently vetting and "cold calling" applicants to assist with identifying potential teacher candidates. RPS have met with several school-based administrative teams to review staffing needs and to visit our Teacher Residents.

We continue to work to recruit paraeducators. On Saturday, September 24, the department hosted CSDNB Para Fair, a paraeducator recruitment fair. 📷



Staff greets applicant at CSDNB Para Fair held on September 24



## FACILITIES

Enhanced Cleaning Techniques and Training - Proves Great Results: Newly offered custodial cleaning training has been yielding many compliments from building administrators and occupants throughout the district. These new cleaning techniques have been developed and implemented after many hours of observation and training throughout the district.

Beautification of Grounds with a focus on Safety Prevention: As a department, we have been focused on ensuring our grounds are well kept and are not posing any security or safety issues. This work includes the removal of over-developed brush in many areas, dead trees, fence repairs, and concrete or asphalt repairs. We will continue this work throughout the district into October. 📷



Before and After: Fence repairs and brush removal at Gaffney Elementary School.

## PUPIL SERVICES

Shout out to Brookside students and staff members! They have seen a 30% increase in attendance over the same time period last school. Brookside faculty conducted a team meeting where they discussed data around restraints and seclusions and attendance. The teams utilized the Doug Reeves Leadership Matrix to pinpoint intentional structures that speak to any positive gains in the data points versus just being "Lucky" for achieving those gains.

New Britain students will be attending the 10th Annual Disability Resource Fair on October 14 at the New Britain Senior Center. All are welcome to learn about the available resources such as free employment services, transportation, legal rights, assistive technology, education & more!

The Bridges Elementary program had a successful open house on September 21. Parents participated in a Zones of Regulation workshop to learn more about the curriculum utilized with their children during the school day. Refrigerator magnets were provided as a reference for home use. Meanwhile, students engaged in a Taekwondo lesson and other activities in the gym. Parents joined the students for dinner and a raffle.

The CLIMB Coffee Cart is back! In collaboration with Whitsons and City Hall, New Britain CLIMB students will serve coffee and breakfast items to City Hall and Board of Education employees on October 7 from 9 am to 11 am. 📷



CLIMB Students serve coffee and breakfast items from the CLIMB Cafe at City Hall.

# DEPARTMENT UPDATES

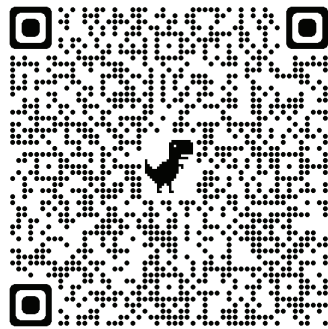


## TECHNOLOGY

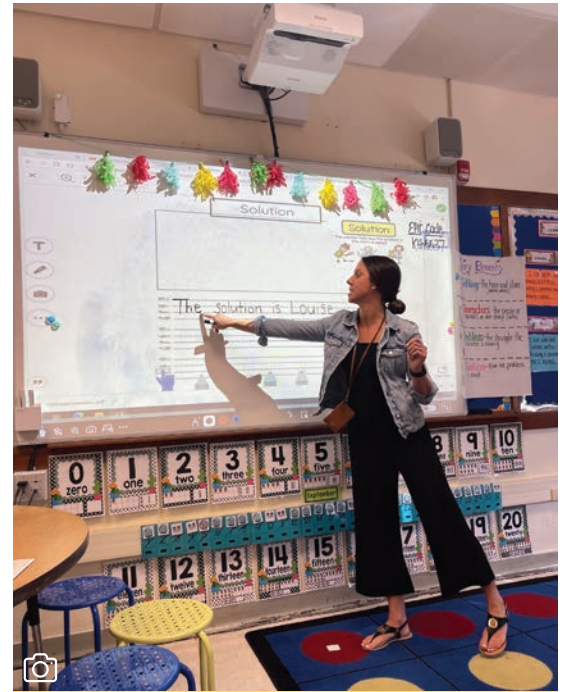
Our classrooms have been buzzing with the new projectors! A lengthy project to replace the audio visual hardware at the schools is coming near its completion. With Slade Middle School as the last major school in the project, the district is nearing the completion of upgrades to over 700 locations. Support videos are under development to provide assistance on the features that come with the new technology. 📷

Student Devices for our newest learners have been delivered to the schools, with nearly 800 devices delivered over the past few weeks. Student device insurance is available for purchase through our MySchoolBucks Store, connected in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Insurance Purchases are coming in daily, and we are outpacing our device insurance enrollments from last year. It's the most affordable way to protect your student device.

Introducing the Student Tech Help section in PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal. This year we have launched an additional section in the PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal for Technology Support Tickets. A page now loads all support tickets, as well as their status. Each ticket can be individually viewed from this page. New support tickets can also be created from this page!



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!



Nearly 700 CSDNB classrooms equipped with new projectors as shown above.



Before and After: Asphalt repairs in progress at New Britain Transitional Center.





Students welcomed with encouragement as they walk into Vance Elementary school on CSDNB Day 1.

# AN UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

We are off to a great start to the school year. This would not have been possible without lots of collaboration between our staff, families, and the City of New Britain. We know that there have been some late bus runs and a few other glitches, but our dedicated staff is aware of these issues and constantly work to make improvements. I have attended a number of evening events, and I'm so glad to see our schools and families being engaged together!

For reasons of privacy, I can't tell you many details, but I'd like to share with you that the district is making security upgrades throughout the district. We're strongly improving our use of technology to strengthen school security across the district. In addition to this work, we will be using some of our remaining federal recovery funds to hire an outside specialist in school security that will deliver a private report to the Board of Education and me later this school year. This report will inform future, ongoing security improvements.

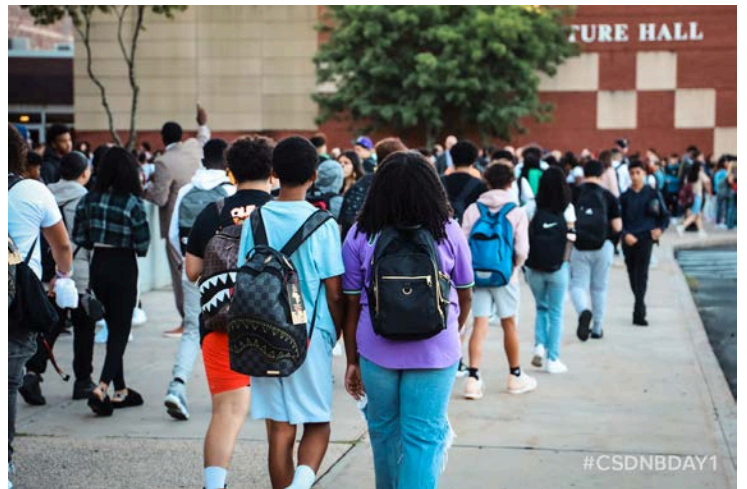
As we get closer to the winter months, we know that we will have snow days, delays, and early dismissals. It is incredibly important that families ensure that their school(s) have accurate email addresses and phone numbers for them. Please contact your school's main office to update your contact information. Our ConnectEd phone calls and emails will always be your quickest and most reliable way to hear from your school. We also post this information to television channels, but these are not as reliable or as detailed.

On the topic of school security, we have all seen the need for schools near and far to enter into lockdowns or shelter-in-place. Please know that whenever we see the need to do so, your school's principal and staff will be busy dealing with important tasks. Our first priority will be to keep children calm and safe. When the emergency is lifted, your school principal/administrator will communicate with you via a phone call or email, but this is not possible during the emergency. We know that parents want to know exactly what is happening at every moment, but this is not possible while the staff is ensuring a calm and safe environment in these instances. Thank you for your understanding.



# #CSDNBDAY1

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



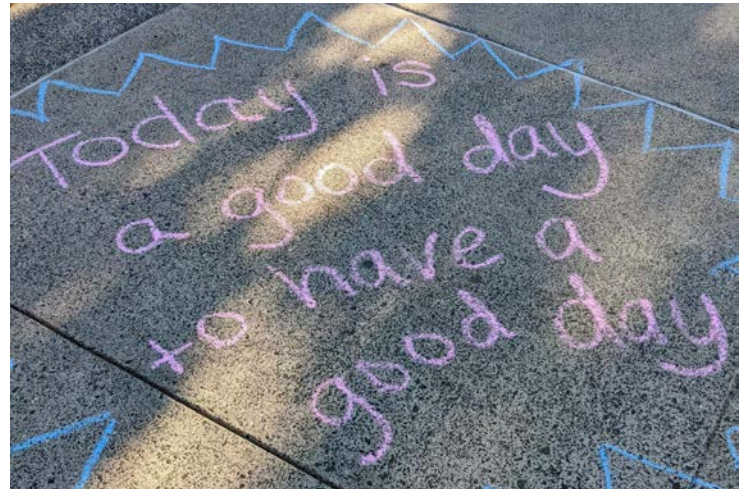






# #CSDNBDAY1

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



#CSDNBDAY1



#CSDNBDAY1



#CSDNBDAY1







**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.



# 2022-2023 School Year

JULY					AUGUST <small>1 Day</small>					SEPTEMBER <small>21 Days</small>					OCTOBER <small>20 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	4	5	6	7
6	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	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	30	26	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
25	26	27	28	29	30	30	31	26	27	28	29	30	31						

NOVEMBER <small>17 Days</small>					DECEMBER <small>15 Days</small>					JANUARY <small>19 Days</small>					FEBRUARY <small>18 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	4				1	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	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	
21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	
28	29	30	28	29	30	30	31	27	28										

MARCH <small>23 Days</small>					APRIL <small>14 Days</small>					MAY <small>22 Days</small>					JUNE <small>10 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	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	20	21	22	23	
27	28	29	30	31						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
- 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 Rippur	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
April 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)
- ▲ August 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 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 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)



CSDNB

WWW.CSDNB.ORG

f t i y CSDNBCT





**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**

2022-2023 Intellectual Property

This publication is owned by the Consolidated School District of New Britain and no part of it may be reproduced without the permission of the District.

Authorized by: Superintendent Tony Gasper, October 2022



**CSDNB**

[WWW.CSDNB.ORG](http://WWW.CSDNB.ORG)



**CSDNBCT**