

NBFT SPOTLIGHT

Ismael Rivera



Union Directory
Office Phone 860-225-2808
Website: www.nbft.net

President
Sue Humanick
humanick@csdnb.org
860.681.1552

High School Vice President
Basia Maselek
maselek@csdnb.org
860.681.1735

Middle School Vice
President
Cliff Parker
parker@csdnb.org
860.681.1904

Elementary Vice President
Laura Skinner
skinnerL@csdnb.org
860.681.1817

Elementary Vice President
Stephen Gray
grays@csdnb.org
860.681.1714

Treasurer
William Sanford
sanford@csdnb.org

Recording Secretary
Geoff Ponticelli
ponticelli@csdnb.org

Executive Secretary
Daniel Blanchard
blanchard@csdnb.org

"There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they're gone, the light remains." This is true of Ismael "Ish" Rivera, a special education teacher with the Consolidated School District of New Britain for the past 29 years. Ismael taught at Slade for 16 years, and most recently, had been at DiLoreto where he primarily worked in the middle school. His ability to build relationships with students was a result of his tremendous capacity to touch people's lives in a meaningful way. He was able to form connections with his students that truly impacted their lives. With his ever-constant positivity, he instilled within his students a belief in accomplishing anything. His classroom was a respite for so many; teachers and students alike. His door was always open, and you were always greeted with a smile. Whether it was daily chats during hallway duty or dismissal, a meeting, co-teaching together, or simply walking out to the parking lot on a sunny Friday afternoon, when you were with Ish, you were talking with a friend. He had a natural way of reaching his students - especially those who met him with a tough exterior. His persistence and kindness always won in the end. He would discover a way to connect with them; where there were walls, Ish built bridges. It is never easy to say goodbye to a friend, a colleague, or a teacher...to the end. Ismael Rivera was a man whose presence will leave an indelible mark on those blessed enough to know him. Rest in Peace, Ish, and know that the light you shone will illuminate forever.

Ismael Rivera

Ismael Rivera always had a smile on his face, an encouraging word, or just a "Hey...How you doing?" It was a joy to be his colleague and we are fortunate to have been a part of his life. Our lives are grander because of him. You will be missed, my friend. ~ Ryan Pouliot

I used to love meeting Ish in the hallway and having him say my name. There was something musical about the way that he said Falla and it always brought a smile to my face. I also will always remember our chance meeting at Stop and Shop when I was on leave for cancer. He saw me and lit up. I was in so much pain that day, but his kind smile and comforting words gave me continued hope. He was like that.. always there with a joke or a comment or a smile just when you needed it. Ish I will miss seeing you in the hallway or the mailroom. You will be missed. ~ Deirdre Falla

"No Doubt" were Ismael's famous words that I will miss hearing. I have had the pleasure of knowing Ismael for 25 years and worked closely with him for the past four. He was a kind soul who was always there to listen and crack a joke to make me smile! We had a lot of good talks and laughs! He had the student's best interests at heart and provided the love and care they needed daily. He will be missed terribly! Rest in Peace, my friend!
~ Rosalia Pouliot

Ismael, you will be missed but we'll remember your kind personality and your great sense of humor.
~ Gisela Perez

Ismael was always ready with a smile and joke. I will miss those memories and all the laughs. ~ Katie Plourde

I have a flood of memories of my teaching days with Ismael taking time to give insight, laugh at a joke, make a quip to break the mood that made my life become filled with wonderful conversations and loads of laughter.
~ Sheila Martel

Rivera always came in with a smile on his face bellowing "Good Morning" down the hall to everyone! It was obvious how much he loves his family and we would chat often about our children and the Yankees. He was always in a relaxed weekend/summer state of mind. His positivity will be missed, but not forgotten, through the halls of DiLo. ~ Sarah Bell

I find myself at a loss for words. I am not sure how to express the impact that he had on me, personally and so many others. I will always carry his light-hearted spirit with me. ~ David Hemme, Jr.

Rivera had such an incredible sense of humor. In his presence, you always found yourself laughing. He never complained, he just looked for the silver lining. Most of all, his natural ability to connect with students was simply inspiring. ~ Kristen Ramsey

Steady, unflappable, consistent, and loyal are words that immediately come to mind thinking of Rivera's presence here at DiLoreto. He was my sounding board for professional, as well as personal challenges, and his feedback was always honest, straightforward, and expressed in the kindest way possible. Rivera's involvement in 8th grade Washington DC trips allowed me the opportunity to see a silly, fun-loving side of him that I will never forget. Knowing him has changed my life and the lives of our students in so many ways.
~ Martha Crawford

Congrats! Retirees





Linda DuPont
20 years 4 months



Vilma Ortega
31 years



Leticia Dominguez 36 years
Donna Kolodziej 33 years, 9 months



Patricia Cintorino
32 years 7 months



Linda Tomaiuolo
35 years



Marita Gereg
40 years



Vesna Violette
35 years

NBFT Scholarships



Daughter of Marla Forgione, teacher at New Britain High School, and Stephen Forgione, Mia Forgione attends Southington High School. Mia is the recipient of the Nina Saltzman Memorial. Mia has a tremendous work ethic as noted by her AP Stats teacher. "Mia's greatest strengths are her unwavering work ethic and perseverance. Mia is hardworking and diligent, qualities which allow her to do everything to the best of her ability." Mia has consistently demonstrated these qualities through a myriad of activities throughout high school. She is a member of both National Honor Society and the World Language Honors Society for her studies in Italian. As an athlete, Mia has been involved with the Elevation Volleyball Academy since 7th grade. Furthermore, she has amassed more than 261 hours of community service through a variety of programs over the course of her four years at Southington High. Mia has participated in various activities through Southington Community Services, St. Aloysius Church, the Apple Harvest Festival, Wendell Cross Elementary School, and National Honor Society. This commitment to academics, various extracurricular activities, and an impressive commitment to community service make Mia worthy of this scholarship. Congratulations Mia!



Son of Barbara Maselek, teacher at New Britain High School, and Mariusz Maselek, Jozef Maselek, attends Farmington High School. Jozef is the recipient of the Chester Yan Memorial Scholarship. Jozef pursued a challenging course load throughout high school including four AP classes and honors level courses each year. At school, Jozef has been actively involved as a member of the band, playing at football games and concerts. He has also been a member of the Ski Club and the Philosophy Club. Jozef has been very involved with the Polish Scouts, volunteering over 60 hours each year. This included leadership responsibilities in organizing and implementing programs such as sports and crafts. His Precalculus teacher noted, "Jozef did a wonderful job synthesizing new information and skills with concepts learned in previous courses. Jozef always reflected on his learning...He took responsibility for his own learning and put in the amount of effort required to improve." Jozef will be attending Marist College in the fall where he plans on majoring in Computer Science. Congratulations Jozef!

NBFT Scholarships



Daughter of Stephen Gray, teacher at Smalley Elementary, and Mary Gary, teacher at Lincoln Elementary, Caroline Gray attends Miss Porter's School. Caroline is the recipient of the Shophie Banasiak Memorial Scholarship. Caroline has excelled as both a student and an athlete throughout high school. As a member of the swim team, Caroline was MVP during the 2021-22 season, served as captain, and was acknowledged for USA All-American consideration in the 200 free. This year, Caroline became a member of the Perilhettes, a senior acapella group. Caroline's math teacher has stated of her, "Her calm, thoughtful decision-making process that kept her nerves from making the decision for her and her willingness to ask for my help and to be completely open with me about her worries made me prouder of her than her successful audition or subsequent joyful performances." Additionally, she has performed as an Irish Dancer for over eight years. Caroline also balanced involvement in several community services endeavors with unwavering commitment to her class work and to her swimming. Caroline will be attending Fairfield University this fall where she plans to major in business. Congratulations Caroline!



Son of Jennifer Pagan, teacher at DiLoreto Magnet School, and Nelson Pagan, Brady Higgins attends Xavier High School. Brady has received the Shophie Banasiak Memorial. Over the course of the past four years, Brady has consistently maintained a rigorous course load of six AP classes, honors classes, his GPA is over a 4.0, and he has been selected as a Distinguished Scholar. Brady is a member of National Honor Society, as well as the National Honor Societies for Science, Spanish, and Social Studies of which he is the chapter's president. The Dean of Students at Xavier, remarked, "Brady is a scholar in every sense of the word, and he is unflaggingly committed to success." Outside of the classroom, Brady has been a member of the wrestling team, manager of the varsity football team, and a member of the varsity volleyball team where he is captain for the second year. Brady has been nominated as an All-State athlete in volleyball. He has been involved in numerous extracurricular activities ranging from Model Congress, Student Executive Board, EMPOWER Leadership Club, Ambassador's Club, Peer Ministry, Philosophy Club, to the School Outreach program. Brady garnered over 200 hours of community service through various organizations such as the Miracle League, a sports program for children with special needs. Brady will be attending College of the Holy Cross this fall where he intends to major in psychology and business.

Presidents Message

Dear colleagues,

As the summer break is finally within reach, I would like to take this time to thank you for being an integral force in our students' lives and the lives of your colleagues. This job is not easy; in fact the enormity of tasks and never-ending (changing) responsibilities are making this profession untenable for many. So thank you for your dedication to our students and community.

In the coming days, I will be sending out an Union End of the Year survey. I know how flooded your inboxes get at this time of year and how precious time is - but please take a few minutes to complete the survey. As with previous surveys, the identities of individual members will be confidential. One of my biggest passions with this role is advocacy - both collective and individual. "I" am not the Union, nor is any one person. The Union is all of us collectively acting together to advocate on behalf of professional standards and working conditions. Which is why your participation in this survey is crucial in doing just that, as we cannot expect issues to be addressed without evidence and data to back up our concerns and claims regarding safety, teacher evaluations, teacher retention, administrative practices, and working conditions. Bringing the data and information to support our claims will allow us to hopefully work with Central Administration to find viable solutions. Our incoming Superintendent, Dr. Anthony Glasper needs to know the needs and concerns of 871. I will be meeting with him this month and you already know I will discuss all of the pressing issues we are dealing with and advocate on behalf of 871.

Our new contract begins July 1, 2022 and knowledge of its contents is essential to 871 strength and unity. As always, your contract can be found here:

https://www.nbft.net/files/ugd/94c906_f2a3d12a9c44409ab6a096956e1d65b8.pdf

<https://www.csdnb.org/pdf/Talent/Contracts/Local-871-Contract-2022-2025.pdf>

I have bookmarked our contract along with many other important documents (TEVAL) to my bookmarks toolbar for quick reference. It is something I highly recommend. Please remember that "**control + F**" will help you find specific information with lightening speed.

We have have been hit with so much bad news recently. From the Ulvalde school murders to the passing of a beloved teacher, I will close this message with a wish that you all take time for yourself this summer. Sadness and tragedy remind us how finite life is and how easy it is to lose sight of priorities. On behalf of the Union Leadership team, please take time to appreciate the things that truly matter. You deserve a restful and fulfilling summer. Congratulations again to our numerous retirees and thank you for your service to the New Britain community. Please remember to complete the survey and encourage your colleagues to do the same. Happy summer, everyone!

Sincerely,

Sue

NBFT Scholarships

Daughter of David Messina, teacher at New Britain High School, and Heather Messina, Ava Messina is the recipient of the Nina Saltzman Memorial. Ava attends Pomperaug High School where she has excelled as a scholar, and athlete, and a leader amongst her peers. Ava has taken six AP courses in addition to a rigorous honors schedule where she has accomplished a 4.270 GPA. Ava has continuously demonstrated leadership as a member of the 2022 Leadership Council, Athletic Leadership Council, captain of the field hockey team, and the lacrosse team. She has been recognized on the All-Colonial Division team for both sports, All-Conference Academic team for field hockey and indoor track, and All-State First team for field hockey. Ava has recently been nominated for the Litchfield County Superintendent's Association Student Leadership Award. Outside of school, Ava has numerous community service involvements ranging from being a volunteer counselor at sports camps to volunteering as an instructor at a summer ESOL camp for 1st-3rd grade English language learners. "Ava Messina has characteristics of being a great leader because she earns the respect of her peers by leading by example." Ava has yet to decide which college she plans to attend this fall, but would like to pursue a degree in Biobehavioral Health. Congratulations Ava!

2022-2023 NBFT Membership Meetings

- September 13
- October 11
- December 20
- February 14
- March 14
- May 9



*All meetings begin at 4:00 PM



Daniel Flores is a former 2x Paraeducator of the year, 2014 Holmes Elementary, and 2016 District Finalist Pulaski Middle School. He currently serves as the lead Key Teacher for the Key Program at Slade Middle School. Being a former President and Vice President for Local 2407 New Britain Federation of Paraeducators, he has participated in some teacher-para incidents where conflict resolutions & collaborations were needed to help improve the teacher-para professions.

Daniel Blanchard is an award-winning educator, author, speaker, and TV host. He teaches special education and social studies at Brookside School in New Britain. And he also serves as the New Britain Federation of Teachers (NBFT) executive secretary. Furthermore, Dan is a Legislative Political Action Committee member for the American Federation of Teachers (AFT-CT). Dan has been on multiple speaking tours for the AFT and other educational organizations.

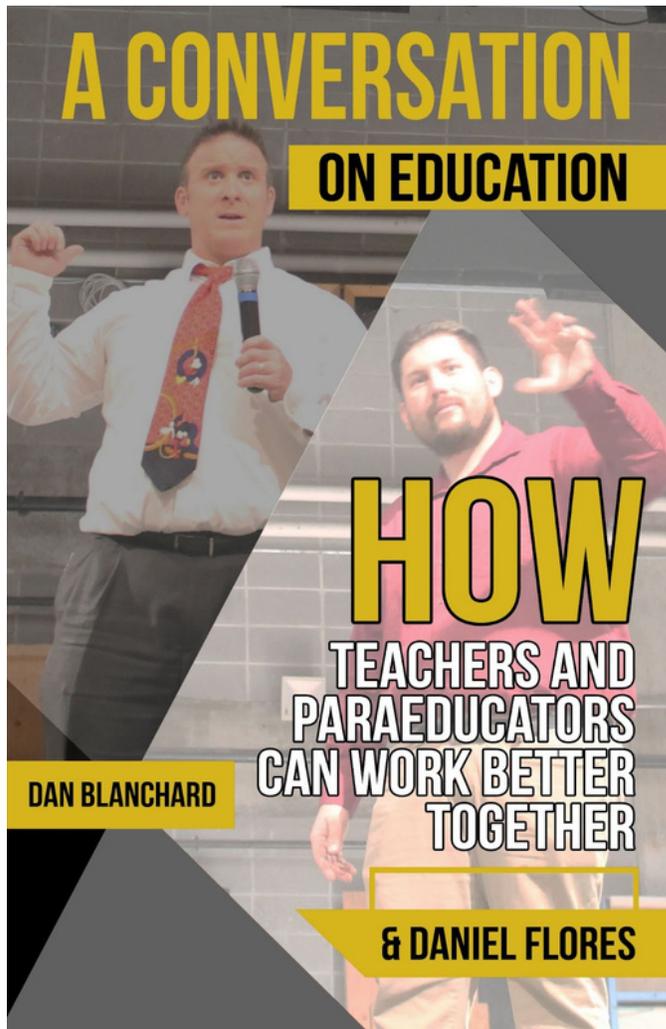
Since 2017, Dan Flores and Dan Blanchard have worked together on providing the Teacher-Para professional developments for the American Federation of Teachers of Connecticut (AFT-CT). We've recently provided this PD for the Hartford School District for their paraeducator workforce and emerging college students for the University of Hartford.

Please feel free to reach out to us if you have questions on the book, journey or want to have a conversation on how you feel about Teachers, Paraeducators working together.

Daniel Flores (860)-938-4655 (cell)
Danrflores123@yahoo.com

Daniel Blanchard (860)-280-4356 (Cell)
Dan007blanchard@gmail.com

[**Click here for Teacher & Para Collaboration AFT-CT Small Video Workshop**](#)



Our book, *A Conversation on Education: How teachers and paraeducators can work better together*, is based on relevant research from school districts and locals, personal testimonies from those in the field (teachers & paras), and up-to-date work practices. Our book is for the working person and those who want keen insight into the day-to-day operations of teachers and paras working together. Take a free peek inside.

[Click here to check out our book](#)

CSDNB T-Eval

[Click here for T-Eval document](#)

NBFT Welfare Report

by Nicole Solimine

On behalf of the entire Membership the NBFT congratulates its members for these happy occasions: Elizabeth Bujda (Smith) on her engagement.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of the following members for their recent losses: Jackie Escalles (Holmes) mother passed, Elizabeth Bujda (Smith) grandmother passed and Lindsay Swiatek (Smith) father passed.



If you would like to have something added to the spotlight for your union brothers and sisters please email local871president@gmail.com