Columbia High School Junior, Ryanne Barrett, received a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. The ACT is the leading US college admissions test that measures what a student learns in high school to determine their academic readiness for college. Ryanne also scored exceedingly well on her SAT.

Columbia HS Sophomore, Sophia Gigante, received the prestigious New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Award, “the nation's oldest and most prestigious recognition program for volunteer/public service, and the official recognition program of the U.S. Senate.” Sophia received an award in one of the two categories for “Youth in Service” nominations. The Jefferson Awards were founded in 1972 by Jaqueline Kennedy Onassis. Sophia was recommended by her guidance counselor.

Columbia's School Newspaper The Columbian, won first place for the fifth year in a row in the national, annual competition held by the American Scholastic Press Association and also took home two additional designations to mark the publication’s best showing in years. The organization earned a “First Place with Special Merit” and the title of “Most Outstanding Newspaper 2018-2019” in the national competition. Judges noted the paper’s ability to “represent the school and local community in a fair and honest manner,” and their “fair and unbiased coverage of a wide variety of topics.”

The art/design team members for 2018-2019 are:

Mary Arevalo
Quinn Barnitt
Derek Gutierrez
Kate Hollitscher

Dana Hugel
Charlie Hummel
Charlotte Levine

Gloria Logan
Matt McBride
Isaac Weber

The editorial board for the team are:

Katherine Besom
Shayna Cohen
Marley Davis
Hannah Gross

Lucien Kisch
Sam Maidenberg
Katie Newman

Cailee Olitt
Sofia Ratkevich
Martina Zacker

Advisers for The Columbian are Joshua Enyeart (English Dept.) and Cindy Malhotra (Fine Arts).
The following Maplewood Middle and South Orange Middle School students took the National Spanish Exam, a motivational contest to recognize student achievement in the study of Spanish and to stimulate further interest in the teaching and learning of Spanish are being recognized for their achievements.

**Gold Medal**
- Sophia Franklin

**Silver Medal**
- Sophia Tierney

**Honorable Mention**
- Emily Donoghue
- Jeslyn Ero
- Isaac Fleischer
- Danielle Ilunga
- Keira Mahoney
- Maria Maddi
- Zoe McKay
- Annabelle Mecca
- Michelle Pisciotta
- Anna Roth
- Carrie Saney
- Justin Strugger
- Sam Zaslow-Braverman

The purpose of the National Spanish Examination is to recognize achievement in the study of the Spanish language, promote proficiency in interpretive communication in the Spanish language, assess the national standards as they pertain to learning Spanish and to stimulate further interest in the teaching and learning of Spanish.

\[\text{Columbia High School Junior, Andrew Payne, was awarded CUM LAUDE for his participation in the National Latin Exam for Latin III.}\]

\[\text{22 Columbia HS Seniors were awarded The New Jersey Seal of Biliteracy. The New Jersey Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by participating school systems that recognizes a student’s high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in one or more languages other than English.}\]

\[\text{The following students were awarded the Seal of Biliteracy:}\]

- Katerinne Aguillon
- Phoebe Dybner
- Lillian Engelhard
- Lola Freeman
- Olive Fretts Howard
- Maritxell Gallart-Bekkedahl
- Hannah Gross
- Hikaru Hayakawa
- Alessandra Hill
- Maherlie Jean Louis
- Isodora Kianovskiy
- Margeaux Meyers
- Katherine Newman
- Cailee Olitt
- Layla Orloff-Robertson
- Aidan Reeves
- Brian Rojas
- Kamille Sabio
- Anna Sekel
- Isabella Singer
- Lillian Wilson
- Jeanne Joseph

\[\text{Columbia High School senior, Michael Vernon, was offered and accepted a college-sponsored Merit Scholarship - The National Merit Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Scholarship from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.}\]
South Mountain Elementary School 4th Graders, Norah Pharaon and Maya Bernstein, collaborated with their teachers Rebecca Ciuba and Tamera Murphy, to create a Donor's Choose grant called Project See Me. Together they surpassed their grant request of $640! The students, who noticed that books in their classroom were not a representation of the “diverse world we live,” set a goal to get books to enrich their classroom library so all children could say, “I see me.”

The Columbia HS TV Production students and their teacher, Mr. Campiglia, are a fourth year Champion School and one of the winners for the Civic Eye collaborative filming of their PSA for pedestrian safety. Columbia High School’s campaign “Mellow Yellow” encourages teens as well as adults to slow down at yellow lights. They created a cohesive strategy to raise awareness in their school, community, and online community. The campaign includes an Instagram video announcing the campaign, distribution of Mellow Yellow t-shirts, stickers, and car magnets. They worked with students, law enforcement and the community to create a PSA around this topic and all Mellow Yellow events are advertised on the school’s morning news show, Columbia Cougar News. They also publicized their campaign through online media, their social media accounts and on the public access channels.

The following Columbia High School Students were presented with the following awards at the Achieve Volunteer Tutor Appreciation Reception held on June 4th.

**Dubrow Awards for Outstanding Volunteers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Samina Aziz</th>
<th>Brianna Lucas</th>
<th>Hamilton Peterson *</th>
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<tr>
<td>Phoebe Holt-Reiss</td>
<td>Allie Lupton</td>
<td>Kaitlin Thomas *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jake Knoll *</td>
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**Kohl Angelo Award for Exceptional Middle School Volunteer**

Della Zimmerman

**Super Seniors** (graduating high school seniors who have volunteered as tutors for 3 or more years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sophie Bard</th>
<th>Hannah Gross</th>
<th>Aidan Reeves</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donovan Batzli</td>
<td>Jessica Helfenstein</td>
<td>Blake Shapiro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abigail Botschka</td>
<td>Jake Knoll</td>
<td>Kaitlin Thomas</td>
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<td>Ari Brown</td>
<td>Lars Langreth</td>
<td>Michael Vernon</td>
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<td>Marley Davis</td>
<td>Merry Meyer</td>
<td>Danielle Samake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Fagin</td>
<td>Cailee Olitt</td>
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*also a super senior
Columbia High School sophomore, Lucas Intagliata, was recognized as an outstanding scholar of Italian language and granted a scholarship to study in Narni, Italy for two weeks over the summer. This was awarded by the Italian American Committee on Education (IACE). Ms. Cirelli, his Italian teacher, who nominated him and CHS were recognized at the award ceremony.

Two 6th grade South Orange Middle School students, Ibrahim Kamate and Victor Kamate, have been cast in Savion Glover's recreation of The Tap Dance Kid!

Glover, who is NJPAC's Dance Advisor and a Board Member, auditioned young artists for this exciting new production in the Victoria Theater. The Tap Dance Kid, which opened in 1983 and was nominated for six Tony Awards, winning two, marked the Newark's native Broadway debut when he joined the company at age 11. The show will run September 13th & 14th 2019 at NJPAC. Ibrahim & Victor recently performed in the 2019 SOMS Black History Month performance!

South Orange Middle School student Bryant Yang, was selected as a semifinalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars program. Bryant was among nearly 500 7th graders chosen nationwide to advance to the next stage. The Cooke Young Scholars Program is a selective five-year, pre-college scholarship for high-performing 7th grade students who have a financial need and a passion to succeed. The program provides comprehensive academic and college advising, financial support for school, summer programs, internships, and other learning enrichment opportunities.

The Science Research students at Columbia High School and their teacher, Mrs. Tedeschi presented the class's research on gene sequencing at Rutgers University. The students who participated were:

Aidan Boyer  Sam Fleetwood  Sofia Licata
Max Crosby  Ayane Garrison  Sari Rosenberg
Mia Deutsch  Emma Herrero  Lara Rufolo
Isabella Erhamza  George Johnson  Julia Vroman
Julia Ethan  Erin Lackey  Lillian Wilson
Evan Fagan
A group of South Orange Middle School students performed an act of kindness to a fellow student, by decorating the student’s locker for his birthday. They adorned the locker with colorful trinkets, kind words, and thoughtful personalized messages to help the student feel extremely special and accepted by his peers.

Participating classmates were:

Melissa Debuisson          Leah Kleitsch          Owen Ripley
Nawal Irfani               Jake Laskowski        Adam Trombino
Ava Katz                   Alex Mandell           Lily Westhelle
Charlie Keenan             Alex Mintz

South Orange & Maplewood School District was the only district from Essex County chosen to participate in the New Jersey Teen Arts Festival for 3 years in a row. 16 Columbia HS Visual Art and Photography students had their work on display at the festival. The students are:

Eliot Dix                   Desiree Hume          Rowan Slater
Jordan Fastov              Christopher Lopez       Miriam Sorkin
Lucia Garritano            Naomi McMechen        Freya Zaccarelli
Shakeelah Gilkes          Jesser Pilato          Imaan Zubieta
Taylor Goodson             Lara Rafolo

In addition, Iman Zubieta, Josie Lally, Eliot Dix and Rowan Slater were selected to be part of the 2019-2020 NJ State Teen Arts touring exhibition. Participation by the District was initiated and led by Fine Arts Supervisor, James A. Manno who secured participation by coordinating efforts with festival director and by providing student product entries via digital adjudication process.

Special thanks to this year’s participating teachers Jon Fisher (Photography), Karen Murphy (Visual Art), Nicole Thomas (Visual Art), Alexandra Cappucci (Visual Art).

Cindy Malhotra, teacher of Computer Graphics and Production Journalism in the Fine Arts Department, received a Merit Award for her photography from Black and White Magazine. Ms. Malhotra is among 83 photographers selected to be highlighted in this international publication. Several of her photos will be published in a 2-page spread in the Special Issue #134, which is scheduled to arrive on newsstands early June.

Ms. Malhotra’s photography will also be included in Urban Dance: Visual Rhythm of Cities, a group exhibit at The Plaxall Gallery in Long Island City, NY from June 19 to July 21.
Dara Crocker Gronau, Maplewood Middle School Principal, Raymund Mantes, Maplewood Middle School Social Studies teacher both received full scholarships to attend the Institute for Teaching Diversity and Social Justice summer conference in July 2019. Lorraine Sudol, Maplewood Middle School Mathematics teacher received a full scholarship to attend in June 2019. They are all honored to receive this and thrilled to attend.

Stacey Lawrence’s poem CLOSER made the short-list in the FISH POETRY PRIZE judged by Billy Collins. Ms. Lawrence’s poem, SPARED made the long-list. Ms. Lawrence is an English teacher at Columbia High School.

Columbia HS Art Teacher, Kate Dodd, was chosen to have her work exhibited at The Gallery at Hillside Square in Montclair, NJ from May 30th - August 23rd, 2019.

Several South Orange & Maplewood School District Administrators were awarded Achieve Grants named in honor of Deborah M. Prinz. Achieve received several outstanding applications and awarded a total of $10,392 for the following programs and staff:

- **Jameel Misbahuddin, Supervisor of STEM** (grades 9 -12), to provide math and science teachers with professional development focusing on providing instruction to students with diverse skill levels and academic backgrounds in the same class.

- **Kevin Mason, CHS Assistant Principal**, to conduct a summer book club and discussion group that will provide administrators with professional development focusing on leadership. This will encourage uniformity across the elementary, middle and high schools, and will allow for discussion throughout the school year among the administrative team and with the superintendent and central office staff.

- **MMS Principal Dara Gronau** and a cross-functional team received a grant to create a “Break Room at MMS,” to create a nurturing space for students to reset emotions and participate in restorative sessions from Maplewood Middle School.

- **Principal Shannon Glander** and **Assistant Principal Sheila Murphy** received a grant to partially fund Café Seth Boyden to provide a sound system as part of the administrators’ goal to transform the cafeteria into a more inviting and less stressful space that promotes individual social/emotional growth and the building of a stronger community spirit.

Ms. Prinz really valued the process of working in partnership with SOMSD staff members, so upon her retirement last June, the Achieve’s Administrator Grants were issued in her name.
Elementary Instrumental Music teachers, Jasmine Bloch-Krempels and Jennifer Hershfield, implemented green initiatives this spring, including digital concert programs at Tuscan and Clinton School Spring Concerts, as well as digital sign up forms at South Mountain School.

The Clinton Elementary School Music Department performed at the school's First Annual Leadership Day. The 5th Grade Chorus was conducted by Ms. Rebecca Jacobson, the 5th Grade Orchestra was conducted by Mrs. Jennifer Hershfield, and the 5th Grade Band was conducted by Ms. Jasmine Bloch-Krempels.

Ms. Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad was honored at the Summit for Civil Rights as a recipient of the 2019 Shirley Chisholm Breakthrough Leader Award. The award was for "leadership and courage and for work to promote full inclusion, equity and access to opportunity for all children."

Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman of the United States House of Representatives noted that Ms. Lawson-Muhammad is an elected board leader, who along with her colleagues, led efforts to further racial integration and maximize equitable opportunity for all students. Ms. Lawson-Muhammad led a coalition to advance strategies and policy approaches for Governor Murphy and Legislative Leadership to remediate New Jersey's deep and shameful school segregation problem. Ms. Lawson-Muhammad also moderated a session at the conference called - Report from the field (school segregation cases) that included noted attorney Elise Boddie, professors Rucker Johnson, Myron Orfiled, Roslyn Mickelson, Amy Wells and politician Nia Gill.