

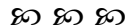
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

November 19, 2018

The National Merit Scholarship Program has announced that CHS Senior **Michael Vernon** was selected as a **Semifinalist in the 64th annual National Merit Scholarship competition**. As one of 16,000 academically talented semifinalists, Michael will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered next spring.



The **National Merit Scholarship Corporation** awarded **Letters of Commendation** to twenty-five Columbia High School seniors in the 2019 Merit Program:

Odilichi J Agba
Grace Finlayson
Hannah Gross
Isadora A. Kianovsky
Jake T. Knoll
Lars W. Langreth
Andrew Matos
Leah G. Miller
Cecilia M. Munoz
Cailee R. Olitt

Daniel S. Oxman
Zahavah L. Rojer
Milo Shields
Alistair Sim
Zachary M. Singer
Dithmi A. Vithana
Lillian C. Wilson
Theodore J. Yablonsky
Jacob K. Zakian

These students, along with 34,000 other high performers, are now being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. These Commended students placed among the top 34,000 highest scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2019 competition.



The 2019 National Hispanic Recognition Program named six Columbia High School seniors as **Scholars** referred to U.S. Colleges and Universities:

Amelia Cintron-Burch
Hannah Gross
Andrew Matos

Leah Miller
Cecilia Munoz
Kamille Sabio



CHS Senior **Deven Bender** attended the **Economics for Leaders** program, at University of California, Berkeley this past summer. This was one of the thirteen **Economics for Leaders** programs conducted by the Foundation for Teaching Economics throughout the United States. Deven was presented with a Certificate of Achievement from the Foundation for Teaching Economics for placing at the level of Excellence in the program.



Seven CHS girls' volleyball players earned spots on the **Super Essex Conference All-Conference teams** for the Colonial Division, after a 9-3 in-division record:

First Team: Senior **Shayla Keegan** and Junior **Claire Salinaro**

Second Team: Seniors **Grace Petroccia** and **Abby Valente** and Sophomore **Jane Fleetwood**

Honorable Mentions: Senior **Alisa Stellini** and Junior **Paige Carlson**

The team's Head Coach is **Juan Bas**.



SOMS English Teacher **Shawana Andrews** has worked with **Seton Hall University's (SHU) theater program** to create a collaborative theater arts experience called ***Storytelling in the Community***. SHU theater students will lead and mentor SOMS students on the fundamentals of theatre-making and the craft of writing plays. A culminating performance of original scenes written by, and based on themes pertinent to, SOMS students will take place at the South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC) on December 3 at 7pm. This performance is open to the public and is free of charge!



On November 26th, the **South Orange Middle School Select Choir** will be travelling to the Count Basie Center for the Arts as a part of **News Channel 12's "Sounds of the Season."** The choir was selected from a rigorous audition process as one of the 5 schools (k-12) to represent the state on this television program. After the recording session on the 26th, it will be broadcast on News channel 12 the week before Christmas, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day on News Channel 12. SOMS Teacher **Jake Ezzo** directs the Select Choir.



SOMS Science Teacher **Frank Guastella** won an **EMMY AWARD** for BEST ARTS PROGRAM/SPECIAL for his film "I Can't... I Have Rehearsal."

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CHS Teachers **Janet Bustrin** and **Suzanne Ryan** have been selected for the 2018-2019 Annual **Sister Rose Thering Holocaust Education Award**, from the South Orange-Maplewood Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Committee, which honors educators who represent Sister Rose's commitment to Holocaust education.

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CHS Math Teacher **Mark Richman** spoke last week the Association of Mathematics Teachers of NJ conference. His talk titled "Just Let Me Survive Today" was focused on how to motivate students through rewards and incentives mixing traditional and new strategies to increase their engagement.

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CHS History Teacher **Glynnis Childress** presented on the benefits of interdisciplinary teams for both teachers and students at a national conference of the **Association of Middle Level Educators**.

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