Columbia High School Honors Wind Ensemble was selected to perform in the 2019 New Jersey State Band Gala. New Jersey’s highest honor for high school bands, Columbia High School is among the top 12 bands in New Jersey who performed. The Gala, a culmination of a larger, statewide educational program, the New Jersey State Band Festival, encourages the participation of every high school band in the state. Bands are chosen through a series of three competitive preliminary rounds in three regions of the state. 42 Columbia High School students, out of 750 instrumental music students state-wide, were selected to perform, under the leadership of Music/Band teacher Mr. Peter Bauer.

Students performing were:

- **Flute**
  - Rosalie Baron
  - Lindsey Camara
  - Emma Chung
  - Sasha DuBose
  - Grace Finlayson
  - Jordan Muhammad
  - Maya Peiris
- **Oboe**
  - Lily Kirschner
  - Monica Stemmermann
- **Clarinet**
  - Ori Ben-Ari
  - Louisa Beneteau
  - Lizzy DeLuca
  - Kaylah Dilligard
  - Isadora Kianovsky
  - Joshua Lee
- **Bass Clarinet**
  - Stanley Finlayson
- **Bassoon**
  - Brian da Silva
- **Saxophone**
  - Sam Boateng
  - Aiden Reeves
  - Andre Weinberger
- **Trumpet**
  - Ethan Holowczak
  - Joe Lintern
  - Bernie Mercier
  - Jordan Miller
  - Drew Payne
  - McGhee Steiner
- **Horn**
  - Aidan Kern-Kensler
  - Daniel Maloof
  - Poe Rosenberg
- **Trombone**
  - Phoebe Dybner
  - Louise Kern-Kensler
  - Daniel Oxman
  - Conor Strasser
- **Tuba**
  - Joshua Alexis
  - Amelia Cintron-Burch
- **String Bass**
  - Jason Meusel
- **Percussion**
  - RexShaun Edwards
  - Peter Glynn
  - Connor Kosik
  - Max Sundue
  - Ben Svitavsky
  - Aaron Yanda

The following Columbia High School juniors were inducted into the National Honor Society for Dance Arts:

- Amelia Boose
- Emma Dean
- Jessica Glass
- Caroline Leonard
- Brian Taylor
Columbia High School students Joshua Bradley, Ben Halperin, Nailah Herndon, Jordan Muhammad, Hannah Nijman, and Anna Pettigrew performed at the South Orange Performing Arts Center with Nimbus Danceworks alongside professional dancers. This was made possible through a grant from the Achieve Foundation.

Columbia High School received the rank of “Best” by U.S. News & World Report in 2019 for High Schools in the U.S. “U.S. News “Best” badges are widely recognized as symbols of excellence in U.S. education.”

South Orange Middle School ELA Teachers, Shawana Andrews, Angela Forero and Amy Rowe were accepted into the Teacher's College Summer Institute for Reading Workshop. At this week-long workshop the teachers will have the opportunity to meet educators from all over the world, which they will turnkey to other teachers at SOMS. The teachers were awarded a $2,550 grant by the Achieve Foundation in order to attend the workshop.

Seth Boyden Special Education Teacher, Janine Williams was awarded the Dr. Susan Wray Graduate Scholarship from Montclair State University, in recognition of her demonstrated commitment to teaching for equity and social justice in urban schools.