

The School District of South Orange & Maplewood
Board of Education Recognitions
April 25, 2024

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Columbia High School 	<p>Two CHS students were honored for their photography by The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards:</p> <p>Junior Zachary "Z" Urist was awarded the Gold Key, the Silver Key and two honorable mentions.</p> <p>Junior Sam Rosenthal received two honorable mentions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Columbia High School 	<p>Congratulations to three CHS photography students: Senior Carlos Sanchez, junior Sam Rosenthal, and sophomore Saanvi Rohatgi. All three of them have submitted works that will be exhibited at the upcoming Inspired Minds Exhibition at SOPAC in May.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Columbia High School 	<p>Several CHS students received Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards this year.</p> <p>Samuel Taber-Kawene received a Gold Key Award and the American Visions Nomination for his work titled, "The Acrobat." The American Visions Award for art and the American Voices Award for writing are prestigious honors that represent each region of the Scholastic Awards. "The Acrobat" is currently on display in the CHS AP Art Show at SOPAC and will be in SOPAC's Inspired Minds show. Taber-Kawene also received an Honorable Mention for his work Ta Moko which is an exploration of Maori tattoos. As a nominee for the American Vision Award, Sam is one of a select five student artists who could be in the running for a national medal.</p> <p>Regie Deeble Jackson received one silver key and two gold key awards for individual works, as well as a gold key for her entire portfolio submission of six works.</p> <p>Sam Rosenthal and Alister Ramsey also received Honorable Mentions for their submitted work as well.</p> <p>Special thanks to CHS Art Teacher Ms. Alexandria Cappucci for working with students on this opportunity and thanks also to the Achieve Foundation for supporting student entry fees through a grant that was awarded to Ms. Cappucci.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Columbia High School 	<p>For the third consecutive year, a team of Columbia High School (CHS) students have won First Place in the 2024 N.J. Chinese Cultural Project Contest. Over four months, the team of 14 students developed a research project based on the contest's research topic of how artificial intelligence (AI) impacts learning Chinese language and culture. Congratulations to Team Leader Bryant Yang and Emily Hinge, Sydney Anrig, Stella Iyengar, and Sherry Chen who made the final presentations at Seton Hall University on April 13th. Congratulations also to Sophomore Rachael Mayer and juniors Ella O'Brien, Henry Meyer Thompson, and Benjamin Rimas, who assisted with the project research; and to juniors Maya Lipow, Cerys Evans, Audrey Haber, Sharon Chen, and sophomore Coco Fox helped make props. Very special thanks to Ms. Liping Meng, CHS teacher of Chinese and faculty advisor of the team.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Columbia High School 	<p>CHS Senior Michael Biggs was honored as an "Unsung Hero" by the Essex County School Boards Association on April 11th. Dr. Qawi Telesford, President of the South Orange and Maplewood Board of Education and a CHS alumnus, presented the award to Michael. In his remarks, Dr. Telesford noted Biggs's lengthy list of extracurricular activities, including participating in the CHS fencing and track and field teams, and his work on Saturdays as a volunteer tutor and mentor to middle school students in the CHS MAC (Minority Achievement Committee) Scholars program.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tuscan Elementary School 	<p>Congratulations to the many students and staff members at Tuscan Elementary School who produced the outstanding annual Tuscan show. This year, the show was entitled "Any Dream Will Do" and it featured more than 40 songs from a wide-selection of Broadway Musicals. Special thanks to Teachers Kathryn Rickard and Missy Wahlers who directed the show, the Tuscan PTA, and the many people who supported the cast and crew in putting on this tremendous show.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delia Bolden Elementary School 	<p>Four Delia Bolden Elementary School students' artworks were on display at the Essex County Hall of Records in honor of Youth Art Month.</p> <p>The featured student artists were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Frederick McDaniel, third grade, whose teacher is Debra Gibbons ● Isaac Yerasi, fourth grade, whose teacher is Kate Scasso ● Abigail Crye, fifth grade, whose teacher is Laura Gussis ● Charles McDonough, fifth grade, whose teacher is Heru Stewart <p>Art Teacher Eva McNally and teacher Christopher Faley recommended the students' art for the exhibit's final selections. The students were honored at a special reception on April 17th hosted by Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo and attended by Dr. Kevin F. Gilbert, Acting Superintendent, and James Manno, the District's Fine and Performing Arts Supervisor.</p>