

The School District of South Orange & Maplewood

Board of Education Recognitions

April 27, 2023

Student Recognitions:

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
CHS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Laurel Sackett	Congratulations to CHS sophomore Laurel Sackett who competed with a synchronized ice skating club outside of school. Laurel and her team competed at the US National Synchronized Skating Competition in Peoria, IL and earned second place in the country in the intermediate division. making Laurel a US silver medalist! Congrats!
CHS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Willam Dougherty	Congratulations to CHS junior Willam Dougherty who was chosen to participate in the Governor's School of Engineering and Technology program at Rutgers University School of Engineering for four weeks this summer. William's accomplishments and hard work distinguished him from a talented group of peers. William will be taking four academic classes within a four week period and will be completing a research/design project alongside other peers.
CHS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Arushi Vadlamani	Congratulations to CHS junior Arushi Vadlamani who participated in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for 2023 and won a Silver Medal and the New Jersey State New York Life Award for her personal essay and memoir, "Red Light, Green Light." Congrats!
CHS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ms. Liping Meng, Teacher● Sabrina Mannion● Bryant Yang● Rachael Mayar● Justin Connell● Benjamin Rimas● Reese Wolfinger● Clevielle Olarte	Congratulations to the 2023 Chinese Cultural Project Contest winners and their teacher, Ms. Liping Meng. Sabrina Mannion, Bryant Yang, Rachael Mayar, Justin Connell, Benjamin Rimas, Reese Wolfinger, Clevielle Olarte conducted a research based project that that included how Chinese and American cultures influence people's way to stay healthy. Our students presented their research findings, illustrated their analyses which included a Taichi fan performance at Seton Hall University. Our students did an outstanding job and won high praises from the judges and audience. Congrats!
Clinton Elementary <ul style="list-style-type: none">● David Rothbart	Congratulations to Clinton Elementary student David Rothbart who won the grand prize in the 4th Annual Pomptonian Healthy School Lunch Challenge. The judges were blown away by David's creativity, cooking skills and charm! David's winning meal; Greek Chicken with Root Vegetable Chips will be featured on the school menu.

Staff Recognitions:

<p>CHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dr. Jane Bean-Folkes	<p>Dr. Bean-Folkes is the lead author of the chapter, No Excuses Believing and Achieving. In Patton Davis (Ed.) Re-authoring Savage Inequalities: Counter-Narratives of Striving and Success in Urban Education, Teachers College Press. The authors in this collective book consists of scholars who are committed to decidedly telling the truth about growing up, being educated, and thriving in urban education environments. Using Kozol's Savage Inequalities as a starting point, the book looks at how Kozol's work is too often situated as a foundational text for understanding urban education. Savage Inequalities presents a narrative that is not situated "at the center of co-constructing with communities' agendas of consequence" (Milner, n. p.). However, it utilizes Yosso's (2005) Community Cultural Wealth Model (CCWM) as an act of co-constructing and counter-narrativizing, the works in this book serve as a space for analysis regarding who represent diverse perspectives, ways of knowing, and the creation of knowledge while also illuminating the nuances of unjust, dominating, and hegemonic depictions of teaching and learning in urban communities.</p>
<p>CHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dr. Jane Bean-Folkes	<p>Dr. Bean-Folkes has been selected to serve on the International Reading Association's, Notable Books for a Global Society Award Committee which is a committee of the Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group. She will serve a three year term with researchers and educators from across the United States and abroad selecting the top 25 outstanding trade books for enhancing student understanding of people and cultures throughout the world for students in grade k-12.</p>
<p>South Orange Middle School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sabina Ellis	<p>Ms. Sabina Ellis, the Data Entry Manager for the middle schools has been awarded 1st place for Best Website for the PR/Webmaster/Social Media Manager for Essex County and Best Newsletter for the NJEA Awards for Excellence in Communication.</p> <p>Ms. Ellis was also named the 2022/23 Essex County Education Association Women Justice Advocacy Award Recipient.</p> <p>Congratulations to Ms. Ellis!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Yves Hart, K-5 Instructional Coach● Chastity Tedeschi, CHS● Ashley Grutta, Marshall Elementary	<p>The Riecke Fellowship was established with the Achieve Foundation in 2004 in memory of Shelley Riecke, a former Board of Education President, who died at age 39 following a 3-year battle with cancer. The Fellowship fosters outstanding teaching by enabling educators to undertake continuing education in their fields in the summer, and inspiring them to share the new knowledge they acquire with their District colleagues upon their return to school.</p> <p>Including this year's awards (which total \$8,723), Achieve's Riecke Fellowship program has provided \$101,500 to 76 educators across all ten SOMA schools since its inception. We congratulate this year's Riecke Fellows and commend them for finding the time and</p>

	<p>determination to dedicate a portion of their summer break to professional development. Many students and educators stand to benefit from the advancements they will bring back to the South Orange-Maplewood School community in the coming year and beyond.</p> <p>K-5 Instructional Coach Yves Hart received \$2,815 to attend the Model School Conference in Orlando, where she will attend sessions that center on student-focused outcomes through quality instructional practices in areas of curricular practices to social emotional learning.</p> <p>CHS Biology teacher Chasity Tedeschi was granted \$3,000 toward a professional development program focused on ecology and conservation through the Ecology Project International (EPI) in the Galapagos Islands.</p> <p>Marshall Elementary Music Teacher Ashley Grutta, received \$2,908 to attend “Elemental Music and Dance Pedagogy in Orff Schulwerk at the Orff Institute of Mozarteum University in Salzburg, Austria,” where she will participate in sessions that will focus on body movement, dance, singing, listening, playing and how to connect with ourselves and each other.</p>
<p>CHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Richard Porfido 	<p>SOMSD's own Mr. Richard Porfido was named the Essex County Athletic Director of the Year by the Essex County Athletic Directors Association! This is an incredible honor and a testament to all the hard work and dedication he has demonstrated in just his first year at CHS. Congratulations Mr. Porfido!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Ronald G. Taylor, Superintendent of Schools ● Dr. Kevin Gilbert, Asst. Supt for Access and Equity ● Marcia Hicks, Guidance Counselor/MAC Program Lead ● Pat Hurley, Physical Education Teacher 	<p>Dr. Taylor, Dr. Gilbert, Marcia Hicks, and Pat Hurley of CHS attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison- Minority Student Action Network (MSAN) Institute in Madison Wisconsin. Those familiar with MAC Scholars at CHS may know MSAN as the national school network that has ties to MAC.</p> <p>The MSAN Network is a national coalition of multiracial school districts that have come together to understand and eliminate racial opportunity gaps that persist in their schools. MSAN districts have student populations between 3,000 and 33,000 and are most often located in well-established first-ring suburbs or small/mid-size cities. Additionally, the districts share a history of high academic achievement and connections to major research universities.</p> <p>The MSAN Institute is a two-day, intensive professional development opportunity dedicated to growing our understanding of current research and district practices that further racial equity in schools. .</p> <p>Join committed colleagues from across the United States as we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share current research and best practices with local and national experts.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Push our thinking in large and small group discussions with exceptional educators doing this work in real schools and districts.● Hear from students most intimately impacted by these issues.● Engage in focused district planning sessions and job-alike conversations. |
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Dr. Taylor presented a breakout session during the institute on our District's journey via the Intentional Integration Initiative (III).