

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION **PUBLIC BOARD MEETING** May 18, 2015

Columbia High School was awarded a **Silver Medal** as one of the **Best High Schools in the Country**, according to U.S. News and World Reports. In their **2015 Best High Schools** edition, Columbia High School ranked **41st in New Jersey (out of 416)**, and **1006th nationally (out of 29,070)**. This puts CHS in the top 10% of high schools in the State, and the top 4% of public high schools in the nation. Congratulations to Principal Elizabeth Aaron and the students, staff and families of Columbia High School!

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Columbia High School seniors received Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar Awards from the National College Board. Columbia students were recognized in three different categories, based on the number of AP courses completed and the high scores received on AP Exams taken in 2014, with 5 being the highest grade.

National Merit Scholarship Finalist/Recipient

Scholastically talented students attained finalist status by scoring exceptionally high on the PSAT. Miss Knight is the recipient of this award.

Nina Knight

National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar

One Columbia High School student was named as a National Hispanic Scholar

Madeleine Jaworski

National Achievement Scholarship Finalist

One Columbia High School student was named as a finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Competition. This special recognition is based on the very high scores achieved on the PSAT taken in their junior year.

Bridget Hawkins

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Columbia High School's acclaimed **Ragtime: School Edition** has been nominated for 14 **Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Stars Awards** – the most nominations ever received for a CHS production!

Individual student finalists include:

- **Ali Pease** as “Mother” for Leading Role
- **Hannah Nye** as “Evelyn Nesbit”
- **Carolyne Leys** as “Emma Goldman” for Featured Roles
- **Isaiah Thomas** received an Honorable Mention for Leading Role as “Coalhouse Walker Jr.”
- **Ethan Gill**, Assistant Technical Director, was nominated for a Student Achievement Award.

The show was nominated in the following categories:

- **Outstanding Overall Musical**
- **Outstanding Actress in a Leading Role**
- **Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical**
- **Outstanding Performance by a Chorus**
- **Outstanding Achievement by a Teacher or Outside Director - Tricia Benn and Bethany Pettigrew**
- **Outstanding Achievement in Musical Direction - Jamie Bunce-Arraial and Peter F. Bauer**
- **Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and Staging – Tricia Benn and Bethany Pettigrew**
- **Outstanding Lighting Achievement - Tara Marie Abbondante**
- **Outstanding Costuming Achievement - Barbara Canace, Carol Rutledge and Kathy Nye**
- **Outstanding Hair & Make-Up Achievement – Tricia Benn, Bethany Pettigrew and Kathy Nye**

Students receiving Leading Actor/Actress nominations receive a scholarship to **Paper Mill Playhouse’s** competitive **Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory** and perform in the season finale concert, “**New Voices of 2015: Hooray for Hollywood!**” on July 31 and August 1.

CHS also was nominated for the **Educational Impact Award** - which acknowledges the school that connected their production (as a teaching tool) with their District curriculum, greater student body and community. The winner of which receives a prize of \$500. The awards ceremony at Paper Mill Playhouse is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, at 7:30 pm, and will include presenters from Broadway.

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Jared Kofsky, a **Columbia High School** junior, has been recognized for his outstanding photography in a number of highly prestigious ways this past year including having his work chosen as one of the three most outstanding photos in the **Run Jersey Photo Contest**, winning first place in the youth category of the **Essex County Nature Photography Contest**, winning first place in an **Explore Chatham Photography Contest**, being selected as a finalist in the **CCM Photo Club Competition**, and being chosen for inclusion in the **Pavilion for Advanced Care** at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia. During the past year, Jared’s photographs have appeared in dozens of magazines and online sites including the *Huffington Post*.

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Fourteen members of the **MMS Model UN Club** participated in the **St. Ann's Crisis Committee Model UN Conference** in Brooklyn, NY. Delegates participated in historical simulations from the Greco-Persian Wars to the Ebola crisis in Africa to the war in French Indochina. Four MMS students were awarded certificates at the closing ceremonies for their exceptional work - **Max Bryant**, **Grace Finlayson**, **Hikaru Hayakawa**, and **Danielle Samake**. Ms. Susan Barry is the advisor for the MMS Model UN Club.

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Max Bryant, a 7th grader at **Maplewood Middle School** was invited to address a **United Nations Delegate Session at United Nations HQ** where he was officially recognized as the youngest ever **He for She Ambassador for Girls Education**. He gave his speech before nearly 800 diplomats and he identified his school and MMS Model UN as the inspiration for his activism. Max's speech on the subject of girls’ education was covered by global news channels such as Reuters, featured on national nightly news and the subject of many press articles.

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Maplewood Middle School students attained recognition for excellent performance on the **2015 National Spanish Examinations**. The National Spanish Examinations are administered each year in grades 6 through 12, and are sponsored by the **American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese**. Their teacher is **Senora Laurence Seltzer**.

Three students earned **Bronze** medals:

Lua Amanat

Laura Ubaechu

Emma Beretta

Seven students received **Honorable Mentions**:

Cecelia Clarke

Valentina Henry

William Schabacker

Amelia Wissel

Naomi Gordon

Erin Lackey

Olivia Vande Vusse

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Columbia High School students received recognition for their scores on the **National French Contest/Le Grand Concours Exam**. The National French Contest/*Le Grand Concours* is an annual competition sponsored by the [American Association of Teachers of French](#) for French students in grades 1-12 from all 50 states and abroad. Students take a written test and compete against students with similar educational background for prizes.

Gold Score:

Endricks Deller (7th in NJ)

Silver Scores:

Mona Duggan (10th in NJ)

Samori Etienne

Duvilaire Edouard (8th in NJ)

Pierre Vincent

Bronze Scores:

Salomon Jolimere

Kendall Majtyka

Nina Knight

Alex Schuetz

Honorable Mentions:

Sendy Beljour

Henry Conrad-Poor

Brigid Lynch

Amara Okafor

Tyler Reininga

Jamelia Blake

Fazenda Dieujuste

Abigail Merelman

Janica Pierre

Venchardson Vital

Ms. Raana Khan and **Ms. Laurie Pham**, World Language Teachers of French at CHS, are their teachers.

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The Columbia High School Choir achieved various accomplishments for the 2014-2015 school year, including:

Alexandra Pease, the top scoring Soprano I for the 2013-2014 NJ All-State Chorus, was selected for and participated in the **2014 National Association for Music Educators (NAfME) National Honor Choir**. She was selected out of a pool of thousands and represented CHS at the National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Five Columbia High School students were chosen out of a pool of hundreds auditions from across the state of New Jersey to participate in the **2014 NJ All-State Chorus**:

Holly Lehren

Vivienne Longstreet

Russell Pinzino

Aanuoluwapo Fawole

Hannah Nye

The **NJASC** performed at the NJEA Convention in Atlantic City and at the Newark Performing Arts Center.

Senior **Natalie Dix** was selected to perform with the **2014-15 All State Women's Chorus** at the **NJ Music Educators Conference and NJPAC**.

The CHS combined chorus performed at the **New Jersey School Music Association Winter Festival** at Chatham High School, earning the highest possible rating of Excellent from the adjudicators.

The Excelsior Singers of Columbia High School performed with the **Summit Chorale at Christ Church** NJ under the direction of composer/conductor Thomas Juneau. Dr. Juneau conducted his own "*Virga Jesse*" and Ms. Bunce conducted John Rutter's "*Good Ale*" with the combined choirs.

Six Columbia High School Students were selected out of a pool of hundreds to perform with the **North Jersey School Music Association Honor Mixed Chorus:**

Aanuoluwapo Fawole
Matthew Lintern
Russell Pinzino

Grant King
Vivienne Longstreet
Charlotte Steiner

Autumn Jones and **Lily Murray** were selected for the **NJSMA Honor Women's Chorus**. Both performances were held at Morris Knolls High School.

Seven students were selected for the 2015 All-State Chorus: **Aanuoluwapo Fawole, Grant King, Matthew Lintern, Charlotte Steiner,** and **Isaiah Thomas** were placed into the Mixed Honor Chorus and **Holly Haines** and **Maia Sheinfeld** were placed in the Honor Treble Chorus. Performances will take place in the 2015-16 school year.

The Excelsior Singers and **Canens Vocem** participated in the **Hilltopper Choral Festival** at Summit High School, earning the highest possible rating of Superior for their performances. The festival featured top-performing high school choirs from around the state and was adjudicated by Dr. Patrick Gardner of Rutgers University and Dr. Heather Buchanan from Montclair State University.

Junior **Grace Savoia-DiGregorio** was selected to sing with the **Latin American National Honor Choir** at the **American Choral Directors Association National Convention** in Salt Lake City. Grace sings with **Canens Vocem**, the treble chamber choir of Columbia High School.

Ms. Jamie Bunce was accepted into the **Master of Music Education** program at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ and began her studies last summer. She was again selected by audition to sing with the **Westminster Summer Choral Festival Choral Festival**.

Ms. Jamie Bunce is the Director of Choral Activities at Columbia High School

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The **Columbia High School Track Teams, Boys and Girls** achieved various outstanding accomplishments for the past month:

- **Girls Track Team** won 7th consecutive **Essex County Relays** at Livingston HS
- **Girls won SEC Conference Championships** at Millburn HS
- **Boys Track Team** finished 2nd to Seton Hall Prep

Individual students earned gold as follows:

Girls Track Team:

- **Jessica Brice** – Sprint Medley;
- **TraciMarie Chandler** – High Jump;
- **Emilie Cowan** – 4x100 relay; 4x200 relay; Sprint Medley; 200 meter dash; 400 meter dash; 800 meter dash;

- **Jordan Fields** – Triple Jump;
- **Catherine Jordan** – 4x400 relay; 4x800 relay;
- **Shamma Joseph** – 4x800 relay;
- **Jasmine Keegan** - High Jump; Shot; Discus
- **Patricia Ledesma** – Sprint Medley;
- **Dahria Lewis** - 4x100 relay; 4x200 relay; 4x400 relay;
- **Briana Reckling** – 4x400 relay; 4x800 relay;
- **Amani Tafari** – 4x100 relay; 4x200 relay;
- **Gabrielle Thompson** – 4x400 relay; Sprint Medley;
- **Cheyenne Trigg** - 4x100 relay; 4x200 relay; 4x800 relay; 100 meter dash;

Boys Track Team:

- **Jared Loadholt** - 4x400 relay; 1600 meter dash
- **Jim Martinez** - 4x400 relay; 4x800 relay
- **Roodly Ovil** - Triple Jump
- **Brett Reckling** - 4x400 relay; 4x800 relay; 800 meter dash
- **Donte Rolley-Williams** - 4x400 relay; 4x800 relay
- **Dean Uduh** - Triple Jump (2 golds); Long Jump
- **Vencharadson Vital** - 4x800 relay

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Julian Duberstein, a 4th grader at South Mountain Elementary School, won the **Essex county essay contest**. Julian’s fourth grade ELA teacher is **Terri Paisner**.

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Ms. Melissa Butler, Language Arts Teacher at South Orange Middle School, was inducted into the **Alpha Epsilon Lambda - Graduate Honor Society** at Montclair State University in my Educational Leadership Program.

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