



Board of Education Recognitions

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April 2026

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
Francie Christensen Columbia High School	Congratulations to Columbia High School senior Francie Christensen on earning both the AANJ Student Achievement Award and the New Jersey Governor's Award in Arts Education. Under the guidance of Mr. Richard Cutrona, her work reflects creativity, discipline, and a strong artistic voice. These honors place her among the top student artists in the state, and we are proud to recognize her achievement.
Caroline Shaw Archer Freedman Columbia High School	We congratulate Columbia High School seniors Caroline Shaw and Archer Freedman on their selection to the SOPAC Inspired Minds exhibition. Guided by Ms. Alexandra Pahlke and Dr. Kandice Stewart, their work will be featured in a professional gallery setting that highlights their growth and talent. Their inclusion reflects both individual excellence and the strength of our arts program.
Art Students Representing Columbia High School	Caroline Shaw and Archer Freedman were also selected to participate in SOPAC's Inspired Minds exhibition, representing Columbia High School among leading young artists in Essex County. Their work will be exhibited in a professional gallery environment, marking an important milestone in their artistic journey. This recognition speaks to their commitment and creativity.
Chinese Cultural Project Team Columbia High School	Congratulations to the Columbia High School team for earning first place at the 2026 New Jersey Chinese Cultural Project Contest at Seton Hall University. Competing against teams from across the state, their work earned top recognition for the fifth consecutive year. This achievement reflects strong scholarship, teamwork, and a sustained standard of excellence.