



# Board of Education Recognitions

January 2025

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>CHS Photography Students</b> Columbia High School</p> <p><i>submitted by</i> Mr. James Manno Department of Curriculum &amp; Instruction</p>	<p>Congratulations to senior Sam Rosenthal and sophomore Val Long from the Photography Club for being selected to participate in the Drexel University High School Photography Exhibition. This is the second year in a row that Columbia will be represented at this prestigious national event.</p> <p>Congratulations to <b>Olive Witte</b> for being accepted to the Future Image Makers Workshop at NYU Tisch, marking the second year that CHS has had student presence at the workshop. The Photography Club is stronger than it's ever been in terms of participation and talent with <b>Mr. Cutrona's</b> help.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Art Students</b> Delia Bolden Elementary</p> <p><i>submitted by</i> James Manno Department of Curriculum &amp; Instruction</p>	<p>Delia Bolden Art teacher, <b>Ms. McNally</b>, submitted four pieces of artwork to represent Delia Bolden at the Essex County YAM exhibit in Newark, and they were all accepted!</p> <p><i>Congratulations to:</i> Kindergarten student <b>Marigold S.</b>, 3rd-grader <b>Maya P.</b>, 5th-grader <b>Michael R.</b>, and <b>Eliza K.</b> from 1st grade.</p> <p>Eliza's artwork was also selected to represent Essex County in the state exhibition!</p>

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Leo Panagopulos</b> 11th Grade Student Columbia High School</p> <p><i>submitted by</i> James Manno Department of Curriculum &amp; Instruction</p>	<p>We recognize CHS junior <b>Leo Panagopulos</b> for his "ReSTRUNG" nonprofit project where he has been restoring acoustic guitars and donating them to veterans in VA hospitals.</p> <p>Inspired by his passion for music and respect for the military, Leo refurbishes the guitars and provides cases, tuners, and beginner materials to support veterans' recovery through music.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>CHS Music Students</b> Columbia High School</p> <p><i>submitted by</i> Mr. James Manno Department of Curriculum &amp; Instruction</p>	<p>We're happy to announce that two Columbia High School students have been selected for the 2024-2025 All-North Jersey Region Honors ensembles.</p> <p>Senior <b>Ryan Gaykowski</b> will serve as the timpanist for the All-North Jersey Region Orchestra, and junior <b>Emmett Simon</b> has earned a spot in the All-North Jersey Symphonic Band on mallet percussion.</p> <p>Special thanks to their Band Instructor, <b>Mr. Bauer</b>, for his dedication to our students and music program.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Leah Van Doornik</b> Teacher Columbia High School</p> <p><i>submitted by</i> Ms. Leah Van Doornik Seth Boyden Elementary School</p>	<p><b>Ms. Van Doornik</b> graduated from Eastern Illinois University in December with a Master of Arts in Music Education degree.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Guildscript</b> Columbia High School</p> <p><i>submitted by</i> James Manno Department of Curriculum &amp; Instruction</p>	<p>The Guildscript recently won a first place award for newspaper publications in the category of senior high school with an enrollment of 1701-2500.</p> <p>This club/publication continues to be a wonderful collaborative experience for students while highlighting the abundance of talent at CHS.</p> <p>The art and literary groups edit, design, and market this very special publication that represent students' hard work.</p>

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<p data-bbox="186 283 203 304">7</p> <p data-bbox="341 283 511 315"><b>Lucas Mullen</b></p> <p data-bbox="308 319 544 378">12th Grade Student Columbia High School</p> <p data-bbox="251 420 600 525"><i>submitted by</i> Stanley Valles Director of School and Community Safety</p>	<p data-bbox="657 283 1421 388">We recognize Columbia High School senior Lucas Mullen, a licensed drone pilot, for his outstanding collaboration with Mr. Draper and Mr. Valles from the district administrative offices.</p> <p data-bbox="657 441 1404 630">Lucas has been skillfully capturing stunning drone footage of school buildings in the district, a project that will serve as an invaluable resource for emergency responders in the future. Thank you for sharing your expertise and contributing to the safety and preparedness of our community!</p>