



# Board of Education Recognitions

June 2025

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<b>Kean Scholar Academy Students</b> Columbia High School	<p>Congratulations to students Alejandra Agurto, Sharon Chen, Sherry Chen, and Kennedy Gilyard for their academic achievement and participation in the prestigious Kean Scholars Academy! This exceptional program supports high-achieving students through advanced academic opportunities, mentorship, and college-level resources.</p> <p>The Scholars Academy is part of Kean University's commitment to building early college pathways for talented high school students across New Jersey.</p> <p>We applaud your commitment to excellence and celebrate your continued growth as scholars and leaders.</p>
<b>Softball Team</b> Columbia High School	<p>We are proud to recognize the Columbia High School softball team for an outstanding season, advancing to the state sectional championship for the third consecutive year and earning an impressive 20-7 record under the leadership of Coach Cliff Smith.</p> <p>Several Cougars were named to the All-Super Essex Conference-American Division team:</p> <p>First Team honorees Claire Shupe, Eva Clevenger, and Abby Coulter;</p> <p>Second Team standouts Jamie Tarrow and Maya Bernstein, and Honorable Mentions Anna Shalom and Charlotte Klepesch.</p> <p>Congratulations to this exceptional group of student-athletes for their talent, teamwork, and continued excellence on and off the field!</p>

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<p><b>Math Competition Participants</b> South Orange Middle School</p>	<p>We're proud to give a big congratulations to our South Orange Middle School students who took part in the American Mathematics Contest 8 and MathCounts this year!</p> <p>These are some of the most challenging math competitions in the country, and 36 SOMS students stepped up to compete, with 18 of them taking on both contests.</p> <p>Several students earned top placements in the AMC 8, including one first-place finisher and a three-way tie for second. One sixth grader also earned a national Certificate of Achievement—an impressive honor given to only the highest-scoring younger participants! In MathCounts, four students made up the SOMS team at the regional Chapter Competition, with others qualifying individually or serving as alternates.</p> <p>We're so proud of all our students who took on these tough challenges—you represented SOMS with focus, courage, and Cougar pride!</p>
<p><b>Math Competition Participants</b> Maplewood Middle School</p>	<p>Congratulations to the Maplewood Middle School students who participated in this year's American Mathematics Contest 8 and MathCounts competitions! These nationally recognized contests are known for their rigor, and over 140 MMS students rose to the challenge, with many competing in both.</p> <p>MMS students earned top scores in the AMC 8, resulting in a School Certificate of Merit for overall excellence. Several students were also recognized individually with national honors.</p> <p>In the MathCounts competition, MMS had nearly 100 participants, with a team advancing to the regional Chapter Competition and finishing 8th out of 22 schools.</p> <p>We're incredibly proud of all the students who represented MMS with hard work, determination, and a love of learning.</p> <p>Bravo to the entire math team and their dedicated teacher for an outstanding year.</p>

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<p><b>Achieve Foundation Tutors</b> Columbia High School</p>	<p>We'd like to give a huge congratulations and heartfelt thank-you to the volunteers of the Achieve Foundation's Tutor Program, who were celebrated at their annual appreciation reception at the new Columbia High School Alumni Commons earlier this month.</p> <p>More than 350 tutors donated their time and talents this year to support over 400 students across all our schools — from assisting with homework and time management to leading AP study groups and providing in-class support.</p> <p>We're especially proud to recognize the recipients of this year's special awards: <b>the Kohl Angelo Award</b> for outstanding middle school tutors, the <b>Dubrow Awards</b> honoring dedication and spirit, and the <b>Stellar Seniors Awards</b> for graduating students who volunteered for three or more years — an incredible accomplishment!</p> <p>A special shout-out to Program Manager <b>Shannon Kirk</b>, Executive Director <b>Eileen Collins Neri</b>, and all the site supervisors who help run this program with dedication and care.</p> <p>Congratulations and thank you for all that you do!</p>
<p><b>Matt Glass</b> Community Member</p>	<p>Mr. Bing would like to acknowledge and extend heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Matt Glass for his outstanding efforts in restoring a cherished symbol of Columbia High School—the clock tower.</p> <p>Through his dedication and tireless fundraising efforts across the South Orange and Maplewood community, Mr. Glass successfully raised the necessary funds to bring the clock back to working order.</p> <p>Thanks to his commitment, the CHS clock tower is once again operable, serving as a proud and timely beacon for students, staff, alumni, and the community. We thank Mr. Glass for his vision, perseverance, and service to our district.</p>