



Board of Education Recognitions

May 2025

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
Chinese Language Day Video Competition Winners Columbia High School	Congratulations to our students who were recognized in the 2025 International Chinese Language Day Video Competition, organized by the New Jersey Chinese Teachers Association (NJCTA). Eden Philippe, Genevieve Campbell, Stella Williams, and Casper Parvin received the Outstanding Collaboration Award for their video Beijing Opera, and Sydney Anrig, Michelle Chen, Cerys Evans, Grayson Freid, and Clover Rosenberg earned the Best Creativity Award for Travel Agency. Each winning group will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card from NJCTA. We're proud of their effort, teamwork, and interest in Chinese language and culture.
CD11 Art Competition Artwork Displayed at US Capitol Columbia High School	Congratulations to CHS senior Jules Mehlman, whose artwork Rooftop Vista earned first place in the 11th District Congressional Art Competition. Guided by art teachers Mr. Cutrona and Mrs. Paholke, Jules's work will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol for the next year.
CHS All-Arts Showcase at Pierro Gallery Columbia High School	We are happy to share that the first-ever CHS All-Arts Showcase is still on display at the Pierro Gallery from May into June. The exhibit features student work from the classes of Mr. Cutrona, Ms. Malhotra, Ms. Murphy, Mrs. Paholke, Mrs. Stewart, and Mrs. Thomas. The show will wrap up on June 6 with a special screening of films and animations from Mr. Marigliano's classes.

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<p>AIE Arts Champion Governor's Award Seth Boyden Elementary School</p>	<p>Seth Boyden Elementary School was recently honored with the 2025 Arts Champion Governor's Award by Young Audiences Arts for Learning. This award recognizes the school's strong commitment to arts education through its five-year partnership with the AIE residency program. Over the years, students have worked closely with teaching artists to explore stepping, an African-American dance tradition, and develop original performances. This year's residency wrapped up with Step Show: The Musical Jr., written and directed by teaching artist Maxine Lyle and performed by 4th and 5th graders.</p> <p>The program has brought arts experiences to more than 375 students and helped build a supportive and creative environment for both students and staff. Seth Boyden's dedication to the arts has created lasting opportunities for learning, expression, and community connection.</p>
<p>Montclair Filmmaker Competition Awards Columbia High School</p>	<p>Congratulations to CHS students Oliver Vitale Penalber, Reese Wolfinger, Zachary Barron, Neve Koonyevsky, Theodore Rotberg, Sophia Nautrup Jones, and Adam Jacob for their success at the Montclair Emerging Filmmakers Competition. Their film Project Weekday took home the Best Action award — the second award this project has received.</p> <p>Special shoutout to Reese Wolfinger, who also earned a second award in the Best Sci-Fi category for his film Static. Great work by all on showcasing creativity, collaboration, and strong storytelling on screen.</p>
<p>NAMM Foundation Music Education Award South Orange & Maplewood School District</p>	<p>We're proud to share that the South Orange & Maplewood School District has been named one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation — for the ninth year in a row.</p> <p>The award celebrates school districts across the country that go above and beyond in providing strong, inclusive music programs. A huge thank you to our dedicated music teachers, students, families, and community partners who help keep music a vibrant part of the SOMSD experience.</p> <p>The district has continued support for music programs and makes music education accessible to all students.</p>

