



Board of Education Recognitions

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April 2026

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<p>Wynter Nation and Aiden Hines Delia Bolden Elementary School</p>	<p>A big congratulations to Delia Bolden Elementary students Wynter Nation and Aiden Hines for having their artwork selected for display at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark during the Spring and Fall 2026 seasons. Their creative pieces showcased originality, artistic skill, and self-expression while representing the talent growing throughout our district.</p> <p>We are thankful to art teacher Ms. McNally for helping guide and encourage these young artists.</p>
<p>Ms. Liping Meng and the Chinese Honor Society Columbia High School</p>	<p>Please join us in congratulating Ms. Liping Meng and the Columbia High School Chinese Honor Society for earning first place in the 18th New Jersey Chinese Cultural Project Contest, continuing a remarkable five-year winning streak in the statewide competition.</p> <p>Through research, presentations, performances, and teamwork, students demonstrated outstanding dedication while strengthening their understanding of language and culture.</p>
<p>Michelle T. Riecke Teaching Fellowship Recipients Tuscan School, Seth Boyden School, and Columbia High School</p>	<p>Please help us congratulate Leslie Baez, Amy Popp, Rich Cutrona, Sarah Fakhoury, Sarah Haldeman, and Rahmiece Lawson for being selected as recipients of the Michelle T. Riecke Teaching Fellowships through the Achieve Foundation.</p> <p>These educators will spend part of their summer pursuing advanced professional learning opportunities that will strengthen their practice and benefit students throughout the district.</p>

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<p>Chinese Cultural Project Team Columbia High School</p>	<p>We proudly celebrate Ethan Lewars, Shmily Zheng, Charlie Fleischer, Lilian Clark, Aravella Espinosa, Yuv Khanna, Claire Ceglio, Anushka Pimplaskar, and Aidan Kleinman for helping Columbia High School earn first place in the 2026 New Jersey Chinese Cultural Project Contest.</p> <p>We also recognize Laila Gordon, Robin Nostrand, and Kemelide Alexis for contributing behind the scenes through prop design and project support.</p>
<p>DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) Columbia High School</p>	<p>Congratulations goes to the Columbia High School DECA chapter for an outstanding first year of competition and leadership development. Competing in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management events, CHS students advanced through both the district and state levels before earning a spot at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta.</p> <p>Reaching the national stage in the chapter’s inaugural year is a remarkable accomplishment that reflects the students’ hard work, professionalism, and commitment to excellence.</p>
<p>Nathaniel Eads, Kevin Roth Deves, Hunter Eggert, and Norah Hershey Columbia High School</p>	<p>A well-deserved congratulations goes to Nathaniel Eads, Kevin Roth Deves, Hunter Eggert, and Norah Hershey for earning second place in the New Jersey Chinese Teachers Association Chinese Video Project Contest.</p>
<p>CHS Student Performers and Ms. Liping Meng Columbia High School</p>	<p>Another well-deserved congratulations goes to Columbia High School students Naya Facto, Marie Joseph, August Schumann, Shmily Zheng, Ethan Lewars, Aidan Kleinman, Lillian Clark, and Laila Gordon for their outstanding performances at the SOMA Cross Cultural Works AAPI Celebration.</p> <p>With dance and music, these students helped bring energy, creativity, and cultural appreciation to a community event focused on inclusion and connection. We also recognize Ms. Liping Meng for her guidance and support in helping students share their talents with the broader community.</p>