



Board of Education Recognitions

September 2025

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
Matt Glass Community Member	<p>We would like to thank Mr. Matt Glass for his incredible efforts in bringing the Columbia High School clock tower back to life.</p> <p>Through his dedication and community fundraising across South Orange and Maplewood, he was able to raise the support needed to restore this cherished landmark. It is nice to hear it chime throughout the day.</p> <p>Because of his commitment, the CHS clock tower is once again keeping time for our students, staff, alumni, and neighbors. We are grateful for his vision and service to the district.</p>
PSAT/NMSQT Angelo Lynch Julian Shapiro Columbia High School	<p>Congratulations to 27 of our classmates who have been recognized in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program for their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. Out of more than 1.3 million students nationwide, they placed among the top 50,000.</p> <p>Twenty-five students earned commendations, and Angelo Lynch and Julian Shapiro were named semifinalists, giving them the chance to compete for nearly \$26 million in scholarships this spring.</p> <p>We congratulate our peers on this achievement and thank the families, teachers, and staff who supported them.</p>

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<p>South Orange Middle School</p>	<p>We are happy to congratulate South Orange Middle School on being announced as the proud winner of this year's Newstead 5K school challenge! At the 22nd annual race, participants could donate in honor of their favorite SOMSD school, and the community rallied behind SOMS, securing the most support.</p> <p>On September 26, Achieve delivered the brand-new traveling trophy to the school, where teachers and runners Ms. McGlotten and Ms. DiPietro celebrated the victory.</p> <p>The Newstead 5K, held this past weekend not only raised critical funds for Achieve but also gave SOMS bragging rights for the year.</p>
<p>Maplewood Middle School</p>	<p>Congratulations to Maplewood Middle School on the completion of their brand-new gym floor—a great addition for students and staff alike. The Student Council will hold a brief meeting in Room 166 on Monday, September 29, right after school.</p> <p>Students interested in elections should attend to hear speeches and receive updates. If you want to learn how student leadership works, this is a great first step—and it could even lead to being on the Student Council at Columbia High School one day.</p>
<p>Summer Interns 2025 District</p>	<p>This summer, the district partnered with Seton Hall, Kean, and Rutgers University to provide students with hands-on experience in school district communications. Our interns supported the administration building by updating and organizing content on our district and school websites, creating graphics and promotional materials, and helping us highlight the achievements of our students and staff.</p> <p>We thank Benjamin, Nina, Joshua, Abbie, Jasmine, Joel, Lily, Maya, Brandi, and Ms. Jean Paul for their creativity, professionalism, and dedication. Their work has made a lasting impact on our district's communications, and we wish them continued success.</p>