

The School District of South Orange & Maplewood

Board of Education Recognitions

May 17, 2021

Student Recognitions:

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<p>CHS Student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Julia A. Vitale, Senior	<p>Congratulations to CHS senior, Julia A. Vitale for being named a winner of a 2021 National Merit® \$2500 Scholarship. Less than 1 percent of American high school students are so designated, and will compete for a scholarship in spring.</p> <p>Over 1.5 million students took the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) last October and entered the National Merit Scholarship Program, a nationwide competition for recognition and awards conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).</p> <p>As a semifinalists Julia have an opportunity to continue in the Merit Scholarship® competition and advance to Finalist standing by meeting a number of additional requirements. Finalists will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships, as well as 1,000 corporate scholarships. The next round will be announced in February.</p>
<p>Columbia High School</p>	<p>Congratulations to Columbia High School. Columbia High School was named as One of the Most Influential Public High Schools in the United States by Academic Influence. CHS was ranked #21 among 50 schools and was identified as a top 50 US public high school based on the accumulative influence of its alumni.</p> <p>Academic Influence ranks schools based on the influencers associated with them, with both faculty and alumni considered. They use machine learning to track influence and map the relevant connections between people and institutions. Based on their analysis, ranked schools display higher concentrations of influential people associated with them. Influence is based on web traffic analysis and citations of alumni associated with these high schools.</p>
<p>CHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Seth Peiris, Junior	<p>Seth Peiris, CHS Junior was featured as part of the 2021 NAFME All-Eastern Orchestra. Seth placed first among all bassoon players at the 2019-2020 New Jersey All-State band auditions, and performed as a member of the New Jersey All-State Wind Ensemble in February of 2020. This distinction qualified him for consideration for the 2020-2021 All-Eastern ensembles, and he was chosen to play with the orchestra. Seth is the first student from Columbia to accomplish and receive this tremendous honor. Seth has been mentored by CHS's band teacher, Mr. Peter Bauer.</p>

<p>Columbia High School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanley Finlayen, Senior 	<p>Congratulations to CHS Senior, Stanley Finlayen who earned the prestigious Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award.</p>
<p>Columbia High School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olivia Brash, Senior 	<p>Congratulations to CHS Senior, Olivia Brash who was selected by the Athletic Department as this year's NJSIAA Student-Athlete from Columbia High School. Oliva is a fencer who also dominated the books during the 2020-2021 season.</p>
<p>Columbia High School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parnassian Society 	<p>Congratulations to this year's CHS Parnassian Society's performance, <i>Duplicity</i>. The performance received several nominations to Montclair State University's Theatre Night "Foxy" Awards, which will be held on Monday, May 17th. Here are the nominees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Production of a Virtual Play: Columbia High School, <i>Duplicity</i> - Stephen Stubelt Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Virtual Play: Columbia High School, <i>Duplicity</i> - Sylvie Schuetz as Susan 1# Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Virtual Play: Columbia High School, <i>Duplicity</i> - Glynnis Goff as Irene#2 Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Virtual Play: <i>Duplicity</i> Cyrus Shields as Paul Outstanding Achievement in Educational Impact & Community Outreach: Columbia High School, <i>Duplicity</i> - Stephen Stubelt The Jo Anne Fox Award: Columbia High School - Janet Bustrin & Stephen Stubel <p>Congratulations to Dr. Bustrin and to our talented performers for the nominations!</p>
<p>Columbia High School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students: Hafeez Hardin, Aydan Braunstein, Nina Kremen, Lawson Saby, Courtney Plaza, and Sam Harris Advisor: Teacher, Paul Marigliano 	<p>Congratulations to CHS teacher, Mr. Paul Marigliano and his students Hafeez Hardin, Aydan Braunstein, Nina Kremen, Lawson Saby, Courtney Plaza, and Sam Harris who won an award at the Montclair Emerging Filmmaker Competition for a film named "Lockdown Logins". The award is called the "2021 EFC Showcase: My Covid Life! Special Jury Award."</p> <p>The LINK to the film is: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eNi6_QYJk6SY3RR-ztY-4cZKJJGI-9KW/view</p>
<p>South Orange Middle School: Molly Graham, 7th Grade</p>	<p>Congratulations to SOMS 7th grader, Molly Graham for receiving an Honorable Mention for her submission the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) On Air Kids' Future of Transportation Contest. Teachers at SOMS circulated the NJTPA contest information and Molly submitted her entry in March; in April she received notice that her work was selected for an honorable mention in the 12 – 13 age group. Her work will be featured on the North Jersey Transportation Authority website at www.njtpa.org/onair.</p>

	<p>The NJTPA received more than 150 submissions from children ages 5 to 15 from across the region. Entries included videos, drawings, animations, poems and essays. The input received from the contest participants is being incorporated into the NJTPA's next long-range transportation plan for our region. Plan 2050: Transportation, People, Opportunity will recommend policies, programs, and investments that will affect everyone in northern and central New Jersey.</p>
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Staff:

NAME/SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	RECOGNITION
<p>Columbia High School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie Rivera, Social Studies Teacher 	<p>Ms. Stephanie Rivera -- a CHS Social Studies teacher -- was named during a Teacher Appreciation Week special on WNYC's Brian Lehrer Radio Show on May 3. Ms. Rivera's contribution as an AP History Teacher at CHS was honored, via a parent who shared how much Ms. Rivera goes over and beyond to meet her students' needs.</p> <p>The caller shared that during a pandemic she has kept her students engaged and excited about learning. The caller also shared how Ms. Rivera visited all of her student's homes and waved and brought gifts; she makes sure to reach out to struggling kids and their parents and she has done a great job of meeting not only their academic needs, but also in providing emotional support. Congratulations to Ms. Rivera.</p>
<p>Maplewood Middle School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich Palmgren, Social Studies Teacher 	<p>Mr. Rich Palmgren -- a Social Studies Teacher -- appeared on The Kelly Clarkson Show in February spotlighting his "Dear Future Me" project (which highlighted students from over 20 years ago). Mr. Palmgren was asked to participate in an audience of "amazing teachers" for the show episode which was focused on spotlighting educators (with special guest star Laura Bush). As a "special thank you" all teachers in the audience were given a \$5,000 Scholastic Book Giveaway donation for books for their district. The show will be airing this Tuesday 5/18 at 2 pm on NBC.</p>