

The School District of South Orange & Maplewood

Board of Education Recognitions

October 18, 2021

Student Recognitions:

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
CHS National Merit Scholars	<p>The National Merit Scholarship Corporation awarded Letters of Commendation to 5 Columbia High School seniors for the 2022 Merit Program, while 10 students were named as National Merit semi-finalists. Congratulations to all of the semi-finalists who will be moving forward to the next round of the process and to all of our commended students.</p> <p><i>National Merit Semi-Finalist Students:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ella Cervi 2. Aidan Cunningham 3. Dylan Gill 4. Aaron Glassman 5. Sydney Mannion 6. Jady Park 7. Courtney Plaza 8. Calliope Reeves 9. Cole Strupp 10. Imaan Zubieta <p><i>National Merit Commended Students:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kye Haniph 2. Seth Peiris 3. Piper Phair 4. Oren Van Allen 5. Evelyn Van De North
CHS, Furioso String Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jasper Thomas Yount, (viola) ● Felix Thomas Yount, (cello) ● Brandon Doubek, (violin) ● Teacher Todd Van Beveren 	Furioso Strings member students Jasper Thomas Yount (viola), Felix Thomas Yount (cello), Brandon Doubek (violin), supervised by teacher Mr. Todd Van Beveren, prepared and performed at the NJ School Board Association meeting at The Woodlands on September 22nd, 2021. The ensemble prepared an extensive program of professional level classical music in a very short time for the event and performed the repertoire at a Young Artist level.
CHS Student, Myles Cabbagestalk	Myles Cabbagestalk is a super senior. He is completing his academic year with us as a Cougar while obtaining professional training in the vocational program offered through Union County. Myles was a featured presenter during the NJ Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conference during which he led a powerful discussion on the challenges of creating an inclusive learning environment for students with disabilities. Myles is a champion for diversity and diverse learners everywhere. His poem, "I Am," summarizes his message that students being different is a blessing and should be recognized as such.

Staff Recognitions:

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
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<p>Stacey Lawrence, English Teacher, CHS</p>	<p>Congratulations to Stacey Lawrence, English Teacher at CHS who recently published her first collection of poems entitled, "Fall Risk." Renowned poets, Nikki Giovanni and BJ Ward shared reviews of the book:</p> <p>"It's so seldom a book of poems can contain both love poems and acceptance of grief. Take Stacey's poems to a couch, curl under your great-grandmother's quilt, and understand love and loss are one." -Nikki Giovanni</p> <p>"The poems of <i>Fall Risk</i> are beautiful and brutal at once. Lawrence is able to corral presence and absence the physicality of loss in poem after poem. Unsparring in its imagery, this collection tergiversates between nuance and grit, creating stunning music and a powerful experience a testament to what it's like to continue to live. I am glad to have discovered Lawrence's work through this book." -BJ Ward</p>
<p>Elissa Malespina, BOE Member</p>	<p>Board Member Malespina has been chosen to present two sessions at the upcoming NJSBA Conference. She will be presenting What's in Your Students' Backpacks? Information, Privilege and Equity & Future-Ready Librarians Can Help Save Your District Money and Solve Instruction Issues.</p>
<p>All District 2D Visual Art Staff</p>	<p>Special recognition to the K-12 District 2D Visual Art Teachers who provided a beautiful assortment of student artwork displays (K-12) for the NJ School Board Association Meeting on September 22, 2021, at The Woodland.</p>