

**The School District of South Orange & Maplewood**

**Board of Education Recognitions  
September 2020**

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**Student Recognitions:**

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<p>CHS Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Matthew D. Krause</li><li>• Daniel J. Palumbo</li><li>• Julia A. Vitale</li></ul>	<p>Three CHS seniors were named as Semifinalist for the 2021 National Merit® Scholarship Program and have an opportunity to continue in the National Merit Scholarship competition. 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>In April, NMSC identified the 50,000 highest scorers and notified their high schools. Some 16,000 of those high performers were recently designated Semifinalists on a state representational basis. Their schools were notified and NMSC released their names to news media on September 9.</p> <p>Only Semifinalists 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>CHS:</p> <p>Brooke Bachia, Senior</p>	<p>CHS senior, Brooke Bachia won 2nd place in the Speak Truth to Power Student Video Contest in partnership with the American Federation of Teachers and the Tribeca Film Festival, as well as, Speak Up, Sing Out Music Contest in partnership with the GRAMMY Museum.</p> <p>A showing of this event aired was taped on Wednesday 9/16/2020.</p>
<p>SOMS / Seth Boyden:</p> <p>Elisha Blake-Wasden, Current SOMS 8<sup>th</sup> grader</p>	<p>A former Seth Boyden student, Elisha Blake-Wasden, and now SOMS eighth grader, raised over \$1,000 to purchase books for Seth Boyden students who participated in the summer Rising Stars program. He carefully curated the books, inserted them in canvas packs and tied them off with a note of well-wishes from one reader to another. He and His Mom delivered them to Seth Boyden where they are soon to be distributed to Rising Star Readers.</p>

