

The School District of South Orange & Maplewood

Board of Education Recognitions

December 20, 2021 (v2)

Student Recognitions:

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<p>Sharon Chen, CHS Freshman Sherry Chen, CHS Freshman</p>	<p>Congratulations to CHS Freshman and Kean Scholars, Sharon Chen and Sherry Chen. They recently received awards from Kean, Sharon won the highest average in English (writing course) and Sherry won the highest average in Mathematics (Algebra 2/Trigonometry).</p> <p>The South Orange & Maplewood School District announced its partnership with Kean University's Scholar Academy over the summer. The Scholar Academy is a dual-enrollment initiative that helps prepare selected high school students for college by bringing them on campus to earn college credits and take part in mentorships, internships, and other college experiences starting in ninth grade. This partnership is the District's first time offering dual-enrollment college-based programming to students. Eleven middle-school students from SOMSD were part of the inaugural class, which Kean University announced in May.</p> <p>Sharon Chen and Sherry Chen are former Maplewood Middle School students, who are now freshman at CHS. As part of the inaugural cohort, they started the program in Summer 2021. They will be enrolled in the Kean Scholar Academy for all four years of high school. In ninth and tenth grade, they will take college courses in English, math, and prerequisite subjects with other Academy students. In their last two years, they will take classes in their major alongside other Kean students.</p>
<p>Leonard Jasper, CHS Senior</p>	<p>We want to commend CHS Senior Leonard Jasper for being one of the 100 N.J. students to have been named to the Governor's STEM Scholars class of 2021-22. Scholars were selected from a pool of more than 600 applicants and had to have at least a 3.5 GPA, be high school sophomores through doctoral-level at a New Jersey-based high school or university, and demonstrate a passion for STEM. Leonard is only 1 of 8 students from Essex County.</p> <p>Scholars will participate in four conferences being held at New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rowan University, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Kean University. They will participate in a research project, led by undergraduate and graduate-level scholars, that advances the work of New Jersey's research community and tour New Jersey STEM facilities and laboratories, and network with STEM professionals.</p>

<p>CHS Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chimezie Agba, Sophomore ● Lukas Alexander, Sophomore ● Nicholas Gomez, Sophomore ● Ava Katz, Sophomore ● Nikolas Stellini, Sophomore ● Nicholas Alexander, Junior ● Owen Friedman, Junior ● Makayla Ojentis, Junior 	<p>J & J Technology Awareness Program:</p> <p>CHS Students were invited to participate in the Johnson & Johnson Technology Awareness Program (TAP). TAP is a partnership program between Johnson & Johnson, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and surrounding schools where students gain real-life experience working with professionals while attending to their daily academic responsibilities. Students that took part in the program were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chimezie Agba, Sophomore ● Lukas Alexander, Sophomore ● Nicholas Gomez, Sophomore ● Ava Katz, Sophomore ● Nikolas Stellini, Sophomore ● Nicholas Alexander, Junior ● Owen Friedman, Junior ● Makayla Ojentis, Junior <p>As part of the Technology Awareness Program, they were given a business problem to assess. Their team developed a well-thought-out business and technical solution and presented this solution to Johnson & Johnson executives. During the development process, the student demonstrated several skills such as brainstorming, negotiating, decision making, problem-solving and presenting.</p> <p>During the program, Johnson and Johnson professionals introduced students to weekly virtual interactive sessions on several topics for both Information Technology as well as Research & Development. The virtual program gave the students hands-on experience within the real corporate world. The students were recognized for their work at a banquet on 12/1 on NJIT Campus where J&J Vice Presidents recognized them individually for their work.</p>
<p>CHS: Model UN Club</p>	<p>On Saturday, December 10, thirty members of the CHS Model UN club participated in the Bronx Science XV Model UN Conference. The conference was virtual, and the CHS team joined the conference from CHS. Students arrived early in the morning where they participated in various committees throughout the day. Congratulations to the entire CHS Model UN club for the efforts as well as club advisor, Greg Tuttle, CHS Social Studies Teacher.</p> <p>A number of students earned awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chloe Barter: Honorable Mention representing India in the International Atomic Energy Agency committee ● Jem Wiener: Verbal Commendation representing India on the Historical Security Council committee ● Charlotte McCourt: Best Delegate in the Joint Crisis Committee (World War I). She represented multiple historical figures throughout the conference. ● Maxson McKinstrie: Verbal Commendation in the Joint Crisis Committee (World War I - Central Powers)
<p>Robert Max Goldman, CHS Junior</p>	<p>CHS Junior, Rober Max Goldman had his science research published. This past summer, Robert was one of less than 100 American students selected through a competitive application process for the Waksman Institute Summer Experience (WISE) which is sponsored by Rutgers University. Robert and these students learned about, and contributed to, an authentic research project in molecular biology that strongly emphasized bioinformatics. The research project focused on DNA sequence analyses of genes from the duckweed plant <i>Landoltia punctata</i>, and how these genes compared to</p>

	those found in other plant species and organisms. According to his professor, “Robert accomplished a great deal” and “it was a privilege working with Robert Max Goldman from Columbia High School.” We are so proud that his work is now published in their database as well!
--	--

Staff Recognitions:

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
Dara Gronau, Principal MMS	On December 1, MMS Principal Dara Crocker Gronau was selected to co-facilitate a Columbia Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP) live Twitter chat on the topic- <i>Helping School Leaders Lead with Determination, Focus and Above All Else-Joy</i> with Brooke Geller. TCRWP is a core element of our ELA curriculum in the school district. As a former English teacher, Gronau was honored to be invited to this discussion. As a former English teacher, literacy leadership will always be close to her heart!
Jennifer Latimer, Media Specialist, Clinton Elementary School	Congratulations to Jennifer Latimer Clinton Elementary’s Media Specialist for being the recipient of this year’s @NJASL, Ruth Toor Outstanding Media Specialist Award. Clinton Elementary principal, Jennifer Connors and Asst. Supt., C&I, Dr. Matt Friedman were in attendance to support. Jennifer shared a presentation that showcased the District’s Artist in Residence Program with CodeJoy where all elementary students will receive remote robotics and coding sessions via their school media specialists as part of the enhanced STEM programming planned for K-6 students in the 2021-22 school year.
Dr. Joyce Leslie, CHS, Math Teacher (Submitted by Jameel Misbauddin, Supervisor, STEM, 9 - 12)	On Friday, October 22nd, Dr. Joyce Leslie celebrated the completion of her Doctoral degree at a special in-person celebration for the classes of 2020 and 2021 (that were canceled due to Covid-19). Her doctoral research was inspired by many wonderful students she has taught at CHS. She designed a workshop for algebra teachers, designed to introduce a new pedagogy and raise their expectations for their black students. Her dissertation is: Investigating a model using video stories for professional development for algebra teachers of low SES minority students. Congratulations to Dr. Leslie.
Takia Logan, Special Education Teacher, CHS	<p>Congratulations to Takia Logan, Special Education Teacher at CHS, on her self-published book, "Idris and the Magic Lamp," which is currently available on Amazon.</p> <p>Idris and the Magic Lamp is a story about being special. Students sometimes see their uniqueness as a burden as opposed to the blessing that it is. Having worked with students across age and grade levels it was her pleasure to encourage them that they are the result of a combination of the miraculous and the wonderful and should always be proud of that. Ms. Logan wrote about Idris because she wants all the students that have felt invisible to know that someone sees them.</p> <p>Ms. Logan is a classroom educator and is very passionate about students and learning. Teaching students to read and to learn through books is one of the greatest privileges afforded to her throughout her career. She believes that kids learn well when they can see a little of themselves in the characters, settings and plots of the stories that are shared with them.</p>
Achieve Foundation	Fall 2021 Educator Grants: The Achieve Foundation is pleased to announce that thanks to the generosity of the many donors and local business sponsors in the South Orange & Maplewood community, this fall they were able to provide nearly \$77,500 in grant

	<p>funding for 35 project proposals that benefitted 75 teachers and administrators (and several hundreds of students!) across every K-12 school in the District. These grants range from visiting author and artist programs to STEM materials, and include initiatives focused on the emotional health and wellness of our students. For a complete listing of the grants awarded, visit the achievethecore.org website. Achieve is proud to support the work of District educators as it aligns with Achieve's mission to promote high-quality education that prepares our students for the future by addressing inequities, inspiring innovation, and fostering community.</p>
--	--