

**The School District of South Orange & Maplewood**  
**Board of Education Recognitions**  
**January 25, 2024**

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NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Columbia High School</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to student artists Z Hunt and Ciara Navan on having their artwork selected for exhibition at the 2024 Emerging Artists Exhibition, a statewide student art exhibition event. Z Hunt's piece is a mixed media work (acrylic, wire, marker, and pastels) titled "Exoskeleton." Ciara Navan's piece "Give, Give, Give", was created with colored pencil and acrylic paint. Special thanks to CHS Art Educators Alexandra Cappucci and Kandice Stewart for guiding students through the entry process. Additional thanks to parents for their support. The 2024 Emerging Artists Exhibition Awards Ceremony will take place on Sunday, January 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the James Howe Gallery at Kean University's Vaughn Eames building.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Columbia High School</li> </ul>	<p>Three CHS students – Carlos Sanchez, Mehlman Jules, and Saanvi Rohatgi – are student photographers whose work has been selected to be a part of the annual Drexel University High School Photography Contest Exhibition. There will be an opening reception for the student photographers at Drexel on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and their work will be on display at Drexel's Photography Center in Philadelphia through March 9<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to CHS Photography Teacher Richard Cutrona for supporting these students and engaging this opportunity.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Columbia High School</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to Junior Asa Glassman who was one of the winners of the New York Times' "What High School Is Like in 2023" contest. His photograph collage of students and their phones brilliantly demonstrates what it is like to be a high schooler today. "This is how we communicate. This is how we connect. This is how we catalog our achievements as well as our failures and show our peers that we are not alone," Glassman wrote in his NYT piece.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Columbia High School</li> </ul>	<p>Pomptonian, our Food Service Management Company, is putting together a group of students from all over the state to create a Student Culinary Innovations Council. We are pleased to announce that two CHS students have been selected for the council: Violet Nichols and Karol Agila. Their focus will include menu development, legislative action, promotional innovation, and school food service innovation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Columbia High School</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to CHS Senior Molly Bigelow for being Columbia High School's recipient of the 2023-2024 Women in Sports Award. Bigelow is a senior who has played strike on the Girls Soccer Team for all four seasons in high school. She also has played Girls Lacrosse and will play in the Spring in the position of defender. She has been accepted to the University of Virginia and intends to major in cognitive science. Bigelow was honored with recipients across the state on January 14<sup>th</sup>, which was National Women in Sports Day, at the Rutgers Women's' Basketball game against Penn State.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Columbia High School</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to Columbia High School Wrestling Coach, Mike Freedman who won his 200th career dual victory as a head coach at Montclair High School and now at Columbia High School.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Various SOMSD Schools</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to Columbia High School Junior Oliver Negin who was a first place winner in the Essex County Education Association's annual Pride Essay contest. Negin responded to the contest's prompt for 11<sup>th</sup> graders, which was "Looking back, who in your school career has had the biggest impact on your life?" Negin wrote about South Orange Middle School Teacher Lisa MacPherson.</p> <p>Congratulations also to Columbia High School Sophomore Karol Agila, who responded to the same prompt and wrote about Columbia High School Teacher Giselle Ioannidis.</p> <p>The following students were semi-finalists for their grades, with essays submitted for judgement at the county level:</p> <p>1st Grade: Aria Gurtman Teacher: April Tinari, Marshall School</p> <p>2nd Grade: Isabel O'Dea Teacher: April Tinari, Marshall School</p> <p>3rd Grade: Phoebe Slevin Teacher: Rosemary Connell, Seth Boyden</p> <p>4th Grade: Aurelia Bencivenga Teacher: Danielle Patterson, Seth Boyden</p> <p>5th Grade: Orlhanne Bernard Teacher: Jesse Hein, Seth Boyden</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maplewood Middle School</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to Maplewood Middle School Health Teacher Carey Guido who was elected vice-president for health on the Executive Board for the N.J. Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (NJAPERD). This statewide organization is dedicated to providing inspiration, professional development and leadership opportunities for health and physical educators, higher education professionals and future professionals.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Columbia High School</li> </ul>	<p>The Columbia High School Model UN Delegation did well last weekend at Yale University's 2024 Model UN Conference. The team brought home five awards after competing against 140 schools and more than 2,000 students from around the world. Senior Rowan Wechsler, junior Sam Hanger, and junior Hudson Ebright all won Best Delegate in their committees, which is the highest award a delegate can receive. Senior Sabrina Mannion won the Outstanding Delegate award, and sophomore Ren Crawford received an Honorable Mention. Model UN Faculty Advisor Stephanie Rivera said it was a very competitive conference and these awards truly reflect how hard the student delegates worked all year. She added that the entire delegation did a remarkable job and represented Columbia High School incredibly well.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Columbia High School</li> </ul>	<p>The 2023 edition of <i>The Guildscript</i>, Columbia High School's art and literary magazine, has won two national awards. It has received the rank of Superior in the 2023 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) program. In addition to this, <i>The Guildscript</i> was awarded First Place by the American Scholastic (Press) Association in the category of senior high school with an enrollment of 1701-2500. This club/publication continues to be a wonderful collaborative experience for students, while highlighting the abundance of talent at CHS.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Columbia High School</li> </ul>	<p>The Columbia Boys Varsity Swim Team placed third at recent SEC conference championship on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> (MLK Day). The 200 Medley Relay comprised of Yael Ben-Adi (11) Luke Robinson (11) Hamish Wilson-Webb (10) and Mason Keith (10) broke school record.</p>