

The School District of South Orange & Maplewood

Board of Education Recognitions

January 24, 2021

Student Recognitions:

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<p>CHS Vocal Music Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Jessica Hutchinson, Junior</i> ● <i>Dustin Crisci, Senior</i> ● <i>Arushi Vadlamani, Sophomore</i> 	<p>The following Columbia High School Vocal Music students were accepted by audition to the North Jersey School Music Association High School Choral Festival, which will rehearse throughout January and perform February 5th. The students are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jessica Hutchinson (grade 11); ● Dustin Crisci (grade 12); and ● Arushi Vadlamani (grade 10) <p>Special thanks to CHS Vocal Music Director Mr. Nicholas Diaz.</p>
<p>CHS Band Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Sophia Franklin, Junior</i> ● <i>Seth Peiris, Senior</i> ● <i>Molly Hurley, Sophomore</i> ● <i>Eliot Photiades, Sophomore</i> ● <i>Arushi Vadlamani, Sophomore</i> 	<p>The following Columbia High School Band Students have been selected as members of the 2021-2022 North Jersey Region Honor Bands. Their selection comes after months of diligent practice and successful virtual auditions held on January 8, 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sophia Franklin, a junior percussionist, was selected as a member of the Region Wind Ensemble; and ● Seth Peiris, a senior bassoonist, received a qualifying score for the Region Symphonic Band, (but due to COVID restrictions that reduced the size of the ensemble he will neither rehearse nor perform with the group) <p>Additionally, their selection to the region ensembles qualifies them all to audition for the New Jersey All-State band.</p> <p>We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of additional students who auditioned but did not earn qualifying scores: Molly Hurley, a sophomore trombonist, Eliot Photiades, a sophomore trombonist; and Arushi Vadlamani, a sophomore clarinetist.</p> <p>These students represent the very best of the Columbia High School band program and we are happy to celebrate their accomplishment with the entire SOMSD community. Special thanks to CHS Band Director Mr. Peter Bauer.</p>

Staff Recognitions:

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<p>Rocio Lopez, CHS, AP Spanish Teacher</p>	<p>The District and Columbia High School is proud that our very own AP Spanish Teacher, Ms. Rocio Lopez, was named by the NJEA Women in Education Committee as the 2022 Elizabeth A. Allen Women in Education Award recipient for her contributions in advocating for and empowering women. Ms. Lopez is the advisor to the POWER club, and has been an inspirational mentor to many students over the years. Last year, when there were serious sexual harassment allegations, Ms. Lopez worked with students and administrators as part of the Board of Education Taskforce. Ms. Lopez was formally recognized at the 2022 NJEA Equity Alliance Conference on Saturday, January 14 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City!</p>