

The School District of South Orange & Maplewood

Board of Education Recognitions

July 18, 2022

Student Recognitions:

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<p>CHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Noah Morros● Daniel Butkus	<p>Congratulations to class of 2023 students Noah Morros and Daniel Butkus on representing Columbia High School at the annual American Legion Jersey Boys State. Both Noah and Daniel were elected to state senator office, a seat held by just 24 of the 750 participants. Additionally, Noah was one of two participants who was elected to represent New Jersey as a Boys Nation Senator. He will travel to Boys Nation, in Washington DC, for a week at the end of July with the top two delegates representing other Boys State programs held across the country. Finally, Noah was also awarded the Gordon A. Vreeland Award for best delegate. The award is presented annually to the delegate who has best exemplified dedication and achievement in the Boys State program, and is selected by the American Legion and the Boys State program administrators.</p> <p>Available in 49 states, Boys State (and Girls State) Boys State educates youth in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of American citizenship. The programs endeavor to provide a foundation for understanding self-government, a rational approach toward the solution of public questions, and a live faith in the ideals and processes of democracy. The program of training and instruction consists of extending background of American ideals, expanding knowledge of the underlying principles of government organization, and by means of active participation in the government during Boys State helps the participants to set up constructive ideals toward all phases of representative government.</p>

Staff Recognitions:

<p>SOMSD Arts Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● James Manno. Supervisor, Fine Arts Department; CHS Film Students	<p>Congratulations to Columbia High School film students on the presentation of the documentary, The Healing: Arts in a Time of Covid. The Healing follows CHS students and teachers as they navigate the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. The story begins on the day the school musical was canceled in 2020. The film follows the students through two years of turmoil, isolation, and determination.</p> <p>Mr. Manno worked with Achieve to get a grant to pay for the project's filming. Once the grant was secured, CHS film students worked with local filmmaker, Sean McCourt and interviewed, performed the music, sang, and edited the final film. This film spotlights the pandemic's impact on high school theater and music programs in New Jersey</p> <p>"It's about not just surviving," said executive producer and SOMSD Supervisor of Fine Arts, James Manno, "it's about moving from surviving to thriving."</p> <p>The Healing was directed by local filmmaker Sean McCourt, who is no stranger to the arts. McCourt is a former Broadway actor, with credits such as Wicked, Mary Poppins, and Titanic. For the past ten years, he has been a television showrunner on Discovery, Nat Geo, and Fox.</p>
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McCourt collaborated with film and music students at the high school. With students in front of and behind the camera, the film contains an intimately personal look at the next generation of artists.

“This film was shot by students, scored by students, and told by students,” says McCourt. “We worked on this together for nearly a year. It’s a raw and very real reminder of what they went through and how they found their way back.”