

# The School District of South Orange & Maplewood

## Board of Education Recognitions

**March 21, 2022**

### Student Recognitions:

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<b>Columbia High School:</b>	<p>The South Orange and Maplewood School District is pleased to announce that ten Columbia High School students have been selected as finalists in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program.</p> <p>The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) honors students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Finalists will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships, as well as other merit scholarship opportunities which will be announced in late spring. Among the academically talented high school seniors named as finalists were ten students from Columbia High School:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ella Rose J. Cervi</li> <li>2. Aidan P. Cunningham</li> <li>3. Dylan K. Gill</li> <li>4. Aaron K. Glassman</li> <li>5. Sydney C. Mannion</li> <li>6. Jady Park</li> <li>7. Courtney Bailie Plaza</li> <li>8. Calliope Maria Reeves</li> <li>9. Cole J. Strupp</li> <li>10. Imaan K. Zubieta</li> </ol>
<b>Columbia High School:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sydney Mannion, Senior, Class of 2022</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to Sydney Mannion, CHS Class of 2022 who received the National African American Recognition Award from the College Board National Recognition Program. Students earned this recognition because of their academic achievements in school and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and/or AP® Exams. They've accomplished these milestones during an immensely demanding period of their high school career.</p>
<b>Columbia High School:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cole J. Strupp, Senior, Class of 2022</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to CHS Senior, Cole J. Strupp, who was chosen as a semi-finalists candidate for the 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.</p> <p>In April, the Commission on Presidential Scholars will review the semifinalists pool and in June final selection of the 161 U.S Presidential Scholars will be announced and students will be awarded the U.S. Presidential Scholars medallion.</p>
<b>Columbia High School:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Krishad Clark, Sophomore, Class of 2024</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to CHS Sophomore, Krishad Clark, who was selected to be the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) program Ambassador for CHS. HOBY is an organization dedicated to "training and nurturing the young leaders of tomorrow." HOBY's flagship program, the State Leadership Seminar (LS) is designed to help high school sophomores to recognize their leadership talents and apply them to become effective, ethical leaders in their home, school, workplace and community. Selected students attend our three- or four-day seminars and</p>

	<p>participate in hands-on leadership activities, meet leaders in their state, and explore their own personal leadership skills while learning how to lead others and make a positive impact in their community.</p>
<p><b>Columbia High School:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alexis Halm-Owoo, Junior, Class of 2023</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to CHS Junior, Alexis Halm-Owoo who was chosen as a 2022 NJ Scholars Program finalist. The New Jersey Scholars Program is a tuition-free five-week summer program for rising seniors of any high school in New Jersey. The mission of the New Jersey Scholars Program is "To provide New Jersey's rising high school seniors of extraordinary demonstrated academic potential with a free, ungraded, diverse, inclusive, and residential interdisciplinary learning environment that sharpens critical thinking, writing, and research skills, stimulates a desire for life-long learning, and fosters lasting interpersonal connections."</p>
<p><b>Columbia High School:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jonathan Barnett, Junior, Class of 2023</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to CHS Junior, Jonathan Barnett who was chosen as a 2022 Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award recipient. The West Point Society of New Jersey, an organization of United States Military Academy graduates and friends of West Point living in New Jersey, sponsors the Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award, recognizing outstanding high school students in New Jersey.</p> <p>The award is designed to honor exceptional Juniors who have demonstrated outstanding attributes of character, service, and leadership. By publicly acknowledging these students' accomplishments, this award will send a clear message to all students on the importance of these attributes in both school and society</p>
<p><b>CHS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jeslyn Ero, Junior, Class of 2023</li> <li>● Maia Curran, Senior, Class of 2022</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to CHS Senior, Maia Curran and CHS Junior, Jeslyn Ero on the presentation of their final science research papers which were both presented to an external audience. Both students participated in CHS's science research program, which is a three-year course (i.e. you take it in 10th, 11th and 12th grade) where students first learn about a research area that really interests them, and then begin a more focused research/lab experience of their own in a more focused topic by junior and senior years that culminates in a final paper/presentation.</p> <p>Jeslyn Ero is in year 2 of our Science Research Program at CHS. She had her poster approved by the Group Summer Scholars Research Program at Kean University. Her research was titled "How does Social Vulnerability Affect Vaccination Rates in Arizona?"</p> <p>Maia Curran is in year 3 of our Science Research Program at CHS. She presented her poster at the Eastern Analytical Conference. Her research was titled "Comparing Color Measurement tools for use in Art Preservation"</p>
<p><b>Columbia High School:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Natalie Urusov, Sophomore, Class of 2024</li> </ul>	<p>Natalie Urusov, a Sophomore at CHS, won two awards at the Scholastic Art and Writing this year. "Words of a Little Man in a Big War" (Poetry) and "A City Drowned in Midnight" (flash fiction) both won honorable mentions.</p>
<p><b>CHS: Cast &amp; Production Crew of Newsies</b></p>	<p>Congratulations to the entire CHS cast and production crew of Newsies on a successful show. Their final show dates have been moved to March 25 - 27. We want to acknowledge the creative team that advised and led students to present the first in-person CHS theater production since Covid pandemic began..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Directors/choreographers: Tricia Benn and Bethany Pettigrew</li> <li>● Musical Director: Jake Ezzo</li> <li>● Associate Director: Gregory Osborne</li> <li>● Orchestra Director: Peter Bauer</li> <li>● Stage Crew: Tara Abbondante</li> <li>● Producer: LuAnne Kleppe</li> </ul>

**Staff Recognitions:**

<p><b>Maplewood Middle School:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary Alice Zavocki, MMS Science teacher</li> </ul>	<p>Congratulations to Maplewood Middle School for receipt of a grant from Teach from America and Apple. MMS science teacher, Mary Alice Zavocki w/ support from MMS administration, submitted an application to receive a \$2k grant from Teach for America, to create a Swift CS Coding Club at MMS. Teacher Zavocki will be the advisor of the club and the program will be implemented this year.</p> <p>Teach for America shared, “all of us at Teach For America and the Apple team were moved by you, your students, and the story of your school, especially in the midst of all of the changes and the unprecedented nature of the last few school years.”</p>
<p><b>District Social Workers</b></p>	<p>March is Social Work Month. The District and Board of Education in gratitude and recognition for all their hard work recognizes all of our school-based and CST social workers:</p> <p><b><i>School-based Social Workers:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marilu Gregory, Elementary School Social Worker and Field Supervisor</li> <li>• Arelis Tapia-Vargas, Clinton Elementary School/MMS</li> <li>• Julia Portnoff, Seth Boyden Elementary School</li> <li>• Christian Blackwell, Seth Boyden Elementary School</li> <li>• Shazaan Napoleon, South Mountain Elementary School &amp; Marshall Elementary School</li> <li>• Maudjah Henriquez-Francis, Jefferson Elementary School</li> <li>• Eva Buggy, Tuscan Elementary School/MMS</li> <li>• Selina Scalise, Maplewood Middle School</li> <li>• Alison Steiner, South Orange Middle School (Social Work Intern Field Supervisor)</li> <li>• Fajr Salaam-Goodwin, South Orange Middle School</li> <li>• Jenny Easton, Columbia High School (Social Work Intern Field Supervisor)</li> <li>• Zakiyya Jordan, Columbia High School</li> <li>• Eric Stoudemire, Columbia High School</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Child Study Team Social Workers</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy Pitucco</li> <li>• Inelda Bermudez</li> <li>• Valerie Forst</li> <li>• Janis Catalano</li> <li>• Renee Joyce</li> </ul> <p>We also would like to recognize all of the social work interns who serve across all of our schools under the supervision of District field supervisors.</p>