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## Student and Staff Achievements March 2018

### 2018 Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Twelve Stamford Public Schools (SPS) high school students were recently recognized for their outstanding submissions in the 2018 Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. As an affiliate of the National Scholastic Art Awards and The Alliance For Young Artists and Writers, this national program honors the creative efforts of students in grades 7 to 12 who attend public, private and parochial schools. Students are awarded Gold or Silver Keys and Honorable Mention Awards in each of 29 categories judged by artists, university faculty and professionals in the field.

The following SPS students were awarded for their artistic contributions:

- **Nathan Yao, AITE:** Silver Key and 4 Honorable Mentions (Teacher: Darin Tomaszewski)
- **Cindy Luo, SHS:** Gold Key and Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts Scholarship (Teacher: Paul Cusano)
- **Maggie Meister, SHS:** Honorable Mention (Teacher: Erika Arconti-Galassi)
- **Charlotte Saunders, SHS:** Honorable Mention (Teacher: Paul Cusano)
- **Jony Tello, SHS:** Honorable Mention (Teacher: Carolyn Daher)
- **Emma Cali, WHS:** Honorable Mention (Teacher: Elizabeth Moncure)
- **Noah Cheruk, WHS:** Honorable Mention (Teacher: Elizabeth Moncure)
- **Julianna Lajko, WHS:** Gold Key (Teacher: Tamara Dilworth)
- **Josue Rodriguez, WHS:** Silver Key (Teacher: Tamara Dilworth)

The following students were recognized for their literary works in The 2018 Hudson-to-Housatonic Region Scholastic Writing Awards, which is administered by Writopia Lab:

- **Marcus Berg, AITE:** Silver Key, Short Story (Teacher: Edward Donnelly)
- **Elisa Guitierrez, AITE:** Honorable Mention, Short Story (Teacher: Edward Donnelly)
- **Samuel Harris, WHS:** Gold Key and Honorable Mention, Poetry and Silver Key, Dramatic Script (Teacher: Stephanie Cahill)

### Fairfield County String Festival

Turn of River Middle School Seventh Grader **Avi Ray** and Sixth Grader **Alex Drienik**, along with Scofield Magnet Middle School Seventh Grader **Sydney Chan** and Westhill High School Freshman **Caroline Kavanagh** were recently chosen to participate in the Fairfield County String Festival (FCSF). FCSF is a countywide festival for high-achieving string players in grades 6 through 9 and is sponsored by the Fairfield County String Teachers, Inc. Students audition for this honor and are selected from a very competitive pool of candidates. Violinists Ray and Chan, and Cellist Drienik were nominated by their Strings Teacher **Wendy Delson**. Violinist Kavanagh was nominated by Band Director **Michael Wyatt**. Their hard work with renowned and inspiring conductors will culminate in a concert on April 28, 2018, at Trumbull High School.

## CMEA Western Regional Festival

Thousands of students across Connecticut recently auditioned before a panel of professionals to be considered for the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) Western Regional High School and Middle School Festival. In addition to the six SPS high school students who qualified for the festival and were recognized last month, nine middle schoolers also qualified for the festival. Each student was required to perform a very advanced selection in his or her specialty area: Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band or Chorus. Those students who scored above a designated threshold were invited to perform at the festival, which comprises the top high school or middle school instrumental or choral students in the western part of the state.

Qualifying middle school choral students, under the direction of choir director **Josh Sette, Rogers International:**

- **Kennedy Anderson**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Alto
- **Lauren Dowling**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Alto
- **Peyton Sigtryggsson**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Soprano
- **Camille Barry**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Alto
- **Julieta Kuri**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Alto
- **Lyra Sharma**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Alto
- **John Ryan Dowling**, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Tenor
- **Briana Ortiz**, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Alto
- **Emmy Sigtryggsson**, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Alto

## NELMS Spotlight School

The New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) recently renewed its designation of **Scofield Magnet Middle School**, under the leadership of Principal **Scott Clayton**, as a *NELMS Spotlight School*. The Spotlight School Award recognizes schools that have a record of powerful and research-based learning for young adolescents and consistently observe middle-level best practices. Scofield was one of only 34 schools throughout New England designated by NELMS. The honor is based upon evidence and observations made during a site visit as well as the school's rigorous self-study.

## 2016-17 Connecticut State Department Accountability Reports

For the past three years, the Connecticut State Department of Education has instituted an Accountability System that evaluates schools on 21 indicators, including academics, absenteeism, physical fitness and graduation rates, among other measures. Two Stamford schools received recognition on February 2018 School Accountability Reports. **Toquam Magnet Elementary School**, under the leadership of Principal **Amy Beldotti**, was designated as a *School of Distinction* by the CSDE, for highest growth of high needs students. **Roxbury Elementary School**, under the leadership of Principal **Mark Bonasera** was recognized for *Exiting Focus School Status* for its improvement of high needs students in Science.