



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16  
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## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**ITEM NO:** 1.4

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020

**OPENING ITEM:** Outstanding Achievements

**SUBMITTED BY:** Margie Jones, Administrative Assistant

**PRESENTED BY:** Mary Kamerzell, Superintendent

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I am pleased to highlight the following CFSD student and staff achievements:

### National Merit Semifinalists

Nine (9) CFHS seniors have been named National Merit Semifinalists: Muhammad Dahshan, Rebecca Han, Sevren Jackson, Claire Kross, Margot Nicholson, Robert Pawloski, Ty Pham-Swann, Maxon Rubin-Toles, and Joshua Tint.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named more than 40 Tucson-area students as semifinalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Two hundred and ninety-five (295) students from Arizona qualified as semifinalists.

The Corporation chose 16,200 semifinalists nationwide to compete for 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered next spring.

### National Merit Commended Students

Four (4) CFHS seniors were named National Merit Commended Students: Joseph Cohen, Daniel Popov, Ava Shepard, and Cameron Strong. They were recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the 2019 PSAT (Preliminary SAT).

### Students Taking Advantage of Research (S.T.A.R.) Lab Program

Nine (9) CFHS science students were accepted into the University of Arizona's S.T.A.R. Lab program. The Lab is a high school outreach collaboration between the U of A's Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology and the Southern Arizona Research Science and Engineering Foundation. The S.T.A.R. Lab supports high school student research and engineering projects. Research began September 28, 2020 and will run through January 29, 2021. Research questions/projects may involve big data, bioinformatics, biomedical research data., climate GPS/ArcView, virtual computing, programming and other questions that can be completed virtually.

Our students and their research topics: Andreana Zavros-Finnegan - Animal Behavior in Zoos, Annalise Mendoza - Psychology; Gabriel Declercq - Climate Change, Jeronimo Barela - Cardiovascular Disease, Khadeeja Khalil - Psychology, Kulindu Vithanachchi - Psychology, Megan Bime - Microbiome, Zachary Keyes - Cardiovascular Disease, and Eli Lefkowitz - Cardiovascular Disease.

### Poetry Winners

Orange Grove students, Avery Maland and Hannah Levin, were winners in the University of Arizona Poetry Center's K-12 Poetry Contest. Avery's poem, "Face Mask," won 1st place in 6th-8th grade, and Hannah's "Untitled" poem garnered an honorable mention.

### GRAMMY Music Educator Award

Patricia Moore, Canyon View music teacher, has been selected as a quarterfinalist for the Music Educator Award presented by the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum. Only 216 music teachers from 199 cities have been announced as quarterfinalists.

The program honors teachers for their remarkable impact on students' lives. Fifteen (15) semifinalists will be chosen and from those 15, ten finalists will be picked. Among the finalists, one winner will be chosen and flown to Los Angeles to attend the 63rd Annual GRAMMY Awards and a range of GRAMMY Week events.

### CFSD Legendary Teacher

Laura Williams, Esperero math teacher, was named CFSD's Legendary Teacher. She was honored at a virtual Pima County Legendary Teacher Celebration on October 1st.

A student who nominated Ms. Williams wrote, "Despite not being in school right now, she is always creating new ways for us to learn. She is always working hard to help me improve in my math and helping me get better grades. Mrs. Williams stays after school with me and the other students. Mrs. Williams you are the best math teacher EVER."

#### Great Beginnings Induction Program

Congratulations to our teachers who completed CFSD's *Great Beginnings: Systems for Success* induction program in June 2020. For 2-3 years, teachers who were new to the profession and those who transferred from other school districts participated in a variety of experiences to expand their teaching toolkit and develop their skills on the job. They participated in New Teacher Orientation, worked with an experienced mentor, participated in instructional coaching and collegial coaching, and collaborated with colleagues in learning seminars and Summer Institutes on instructional best practices and differentiated instruction. We appreciate the commitment of our teachers to make a difference in the lives of our students every day.

Elementary School: Roby Althaus, Kylie Baker, Alicia Barrios, Sandy Bramhill, Lynn Bush-Stephens, Sarah Carton, Michael Ching, Mandy Davidson, Clara Felix, Mary Florek, Ellie Galligan, Lizeth Gonzalez, Amber Grilli, Meghan Gulley, Nancy Hayes, Ning He, Jon Helleson, Cristina Henikman, Kylie Koepsel, Lizbeth Lutz-Rodriguez, Shannon Marchal, Christy McCoy, John McGraugh, Savannah Miller, Kirsten Tobin, Paola Villarreal, and Hui Zhou. Middle School: Terry Alexander, Jennifer Braun, Myranda Christensen, Marshall Hart, Trish Hillman, Jamie McLain, Sarah Merry, Micki Skerik, Melinda Skinner, Kathy Spencer, and Kristin Vanderford. High school: Tiffanie Bialis, Amy Byroad, Kevin Duong, Lindsay Fairbanks-Tecco, Miriam Frieden, Sheldon Ham, Blake Hinson, Robin Larson, Alex Merideth, Dee Ann Perez, Amy Peterson, Rob Rathbun, Lara Savage, and Emily Yantis.