



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16
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BOARD AGENDA ITEM

ITEM NO: 1.4

BOARD MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 8, 2019

OPENING ITEM: Outstanding Achievements

SUBMITTED BY: Margie Jones, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTED BY: Mary Kamerzell, Superintendent

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

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Six Catalina Foothills High School (CFHS) seniors and one early graduate have been named 2020 National Merit Semifinalists: Danielle Croft, Nicolas Gruber, Alexander Guha, Haseeb Irfan, Mira Raju, Unai Urreiztieta, and Jeremy Wang. They are among approximately 16,000 Semifinalists and have an opportunity to continue in the competition for about 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million. About 90% of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

Arizona Ambassadors of Music

Elliott Baruch and Bennett Silvyn, CFHS seniors, traveled to seven countries (England, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy, Germany) between June 21 and July 6 as members of the Arizona Ambassadors of Music. They were recommended by their CFHS choir director, William Mattison, to take part in the experience. Elliott, a tenor, and Bennett, a bass, joined the choir of about 100 who traveled with about 200 band members - a total of seven busloads, including approximately 50 Tucsonans.

Athletics

The CFHS girls golf team placed third at the Higley Invitational on September 26. Maya Benita tied for first place with a four under par.

Tucson Values Teachers' (TVT) Teacher Excellence Award

Manzanita 5th grade teacher, Julie Michel, was recognized by TVT with its Teacher Excellence Award. Parent Carrie DeMont nominated Julie with the following tribute: "Last year was a life changing year for my daughter and it was because of her teacher, Mrs. Michel! The previous year at another school, my daughter cried every day and did not want to go to school. We moved schools to see if our daughter's confidence and view of school would change. I will forever be grateful for Mrs. Michel! Her kindness, humor, love of children, fun way of teaching to make learning fun and interesting along with the way she communicates with children is off the charts! She brought back the spark and love of learning in my child!! My daughter could not wait to go to school EVERY DAY! Mrs. Michel is truly one of a kind and teachers like her...who change lives in a real and meaningful way... need to be honored and cherished!"

Theater Program

Norm Testa, CFHS theater teacher, was featured as the September Arts Hero by OnMEDIA. OnMEDIA prints programs for all of the major theater companies and arts programs throughout the state. Norm had a 2-page spread with photo that appeared in over 40,000 programs. Here is one of the excerpts from the article about Norm: "As a technical theater teacher for 22 years, Testa says he has taught more than 5,000 students to do the things necessary for successful performances, including lighting, sound and imagery. He estimates a quarter of his former students currently are using technical theater skills in their careers."

Recommended Motion: Information Item