Student and Staff Achievements  
September 2020

AASA/Howard University Urban Superintendents Academy  
Associate Superintendent for School Development Olympia A. Della Flora was selected to participate in the 2020-2021 cohort of the AASA/Howard University Urban Superintendents Academy for the upcoming year. She also received a fellowship from Cigna, which will cover the cost for participating in the program. Olympia will have access to mentors, who are current and former urban superintendents; doctoral level coursework options at Howard University; a center for research and discussion about urban school districts; career counseling and coaching; and internships and field experiences.

2020 Yale Educator Award  
Stamford High School (SHS) Social Studies Teacher and Debate Coach Jeremy White has been named a 2020 Yale Educator Award Winner. He is among 57 teachers and 24 counselors from around the world selected to receive this year’s honor. According to the Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions, the Yale Educator Recognition Program recognizes outstanding educators from around the world who have supported and inspired their students to achieve at high levels. Students entering the Yale Class of 2024 nominated outstanding educators who have deeply impacted their lives. Mr. White was nominated for the award by SHS Graduate and former SHS Debate Team captain Aaron Ravin. He was selected by a committee in the Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions from a pool of 317 nominees representing 41 states and 19 countries.

Student Enhancement in Earth and Space Science Internship  
Academy of Information Technology and Engineering (AITE) Juniors Kevin Fleischer and Anna Lichtenberg and Stamford High School Senior Prisha Kulkarni were selected to participate in the Student Enhancement in Earth and Space Science (SEES) summer internship, hosted by The University of Texas at Austin’s Center for Space Research. This nationally competitive program, sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Texas Space Grant Consortium, selects students to conduct authentic research using NASA data. The SPS students conducted investigations as part of the COVID-19 Space Exploration for a Better World team, working with scientists and engineers on how to properly sanitize spacecraft and assess viral health risks. The team also used CAD Software and 3D printers to design a spacecraft with social distancing capabilities. Each team presented its research and solution to NASA personnel and other experts in the medical research field.
FBLA National Leadership Conference

Two Westhill High School (WHS) teams comprised six students from the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter placed in the top 10 of the FBLA Awards of Excellence Program at the FBLA National Leadership Conference. The goal of the event is to provide students with an opportunity to enhance business skills, expand networks, and participate in more than 70 business and business-related competitive events. Students from across the United States and abroad participated in the conference, which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The team of Tejas Vermani, Priscilla Tehrani and Gauron Bansal placed fifth in the Banking and Financial Systems competition, while the team of Brynn Spingola, Talia Kunin and Morgan McDonald took tenth place in the Emerging Business Issues competition.

COVID-19 Computing Challenge

Cloonan Middle School Seventh Grader Lila Gow was one of only 10 students statewide to earn recognition by Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz in the COVID-19 Computing Challenge, which was a statewide competition for students in grades three through 12. Participants were asked to propose ideas for apps, websites and/or computer programs that could help defeat the spread of COVID-19 and aid and inform Connecticut residents. A total of 372 entries were submitted. Lila’s entry, a website concept called Lockdown Escape, was among the 10 featured in a live-streamed VirtualShowcase, in June. Her winning proposal was a community-driven website that featured recommendations for age-appropriate activities including movies, crafts and recipes, as well as indoor and outdoor activities that students could safely participate in during quarantine.