



Charleston County School of
the Arts

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Media Release

SOA dominates state's 2021 Junior Duck Stamp program

Julia Boyer wins Best of Show in South Carolina and named a finalist for national honor

North Charleston, SC - For the second year in a row, a student from Charleston County School of the Arts earned Best of Show in the South Carolina Junior Duck Stamp art competition, sponsored by the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition (SEWE). Freshman Julia Boyer recently won the Best of Show honor for her entry "The King Has Arrived." Boyer's work of art advances to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [Junior Duck Stamp program](#).

Boyer received additional news last week: she is one of 15 finalists for this year's top national honor. If her work of art is selected, it will serve as the design for the Junior Duck Stamp, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service produces annually. This stamp has become a much sought-after collector's item. One hundred percent of the revenue from the sale of Junior Duck stamps supports recognition and environmental education activities for students who participate in the program.

"I worked on the piece for two months," explained Boyer. "I had hoped to do well but tried not to get my hopes up. I think it's cool to make it to the national level. I didn't think it would get that far, and I'm really excited."

Boyer said she chose the King Eider duck because it is colorful, then found an image on Instagram to use as her inspiration. She has been corresponding with the photographer of that image on social media as well.

Boyer used Prismacolor pencils to create the work of art.

This is the fourth time in the last five years a student from Charleston County School District won the state competition (Angel Magana Alvaro of SOA in [2020](#), Thomas C. Cario Middle School's Abi O'Donnell in [2018](#), and Olivia Wingo from Cario in [2017](#)).

"Julia worked on this piece consistently every day for two straight months – even after school," added SOA Fine Arts teacher Barbara Richardson. "She's a perfectionist. You can tell by looking at her piece. This is so exciting; it is the first

time in my teaching career I've had a student make it this far in this competition. I'm just over the moon!"

The following is a list of the SOA students that placed in the 2021 Junior Duck Stamp program:

BEST OF SHOW

Julia Boyer

BEST OF SHOW RUNNERS UP

First runner-up - Abigail Short

Third runner up - Angel Magana Alfaro

Fourth runner up - Nikki Wu

GROUP IV (GRADES 10-12) ARTWORK PLACE WINNERS

First place - Abigail Short and Evelyn Bueschgen

Second place - Angel Magana Alfaro, Philia Walker, and Sarah Sweeten

Third place - Kayla Herrman and Lauren Holladay

GROUP III (GRADES 7-9) ARTWORK PLACE WINNERS

First place – Julia Boyer, Nikki Wu, and Connelly Sexton

Second place – Ava Dawson and Tulah Crumer

Third place - Amalia Steblynenko, Charlotte Gibbes, and Ella Kay

For more information about the contest, contact John Powell with SEWE at jpowell@sewe.com. For more information about Boyer and the rest of the winners from SOA, contact Barbara Richardson at Barbara_Richardson@charleston.k12.sc.us.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally-accredited school district that is committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.