



Congratulations to our beloved student, Christopher O., He received both Silver and Gold Medal from the Congressional Award Program. We are so proud of you, Christopher; keep up the great work!

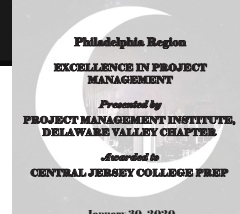
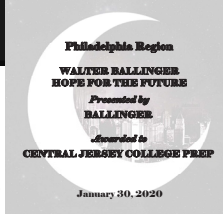
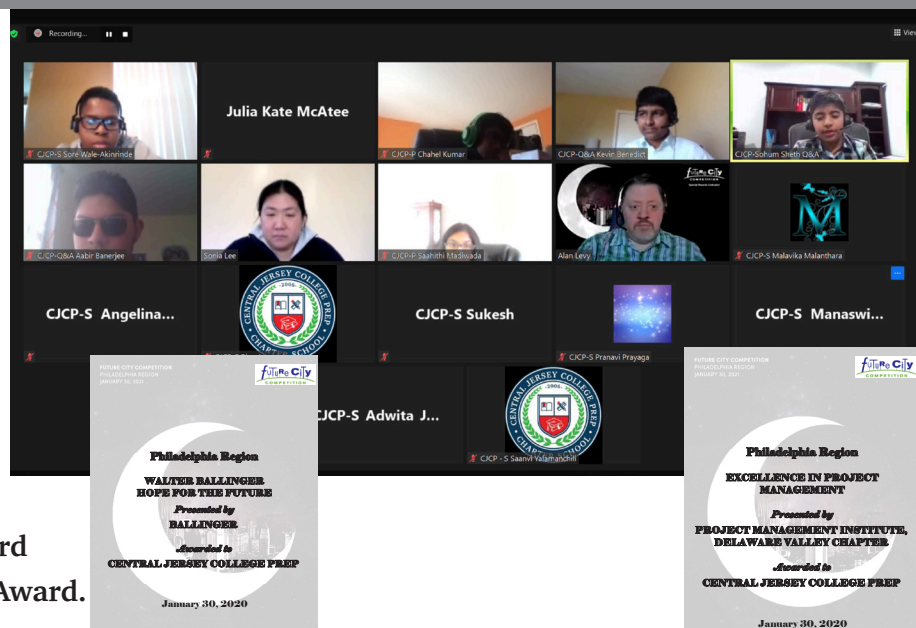
*The Congressional Award is the United States Congress' award for young Americans. It is non-partisan, voluntary, and non-competitive. The program is open to all youth regardless of ability, circumstance, or socioeconomic status. Participants earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold Certificates and Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas; Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. Earning the award is a fun and interesting way to get more involved in something you already enjoy or something you'd like to try for the first time. You move at your own pace, on your own or with your friends. This is not an award for past accomplishments. Instead, you are honored for achieving your own challenging goals. (Source: <https://www.congressionalaward.org/program/>)

FUTURE CITY COMPETITION ...

On January 30th, 2021, CJCP middle school future city team competed in the Philadelphia Regional Future City Competition against 30 other schools from the greater Philadelphia area. This year's task was to design a future lunar city and provide examples of how our city uses moon resources to keep citizens safe and healthy.

We are happy to share with you that our team won two very distinctive awards:

The Walter Ballinger Hope for the Future Award
PMI-DVC- Excellence in Project Management Award.



SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS ...

ANJANA JOTHI (Grade 12) will be honored at this year's Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Ceremony for her photography. Special thanks to our beloved teacher, Ms. Bennett, for encouraging her students to participate in such contests and competitions! We have had a few students earn this honor in the past. This year is the first time our student, Anjana, receives **four awards** in this ultra-competitive contest.

Here are her award letter and her four winning snapshots.

Congratulations Anjana!



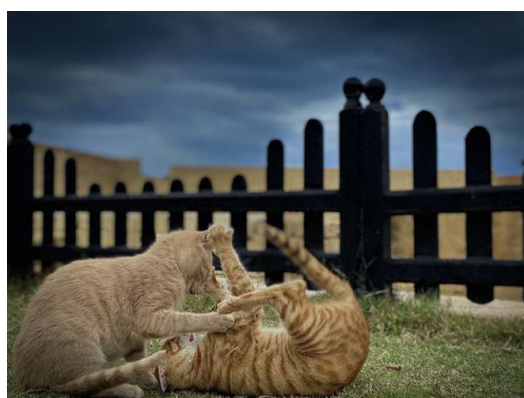
January 29, 2021

Anjana Jothi
 Somerset, NJ 08873

Dear Anjana,

Congratulations! You have received recognition in the 2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, & Music Campus, for the following work(s):

Work Title	Awards (Category)	Educator Info
Nine Lives	Gold Key (Photography)	Telia Bennett
The Blood Red Eclipse	Silver Key (Photography)	Telia Bennett
Tuscan Sun	Honorable Mention (Photography)	Telia Bennett
Isolated	Honorable Mention (Photography)	Telia Bennett





On Monday, March 1, at the NJSHS (New Jersey Junior Science and Humanities Symposium) at Rutgers University, Dhiren Patel (12th grade) defended his academic work during questioning from a panel of professionals after presenting to the entire conference. Ultimately, he received the two awards below. **Congratulations to Dhiren and his advisor Dr. Matthews!** We are so proud of you.

Grit and SAT scores in high school students

Dhiren Patel, Dr. Christian Matthews
Central Jersey College Prep Charter School

Introduction

- Past research has found significant correlation between grit, a measure of perseverance, and academic success (GPA).^{2,3}
- This correlation is mediated by study times, suggesting that grittier students study longer and thus receive higher scores.²
- No correlation has been found between grit and SAT scores, a commonly used measure of academic success in the US.^{2,3}
- However, these studies have compared grit measurements from individual's undergraduate years to high school SAT scores.
- Problematic as grit changes with age.²

Hypothesis

- In a high school sample grit will positively correlate to SAT scores.
- This correlation will be mediated by study times.

To what extent is grit associated with SAT scores?

Methods

- Sample (N = 28): participants between 16 and 18 years in age in 11th and 12th grades.
- Online surveys collecting descriptive data points, the 12-item grit scale⁷, and SAT data points including self-reported score and time spent studying.

Results

Grit as a Predictor of Total SAT Score

Study Times as Mediator of Grit and SAT

Discussion

- Results must be verified in larger and more diverse samples.
- There may be an association between grit and SAT scores in high school students contrary to what is currently accepted in the literature.
- No found causal relationship between grit and SAT scores; lack of mediation.
- Future studies should
 - Employ a longitudinal study design that explores changes in SAT scores.
 - Examine changes that occur in SAT Math vs Reading/Writing sub scores.

References

¹Brown, R. M., & Kenny, D. A. (1980). The mediator-variables problem: Inference and search for alternative models. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 34(16), 1173-1182. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.34.16.1173>

²Duckworth, A., Peterson, C., Matthews, M. D., & Kelly, D. R. (2007). Grit: Perseverance and passion for long-term goals. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 92(1), 1087-1101. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.92.1.1087>

³Jager, B., Freeman, S., Whalen, R. & Payne, R. (2010). Success of students: Smart or tough? ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition, Conference Proceedings, 1-21. <https://www.asee.org/2010>

Acknowledgments: This work was made possible due to the advisory of Dr. Christian Matthews of Central Jersey College Prep CS and Dr. Adam Lelaw of Rutgers University.

Awards:

1st In Academic Poster Category: Medicine, Health, and Behavioral Sciences
Top 10 Overall Poster Finalist (cross-category)

THE HARVARD-BROWN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD INVITATIONAL

DIVISION C MINISO

JANUARY 30TH 2021

DIVISION B MINISO

JANUARY 31ST 2021

On January 31, 2021, our middle schoolers from the Somerset and NB campuses competed in the Harvard-Brown Science Olympiad Competition against 86 other schools from the nation. This year the topics included: the nature of genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, and mechanical engineering and technology.

We are happy to announce that the team will be moving on to the Regional Science Olympiad Competition set in April.

Congratulations to Divyank Bajaj (5th grade)! He is the second-place winner at Behind the Mask Contest 2021, organized by Healthier Somerset*.

*Healthier Somerset will continue to offer competitions with fun and exciting themes. Please be on the lookout for upcoming contests and check out winning submissions by visiting Healthier Somerset (<https://www.healthiersomerset.org/>) and Building Bridges to Better Health (<https://www.buildingbridgestobetterhealth.org/>).



Principal's List & Honor Roll



Congratulations to our students who made it to the Principal's List and Honor Roll this semester. We had a virtual event to recognize their accomplishments.

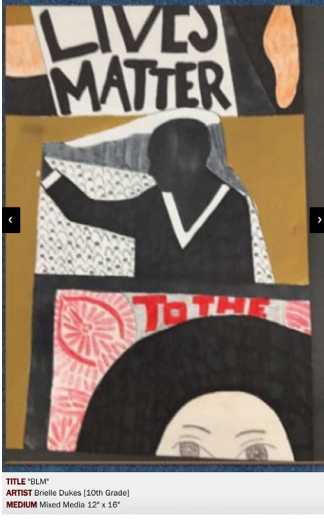
Certificates will come in the mail for MP1 and MP2. There will be another Honor Roll/Principal's list ceremony at the end of the year for semester 2!



TITLE "In the Rear-View Mirror"
ARTIST Christdia Mensah (10th Grade)
MEDIUM Mixed Media 9" X 12"



TITLE "Diverse Friendships"
ARTIST Katherina Wang
MEDIUM watercolor



TITLE "BLM"
ARTIST Brielle Dukas (10th Grade)
MEDIUM Mixed Media 12" x 18"



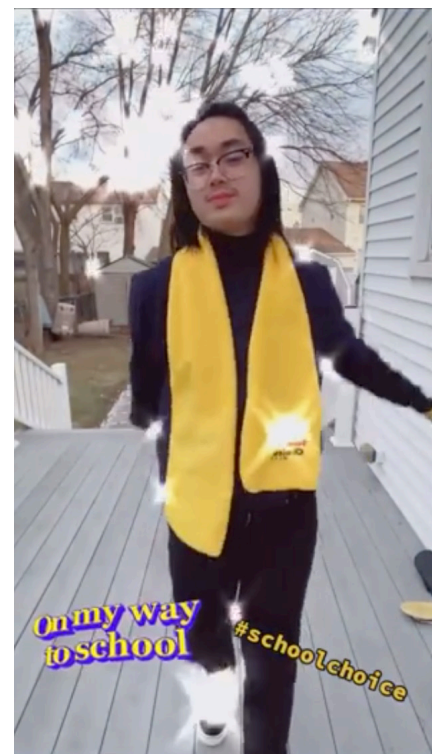
TITLE "Hair"
ARTIST Leilah Bampoe-Parry
MEDIUM Mixed Media

Congratulations

We have great news! Our beloved Art Teacher, Ms. Gibbs, helped some of her students participate in an Art Show for Social Justice, and they made it into the show! Congratulations Leilah Bampoe- Parry, Brielle Dukas, Katherina Wang, Christdia Mensah!!! We are proud of you and happy to see your talents being recognized and showcased in places like [Windows of Understanding](#). Keep up your creativity!

Sidney Johnson did this fantastic work for the CEP Art Class. Specifically, students made artworks based on any social or political issue that interested them. Sidney, a beloved senior at CJCP, chose the image of three prominent African American leaders who addressed issues of racial injustice, civil rights, and systemic racism and fought for a more just world. The image of their hands holding the earth and gesturing towards the viewer is a symbol that we need to take up their fight. Sidney used colored pencils and a white marker to complete her dynamic and engaging artwork. Sidney, you are an artist!

#BlackHistoryMonth



We celebrated #SchoolChoiceWeek #NSCW2021 on the last week of January. Enjoy watching our beloved student [Karl's NSCW2021 Dance!](#)

