



# NEWS RELEASE

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## 32 students earn distinguished or exceptional honors in 6<sup>th</sup> Annual BCPS Composition Project

Students composed music related to the theme “Ignite a Spark”

Towson, MD – Baltimore County Public Schools students from elementary to high school created an array of imaginative, accomplished, and stirring pieces of music and entered them into the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual BCPS Composition Project.

The BCPS Office of Performing Arts recently announced that entries submitted by 32 students in the competition earned Distinguished Honors and Exceptional Honors, while another 27 students earned Honorable Mentions for their compositions. Another five students from Ridge Ruxton School (a school for children who have significant disabilities) also were honored for their musical compositions.

The theme of the 2023 Composition Project was “Ignite a Spark.”

“We congratulate all those students who harnessed their inspiration, creativity, talent, and imagination to create wonderful original work this year,” said Dr. Shane Jensen, BCPS music specialist. “Working with their music teachers, each student who submitted work should be proud of their efforts, and we hope they will keep composing and sharing their musical talents. Thank you to all students who submitted their work, and to all our dedicated music teachers for their guidance and hard work.”

The following students received honors in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual BCPS Composition Project:

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### Distinguished

- Nolan Garrett, Pinewood Elementary, [“Can’t Give Up”](#)
- Theodore Tackett, Pinewood Elementary, [“The Hopeful Flame”](#)
- Joshua Zhang, Pinewood Elementary, [“Joshua’s #3 Symphony”](#)

#### Exceptional

- Reese Bossle, Pinewood Elementary, [“Build Your Future”](#)
- Jackson Cerato, Pinewood Elementary, [“Ignite The Spark Inside You”](#)
- Chelsea Cheng, Pinewood Elementary, [“Reach for the Impossible”](#)
- Hailey Dubovsky, Cromwell Valley, [“Always”](#)
- Adley Dyes, Pinewood Elementary, [“Find that Spark”](#)

- Novalee Kleeman, Pinewood Elementary, [“Climbing High”](#)
- Olivia Oh, Pinewood Elementary, [“Rise To The Top”](#)
- Arleen Sandhu, Pinewood Elementary, [“Get that Spark up”](#)

#### **Honorable Mentions**

- Paxton Bafford, Pinewood Elementary, [“Never Give Up When Times Are Tough”](#)
- Aliza Neulander, Pinewood Elementary, [“Burn That Spark”](#)
- Cormac Kenney, Cromwell Valley Elementary, [“Wolverine”](#)
- Aimee Jiang, Pinewood Elementary, [“Always Keep Trying”](#)
- Olivia Tripone, Nathan Walck, Liam Cassie, and Haya Ghandoura, Cromwell Valley Elementary, [“In the Summer”](#)
- Delealah Dinkins, Colgate Elementary, [“Rainbows”](#)

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

#### **Distinguished**

- Marcus DiSalvo, Pikesville Middle, [“Il Vuoto del Fuoco”](#)
- Aiden Poteete, Windsor Mill Middle, [“Il Vento Doro Reimagined”](#)
- Nathan Story, Catonsville Middle, [“Ready for Battle”](#)

#### **Exceptional**

- Nehemiah Mitchell, Windsor Mill Middle, [“Forest Fright Fight”](#)
- Audrey O’Donoghue, Dumbarton Middle, [“Dream”](#)
- Luke Stine, Dumbarton Middle, [“Futuristic Hero”](#)
- Tripp Witkowski, Hereford Middle, [“Sidewalks”](#)

#### **Honorable Mentions**

- Tanvir Arora, Arbutus Middle, [“Ratatatata”](#)
- Madelyn Boccelli, Arbutus Middle, [“Summer Life”](#)
- Logan Chaney, Arbutus Middle, [“Up On the Run”](#)
- Akeem Geathers and Ismail Abdi, Dumbarton Middle, [“Chill Ride”](#)
- Gianni Lombardini, Hereford Middle, [“Rainy Day”](#)
- Sam Racicot, Dumbarton Middle, [“Get Away Car”](#)
- Jake Rosenzweig, Dumbarton Middle, [“HeartBeat”](#)
- Hannah Snider, Dumbarton Middle, [“Vibes”](#)
- Anthony Williams, Perry Hall Middle, [“Chill Track”](#)

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **Distinguished**

- Sol Fitzgerald, Towson High, [“Rainy Day By Your Side”](#)
- O’Neal Johnson, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology, [“Acrimonious”](#)
- Shawn Marshall, Woodlawn High, [“Legend of the Scarlet Legion”](#)
- Maze Pelham, Carver Center, [“The Defusal”](#)
- Ryan Moran, Perry Hall High, [“A Pivotal Moment”](#)
- Shawn Marshall, Woodlawn High, [“Scarlet Strings”](#)

#### **Exceptional**

- Justin Zapanta, Dulaney High, [“Sparking the Fire Within”](#)
- Amir Brown, Towson High, [“Going Away”](#)
- Alexandra Kostakis, Carver Center, [“Still Mine”](#)
- Khang Le, Towson High, [“If”](#)

- Sea Ragaza, Towson High, [“Soda”](#)
- Vicky Yan, Dulaney High, [“Unattainable”](#)
- Owen Hodes, Towson High, [“Who’s Calling”](#)
- Reuben Danyali, Carver Center, [“To Build a Fire”](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

- Noah Mills, Carver Center, [“Unwanted Memories \(I Don’t Care\)”](#)
- Jackson Weber, Towson High, [“Cold Reality”](#)
- Keats McLaney, Towson High, [“kindling”](#)
- Darbey Gover, Towson High, [“Beat of Flutes”](#)
- Noel Morris-Melnick, Towson High, [“Love Life”](#)
- Aiden Conway, Towson High, [“Rising Phoenix”](#)
- Riley Sigler, Carver Center, [“Rye”](#)
- Elliott Lanham, Towson High, [“Lanham’s Symphony No. 1”](#)
- Ryan Jones, Hereford High, [“ignite \(feat. Kaa Yuki\)”](#)
- Eleanor Lechtzin, Towson High, [“Nightmare”](#)
- Lucy Lunday, Carver Center, [“Appalachian Winds”](#)
- Dylan St. Pierre, Carver Center, [“Her Favorite Songs”](#)

#### **RIDGE RUXTON SCHOOL**

- Britney Okechukwu, [“DJ K”](#)
- Kani Taylor, [“Cars”](#)
- Michael Briscoe, [“Birthday Party”](#)
- Kayden Stowell, [“Michael Jackson”](#)
- Calista Mewshaw, [“Red”](#)

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation’s 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).