



**Charleston County School of
the Arts**

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Media Release

Alliance for Young Artists & Writers Honors SOA Scholar

North Charleston, SC – Malachi Jones is on his way to Carnegie Hall - not to perform though. Instead, the senior at Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA) will visit the historic performing arts center to be honored for his talent and ability in writing. The nonprofit Alliance for Young Artists & Writers awarded him with a Gold Medal Portfolio as part of the 2018 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards; he is one of 16 high school seniors in the nation to earn this top honor this year (and one of two from South Carolina).

"I remember a loud silence when I received the phone call," Jones said. "I felt like a siren was going off inside my head, but I was speechless. I had been submitting work to Scholastic since 7th grade, so it is insane to me to think an audience outside my family and peers want to read and appreciate my work."

Jones received the Gold Medal Portfolio for his writing and will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. According to the Alliance, a record-breaking 346,000 works of art and writing were submitted at the regional level for this year's competition; the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are divided into 29 categories, including poetry, photography, and video game design.

Jones said he submitted a portfolio titled *Forget Us Not*, which is a collection of poetry and non-fiction literary essays about racial identity in modern America. He added that he used experiences from his own life as launching points for his work, which will be displayed in the Art.Write.Now.2018 National Exhibition in early June. He is also invited to participate in a week-long national celebration in New York City, which includes an awards ceremony at Carnegie Hall on June 7, 2018.

"I am really anticipating the guest speakers," Jones added. "Of course, having my work displayed there will be serious affirmation of my work. It is amazing to think my ability to write has led to being recognized in this way, and that my work will be seen by so many people."

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the longest-running recognition program for creative teenagers in grades 7-12 in the country; it started in 1923.

""We are thrilled to celebrate this honor with Malachi and proud to have Charleston County School of the Arts represented among the Gold Medal Portfolio Winners!" exclaimed Dr. Shannon Cook, Principal at SOA.

For more about Jones' accomplishment, contact Principal Cook at (843) 529-4990. To learn more about this honor, and to find a complete list of the 2018 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards national recipients, visit: www.artandwriting.org.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.