



# Public Schools of Plainfield New Jersey

## Office of Community Engagement

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### PAAAS THEATRE ARTS STUDENTS WINNERS IN SEVERAL CATEGORIES AT THE SPEECH & THEATRE ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY'S GOVERNOR'S AWARDS COMPETITION (STANJ)

**Plainfield, NJ - January 17, 2019** – Students from Plainfield's Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies (PAAAS) were winners in four categories at the STANJ's competition held January 12 at Montclair University. Sixteen PAAAS students, 12 enrolled in Theater Studio, and four enrolled in Vocal Music, competed in several categories that included Shakespeare, Drama, and Musical Theatre.

Danielle McGowan won first place in Shakespeare with her performance in both Shakespearean sonnet and soliloquy. Jamal Guye won 2nd place in Dramatic Monologues, Brianna Richards won 4th place in Dramatic Monologues and Jadriel Beniquez, Dana Damacela, Elijah Dore, Jamal Guye, Juliana Herrera, Charlene Hills, Brandon Johnson, Danielle McGowan, and Laura Sanabria won 6th place in the Best Scene category.

Most of the competition categories featured both preliminary and final rounds. For example, in Dramatic Monologues, Jamal and Brianna clinched finalist spots after placing in the top two in their preliminary round rooms. Then in the final round, featuring 12 young actors, Jamal placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Brianna placed 4<sup>th</sup>. For the Shakespearean category, there was only one round and Danielle placed first over 30 other students. For the large scene category, PAAAS placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 20 scenes. Lastly, Kiiyah Gorham was a finalist for Musical Solo category.

"We would like to congratulate all of young artists for the hard work they put into the competition. Their hard work yielded some noteworthy results," said Othell J. Miller, PAAAS Theater Instructor.

The students will perform next in PAAAS's Black History Month program on Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m., as well as PAAAS's Vocal Music Concert in May, and the annual theater production in June.

For more information, please call 908-731-4333 or email [gmontealegre@plainfield.k12.nj.us](mailto:gmontealegre@plainfield.k12.nj.us)