



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

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**SEMIFINALISTS IN THE 2027
NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
September 9, 2026 Announcement**

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Note to editors: Semifinalists in your state are listed alphabetically by city and high school following this press release.

This material is prepared solely for news media to announce the names of Semifinalists; its use for any other purpose is prohibited.

Caution: Using numbers of Semifinalists to compare high schools, educational systems, or states will result in erroneous conclusions. The National Merit® Scholarship Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The program does not measure the quality or effectiveness of education within a school, system, or state. For more information about the competition, please visit www.nationalmerit.org.

Semifinalists in the 2027 National Merit® Scholarship Program

(Evanston, Illinois) Today officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) announced the names of more than 16,000 Semifinalists in the 72nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for about 6,700 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$24 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by about 260 business organizations, higher education institutions, and individual donors that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Steps in the 2027 Competition

Over 1.2 million juniors in about 20,000 high schools entered the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2025 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT® or ACT® scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

National Merit Scholarships

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2027. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 700 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 120 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 140 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 3,500 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2027 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join over 395,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

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Semifinalists: 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program

ARIZONA

AVONDALE

AGUA FRIA H. S.
Borges, Grant

ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC H. S.
Agredasalas, Gabriel

CASA GRANDE

CASA GRANDE UNION H. S.
Bly, Caleb

CAVE CREEK

CACTUS SHADOWS H. S.
Vomero, Ella

CHANDLER

ARIZONA COLLEGE
PREPARATORY H. S.
Ahlawat, Aarian
Bai, Suri
Balaji, Sanjay
Bryant, Gabriella
Changela, Jeel
Chen, Boyan
Dheman, Shyla
Dhingra, Sanchit
Dhingra, Vedant
Feng, Surie
Hoque, Raakin
Jain, Navya
Janarthanam, Rion
Laird, Ryo
Lin, Laura
Malody, Evan
Murugesan, Udyat
Nasr, Isabel
Prasad, Mihira
Rajkumar Leelavathi, Vedaav
Raman, Dyuthi
Rivera, Matthew
Shetty, Siddhant
Singh, Joshika
Sripathi, Saumit
Teegapuram, Sai Anirudh
Thirukumaran, Anish
Tummala, Neha
Venuturumilli, Ved
Zhang, Kevin
Zhu, Jiahua

BASHA H. S.

Beall, Jocelyn
Feibusch, Carson
Hashempoor, Faraz
Joshi, Soham
Kondapuram, Aadhya
Orsini, Maximilian Z.
Thompson, Carter

BASIS SCHOOL

Agarwal, Pranshu
Annapureddy, Praneeth Reddy
Bhave, Nihar
Chandramouleeswaran, Abhiram
Cheng, Enoch
Chirala, Sravya
Colby, Susan
Dai, Alexander
Dharanidharan, Sanvi
Diaz, Kai
Han, Zhengyu
Jain, Varyan
Ko, Xavier
Konanki, Sindhu
Kumar, Suunnati
Lalith, Madesh
Lee, Joshua
Li, Haochen
Lu, Albert
Moghe, Suswara
Nguyen, Phoebe
Patel, Vivan
Patil, Neil
Peram, Aadhrith
Qin, Jason

Reddy, Aaroosh
Sahani, Mihir
Shah, Aayush
Shah, Adit
Shah, Diya
Shroff, Iraj
Soman, Arnav
Sribhaskar, Tarun
Sridhar, Poorva
Tai-Thomas, Cameron
Yelamanchili, Prisha
Young, Rylan

CHANDLER H. S.
Hogarth, Kyra
Valdez, Lucas

CHANDLER PREPARATORY
ACADEMY
Bessett, Alexander
Ha, Yubin

HAMILTON H. S.
Ahmed, Ibraheem D.
Chakrabarty, Arijit
Charan, Sreekar
Chen, Angela T.
Daga, Aadya
Gu, Zhenrui
Gupta, Anushka
Hing, Jacob
Huang, Elaine
Huang, Lorelei J.
Iyer, Tanishq
Jiang, Isaac
Jiang, Mark X.
Karthik, Lekha
Kothari, Anuj
Kummet, Anthony
Lakkaraju, Ananya
Li, Grace T.
Liu, Meredith
Liu, Tony Y.
Ma, Tristan
Mali, Meghana
Mamillapalli, Sriya
Molten, Chloe K.
Mondal, Aratrika
Muccala, Sahasra
Mukhopadhyay, Maya
Nair, Tara M.
Shin, Seojoo
Sistla, Saranya N.
Vohra, Mehak
Wadhwani, Sia
Wang, Charles
Xu, Jayden C.
Ye, Kelvin
Zhan, Claire
Zhang, Audrey
Zhang, Carol J.
Zhang, Daniel
Zheng, Anzu

SETON CATHOLIC
PREPARATORY H. S.
Vaughan, Olivia C.

CONCHO

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL
Kizer, Emerson

COTTONWOOD

MINGUS UNION H. S.
Gummo-Wagner, Emily A.

FLAGSTAFF

BASIS SCHOOL
Barrow, Alexei
Gao, Chi Yui Jerry
Migliati, Juliana
Takeuchi, Nolan
Tan, Teo

GILBERT

CAMPO VERDE H. S.
Grobe, Rowan I.

GILBERT CHRISTIAN H. S.
Nguyen, Daniel R.

GILBERT CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Bajaj, Freya
Chen, Javen
Garland, Nevin S.
Hutchins, Zadok U.
Leach, Nathaniel H.
Lu, Yichen E.
Sharma, Mayank K.
Sinoc, Juan Franco B.

GILBERT H. S.
Carroll, Timothy D.
Holman, Desmond P.

HIGHLAND H. S.
Davis, Anthony
Hoque, Ruzbo
Johnston, Makenna
Longtin, Kai C.

HIGLEY H. S.
Sweeney, Ahren B.

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL
Hatchell, Hannah

PERRY H. S.
Gullapalli, Kavi
Musa, James
Sackett, Preston

GLENDALE

DEER VALLEY H. S.
McKillip, Connor

GARY K. HERBERGER YOUNG
SCHOLARS ACADEMY
Brooks, Megan A.
Creath, Trillian M.
Damalaceruvu, Krishnaa
Friedman, Ethan B.
Lawson, Aidan J.

IRONWOOD H. S.
Tran, Benjamin

MOUNTAIN RIDGE H. S.
Dhanabalan, Sachin
Geetla, Aashrith Reddy
Johnson, Tristan W.
Karmase, Eshan A.

GLOBE

GLOBE H. S.
Choi, Sallie

GOODYEAR

BASIS SCHOOL
Encina, Nicholas A.
Mor, Cole O.

MILLENNIUM H. S.
Kochar, Maya

LAKE HAVASU CITY

LAKE HAVASU H. S.
Brown, Andre

MARICOPA

DESERT SUNRISE H. S.
McKillip, Mason C.

MESA

ASU PREPARATORY ACADEMY
POLYTECHNIC H. S.
Taylortaft, Nathan H.

BASIS SCHOOL
Huish, Jackson
Lee, Isaac

DOBSON H. S.
Foust, Banyan
Schwartzberg, James

EASTMARK H. S.
Cole, Austin

MESA H. S.
Bjork, Isaak S.

MOUNTAIN VIEW H. S.
Henion, Violet I.
Jebaraj, Nia M.

Rogers, Marcus J.
Torrance, Connor J.

RED MOUNTAIN H. S.

Bishop, Sterling C.
Pitney, Jack F.
Trendler, Paul M.

WESTWOOD H. S.
Olmedo, Jessica A.
Von Burg, Kendall M.

ORO VALLEY

BASIS SCHOOL
Gorle, Mandeep
Lee, Trent
Nassauer, Benjamin
Shirai-Vescio, Luki
Sullivan, Sean

PARADISE VALLEY

PHOENIX COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
Aggarwal, Sahil
Ashby, Henry T.
Desai, Devin
Geyser, Jackson E.
Huckelbridge, Caden J.
Levine-Bosch, Sofia
Schadlu, Shirin
Wheeler, Ross L.

PEORIA

BASIS SCHOOL
Ateshim, Datan M.
Chhabra, Sasha
Cho, Laura
Dooddagowdru, Nihal P.
Erra, Hasitha
Ikram, Adyan S.
Jain, Arv
Jeyasekaran, Varshitha
Kotta, Anish
Kramer, Sophia
Muthukumar, Sanjay
Nadella, Tanvi
Pruthi, Anay
Ram, Sudharshini
Shakelli, Vaishnavi
Simha, Arnab A.

GLENDALE PREPARATORY
ACADEMY
Patel, Krish K.

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL
Chen, Emily P.

SUNRISE MOUNTAIN H. S.
Brooks, Norah
Taylor, Evan D.

PHOENIX

ARCADIA H. S.
McClure, Zoe C.

ARIZONA LUTHERAN ACADEMY
Gruman, Noah
Szogyenyi, Zoltan

BASIS SCHOOL
Deshmukh, Ishita A.
Deshpande, Sanika A.
Hubbard, Grace I.
Jain, Saloni
Khanna, Aarav
Kulshreshtha, Tanisha
Kulshreshtha, Tanvi
Kundu, Adwita
Mulchandani, Kiran N.
Paikray, Roshni
Pekkonen, Kai M.
Sreekumar, Aanya
Sunil, Maya

BASIS SCHOOL AHWATUKEE

Advani, Rohan
Alam, Nabeeha
Chandramouli, Girish
Gao, Alexander
Kazi, Raib
Koukuntla, Abhish
Lee, Janelle
Manelli, Lucia
Phu, Han
Redell, Madison
Sotelo Alcaraz, Santiago
Su, Claire

Semifinalists: 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program

Arizona (continued)

	Harper, Aspen Menez, Maximilian	Peters, Milo D. Wu, Nathan
Tae, Hajun Waheed, Shamel	SCOTTSDALE BASIS SCHOOL Adli, Mete Daniel, Aydin Kim, Ethan Koduri, Mihir Mason, Estella Narsingam, Shriyans Niu, Haley Periakaruppan, Avon Puchakayala, Emmanuel Seth, Yash Shankar, Adith Singh, Jasleen Sung, Isabel Warrier, Rohith	THE GREGORY SCHOOL Tuli, Arav
BIOSCIENCE H. S. Mendez Hernandez, Natalie Sesmas, Ivan	CHAPARRAL H. S. Bednarik, Kailyn R. Parsons, William I. Shankar, Aaryan Swenson, Chase T.	IRONWOOD RIDGE H. S. Custer, Finley J. Vonk, Benjamin D.
BROPHY COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL Atodaria, Nevin Capampangan, Jake Chamoff, Wyatt Dunn, Patrick Fissore, Marco Grover, Cyrus Han, Ethan Lorans, Aled Mladenov, Nikola Nierva, Michael Papez, Henry Silvernail, Henry Sonawane, Yug Thosani, Ishan Wang, Vincent Yi, Jackson	CICERO PREPARATORY ACADEMY Ko, Jake	TUCSON HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL Bolding, Chelsea M.
DESERT VISTA H. S. Kim, Mingyu Yi, Noah Yu, Alexander	DESERT MOUNTAIN H. S. Aavula, Vithesh Anderson, Joseph E. Day, Ella R. Gupta, Siddhanth V. Hamsanipally, Siddharth R. Hingorani, Arnab G. Kurli, Arhanth Martone-Zoll, Sophia C. Nair, Atul S. Pannozzo, Gianna R. Raghavan, Anoushka A. Sahai, Aashni Wang, Eric M.	UNIVERSITY H. S. Allen, Thomas B. Cai, Jeffrey Finch, Abigail Friesen, Colin W. Garcia Jimenez, Sebastian Ho, Martin W. Liang, Ethan Y. Mason, Avery C. Rajagopal Ridgway, Leela M. Simonson, Pre C. Tiwari, Roma Wang, Quinten Weeks, Julian R. Xin, Emily J. Yu, Jonathan A. Yu, Yedong Zhang, Jerrick
BARRY GOLDWATER H. S. Johnson, Bradford	NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY H. S. Byrne, Casey T. Taris, Chase A. Taris, Emmitt J.	VERITAS ACADEMY Tucker, Bryson
HORIZON HONORS H. S. Beetso, Kimimila	RANCHO SOLANO PREPARATORY SCHOOL Mayo, Veer	
MADISON HIGHLAND PREP Devous, Christopher	SAGUARO H. S. Krishnan, Shashank R.	
MARICOPA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Dirkes, Alexander	SCOTTSDALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY Kumara, Nila	
SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR H. S. McCue, Charles	SURPRISE HIGHLAND PREP Low, Emily	
PARADISE VALLEY H. S. Antila, Ashton Chang, Lauren Chedalla, Anish Damera, Shreyas Ganapathy, Aishwarya Kang, Benjamin Masta, Sarvi Mendoza, Scarlett E. Mengesha, Melak Hail Patel, Kai Puttamraju, Nikhil Ranjan, Adhyyan Roy, Roshan	PARADISE HONORS H. S. Donick, Mary E.	
PINNACLE H. S. Pandya, Aneri Rimkus, Ethan	TEMPE CORONA DEL SOL H. S. Brennan, Patrick Brower, Nathan Bush, Ilina Chiu, Erin Ennis, Samantha French, Dylan Jue, Naomi Nguyen, Landon Rogan, Sean K. Stozkovs, Yana Wang, Madeleine	
SHADOW MOUNTAIN H. S. Kass, Celia Vincent, Alexandria	TEMPE PREPARATORY ACADEMY Brown, Renae Cui, Esther	
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC H. S. Jenney, Abigail	TUCSON BASIS SCHOOL Krunz, Zayd Wang, Albert	
SUNNYSLOPE H. S. Burroughs, Gabriel Garrow, Kaytlin Sutton, Ryan	CANYON DEL ORO H. S. Hyatt, Caleb B. Korchagin, Victoria Kotov, Alexei G.	
THUNDERBIRD H. S. LeSturgeon, Peter	CATALINA FOOTHILLS H. S. Gooden, Colin E.	
PRESCOTT BASIS SCHOOL Boothe, Elise B. Larson, Lucy J.		
PRESCOTT H. S. Mizell, Oskar Stanik, Benjamin		
QUEEN CREEK CASTEEL H. S. Bart, Elia		