



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

LOUISIANA

AVONDALE

PATRICK F. TAYLOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY
Debaroncelli, Matthew
Hoang, Jaden
Kuhn, Frank
Miller, Noel
Nguyen, Collin
Nguyen, Marissa
Teagle, Tristan
Tran, Trinh

BATON ROUGE

BATON ROUGE MAGNET H. S.
Baumgartner, Corinne R.
Boldor, Larissa N.
Chen, Bobby S.
Corbin, Nora
Cristina, John M.
Dziuba, Lane P.
Elseifi, Kareem
Emmert, Tristan
Gala, Rishabh R.
Gawronski, James M.
Gunarslan, Meryem
Kantrow, Margaret W.
Kim, Daniel S.
Kocen, Gavin D.
Kuo, Jareth S.
Lebourgeois, Nicole C.
Love, Katherine A.
Mallipudi, Chandra S.
Nguyen, Christopher K.
Perret, Cadence
Qi, Abigail
Schoegl, Leo
Shen, Ryan
Shenoy, Trisha
Singh, Aadi
Smith, Jacob
Tate, Daniel C.
Xu, Elizabeth
Zhu, Breanna Y.

CATHOLIC H. S.
Alley, Thomas
Bugea, Charles
Esteve, Michael
Ford, Brayden
Jeansonne, Charles
Landry Jr, Adrian
Norman, Parker
Schroeder, Jacob
Talbert, Bruce

CENTRAL H. S.
Huber, Savannah

EPISCOPAL H. S.
Chigurupati, Rik
Ebey, Ainsley
Felton, Tyler
McConnell, John
McLean, Nate
Richard, Andrew
Sanders, Evan

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
LABORATORY SCHOOL
Bailey, Margaret

ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY
Bozeman, Sadie

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
DIOCESAN REGIONAL H. S.
Calhoun, John
Dang, Henry-Hiep
Windham, Quinn

UNIVERSITY VIEW ACADEMY
Chaney-Martinez, Anya
Vertigan, Anyalina

BELLE CHASSE

BELLE CHASSE H. S.
Jones, Divinity C.

BENTON

BENTON H. S.
Causey, Nathan

BOSSIER CITY

AIRLINE H. S.
Islas-Ruiz, Ana I.

BROUSSARD

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
OF ACADIANA
Arsement, Christopher
Bergeron, Andon
Schwarz, Grace

CHALMETTE

CHALMETTE H. S.
Jamhour, Jenna R.

COVINGTON

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL
Bergeron, Jake
Gernon, Colton
Guilbault, Evan
Hoover, Davyn
Hyman, Cullen
Perdigao, Isaac
Rea, Damian
Wildt, Regan
Wyle, Zack

ST. SCHOLASTICA ACADEMY
Baier, Stella H.

CROWLEY

NOTRE DAME H. S.
Hunt, Charles A.

DOWNSVILLE

DOWNSVILLE COMMUNITY
CHARTER SCHOOL
Harper, Riley

GEISMAR

DUTCHTOWN H. S.
Mahgoub, Omar

GRETN

THOMAS JEFFERSON H. S.
Tran, Kevin

HAMMOND

HAMMOND HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL
Gordon, Josiah

HOUMA

VANDEBILT CATHOLIC H. S.
Magee, Julia

LAFAYETTE

JOHN PAUL THE GREAT ACADEMY
Heimbold, Joseph P.

LAFAYETTE H. S.
Cooper, Wyatt
Kulkarni, Radha-Vira
Lai, Molly
Richert, Benjamin

TEURLINGS CATHOLIC H. S.

Blanchard, Ava
Yongue, John

LAKE CHARLES

ALFRED M. BARBE H. S.
Chen, Li-Mei

SAM HOUSTON H. S.
Barker, Robley E.

MANDEVILLE

FONTAINEBLEAU H. S.
Marsalone, Giancarlo

Meaux, Logan
Pebley, Emma

MANDEVILLE H. S.
Chen, Irene
Jackson, Ava
Sanders, Grant
Trumbach, Benjamin

METAIRIE

HAYNES ACADEMY FOR
ADVANCED STUDIES
Bourgeois, Sophie
Chakravarty, Ujesh
He, Keren
Heim, Sadie
Lehmann, Riley
Lemmer, Michael
Lieu, Thomas
Lobo, Obed
Mehta, Adishree
Qiu, Haiyin
Qiu, Jennifer
Smyk, Leonid
Swami, Lakshmi Priya
White, Caleb
Williams, Bailey
Zou, Jasmine

METAIRIE PARK COUNTRY
DAY SCHOOL
Jurkovic, Iskra

ARCHBISHOP RUMMEL H. S.
Treme', William T.

ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
Lambert, Grayson

MONROE

STERLINGTON H. S.
Vaessler, Franz Josef M.

NATCHITOCHE

LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR MATH,
SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS
Key, Alison
Meyers, Ian
Nagem, Traylor
Naylor, Luke

NEW ORLEANS

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART
Lara, Arabella
Lavigne, Nora

DE LA SALLE H. S.
Miller, Benjamin P.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN H. S.

Albano, Caroline J.
Casemore, Ruby J.
Eckstein, Gracie R.
Eddins, Meredith K.
Evans, John Garret H.
Gonzalez, Tomas A.
Hoang, Andy
Huang, Yizhou M.
Ngo, Joshua V.
Nguyen, Marianne Y.
Nguyen, Megan N.
Peng, Brianna
Powell, Micaiah J.
Romero Silva, Gael
Smith, Sophia M.
Stoecker, Arthur F.
Swift, Harrison M.
Trinh, Khiem T.
Velez, Alice T.

JESUIT H. S.
Alonso, Tristan
Berniard, Stephen
Bollman, Colton
Britsch, William
Bussey, Connor
Cavallino, Luke
Connolle, John
Crowson, Brady
Eagle, Andrew
Edmond, Leon
Goudelocke, Augustin
Hebert, Davis
Jones, Luke
McMenis, Mason
Meade, Arthur
Miles, Grady

Nguyen, Dillon
Nimmo, Andrew
Truxillo, Owen

BROTHER MARTIN H. S.
Adam, Gerard R.
Craven, Daniel J.
Dobson, Noah J.
Kane, Aiden J.
Steigner, John O.

MOUNT CARMEL ACADEMY

Bono, Paige
Hotstream, Avery
Hotstream, Caroline
Schell, Amielle

ISIDORE NEWMAN SCHOOL

Chandler, Alex
Jolly, Jiya
Kukuy, Remi
Linares, Zoila
Nguyen, Sophie
Oyemade, Michael
Volz, Stella
Walia, Veer
Wells, Dawson
Wentz, Gunnar

ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN H. S.

Amick, Katherine
Giarrusso, Marta
Hanemann, Lourdes
Plaisance, Leah
Raimer, Shanlee

URSULINE ACADEMY

Futagoishi, Reina K.
Goodwin, Elle M.
Rioja, Maria C.

THE WILLOW SCHOOL

Berkner, Ella
Bohan, Louise
Daschbach, Lola
Fahrenholt, Daphne
Goldman, Avery Olive
Minor, Natalie
Paull, Robert
Polin, Madeleine
Walker, Atticus

PRAIRIEVILLE

PRAIRIEVILLE H. S.
McWilliams, Matthew

RIVER RIDGE

JOHN CURTIS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Foy, Devan

RUSTON

RUSTON H. S.
Anderson, Harper
Craig, Clayton

SHREVEPORT

CADDO PARISH MAGNET H. S.
Beal, Emmett
Bryant, Wesley
Fallis, Caleb
Iskapalli, Tanmayee
McIntyre, Rives
Miller, Hudson
Moon, Caetlin
Neeley, Graeme
Nix, Michael
Pingili, Esha
Shen, Max
Thorat, Sahil
Wilkerson, James
Wooden, John
Wynn, Aubrey

LOYOLA COLLEGE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Braud, Julia
Kisner, Anna
Michelson, Olivia

ST. FRANCISVILLE

WEST FELICIANA H. S.
Record, Lillian C.

SULPHUR

SULPHUR H. S.
Chen, Jimmy
Richardson, Kai

Semifinalists: 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program

Louisiana (continued)

WEST MONROE

WEST MONROE H. S.
Beard, George P.

YOUNGSVILLE

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
Sheets, Lillian A.

SOUTHSIDE H. S.

Trosclair, Cooper J.