



**NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION**

1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200, Evanston, Illinois 60201-4897 (847) 866-5100

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

Contact: Matthew Budreau  
Public Information

Phone: (847) 866-5100  
Email: [mediainfo@nmerit.net](mailto:mediainfo@nmerit.net)  
Website: [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org)

**Advance: For release on Wednesday, September 9, 2026**

**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](http://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 72<sup>nd</sup> 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.

# # #

# Semifinalists: 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program

## TENNESSEE

### ARLINGTON

LAKELAND PREPARATORY  
Chaudhry, Simardeep S.

### BRENTWOOD

BRENTWOOD ACADEMY  
Johnson, Henley  
Woolbert, Linnea

### BRENTWOOD H. S.

Ching, Liam K.  
Chou, Natalie Y.  
Claybrook, Kole B.  
DiCaprio, Gavin H.  
Fielder, Sullivan  
Greer, Matthew K.  
Khan, Jibran A.  
Khan, Sana J.  
Markley, Riley A.  
Odom, Aidan E.  
Odom, Ethan J.  
Sterling, Zachary A.  
Verni, Katelyn J.  
Vestevich, Anna B.  
Wang, Melissa C.  
Xu, Yueran  
Youngblood, Cameron L.  
Yu, Audrey R.

### RAVENWOOD H. S.

Ammar, Sami  
Anand, Advik  
Bischof, Noah  
Chaitanya, Aryan  
Crane, Alexander  
Daruwalla, Evan  
Dyamenahalli, Impana  
Gopidi, Aarav  
Hassler, Bresden  
Kakumanu, Amogh  
Kodali, Anish  
Kondabathini, Vidhushi  
Liu, Devin  
Ly, VanMai  
McAtee, Zachary  
Mukerji, Daksh  
Murray, Alyssa  
Nandina, Aditya  
Ogunde, Rejoice  
Pandey, Anika  
Peethala, Yeshmith  
Pradeep, Rushil  
Qi, Joanna  
Rochlani, Vivaan  
Rowan, Magdalene  
Shen, Edison  
Shrivastava, Darsh  
Varghese, Ethan

### CHATTANOOGA

BAYLOR SCHOOL  
Allen, Luke  
Chakraborty, Ananya  
Chatard, James  
Farnham, Christopher  
Guo, Kaixuan  
Houston, Jackson  
Huang, Sirui  
Levin, Avery  
McKenna, Owen  
Wu, Elly  
Yao, William

### BOYD - BUCHANAN SCHOOL

Beasley, Wyatt A.  
Eriki, Eshanth R.

### CHATTANOOGA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Neighbors, Jocelyn  
Unjakoti, Elijah

### CHATTANOOGA H. S. CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Albu, Roman K.

Moss, Sarah A.  
Sankevich, Anastasiya

### GIRLS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Zhong, Stephanie

### HAMILTON COUNTY COLLEGIATE H. S. AT CHATTANOOGA STATE

Barclay, Ellison

### MC CALLIE SCHOOL

George, Isaac  
Hammontree, William  
Kapadia, Om  
Keylon, Elijah  
Kim, Christopher  
Lee, Maxim  
Obeng-Boampong, Caleb  
Obeng-Boampong, Josiah

### CLARKSVILLE

#### ROSSVIEW H. S.

Carroll, Carson  
Chakrabarti, Ishan  
Gudipati, Srushti  
Moon, Jason

### CLEVELAND

#### HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL

Tucker, Keegan M.  
Woolley, Luke A.

### COLLEGE DALE

#### COLLEGE DALE ACADEMY

Laing, Cason B.

### COLLIERVILLE

#### COLLIERVILLE H. S.

Acharya, Sanvi V.  
Benson, Noah J.  
Krishnamurthi, Vaibhav  
Liu, Ella  
Mahale, Advait N.  
Nimmagadda, Charith  
Prakash, Janani  
Rambiya, Joshua A.

#### ST. GEORGE'S INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Patel, Yana S.

### COOKEVILLE

#### COOKEVILLE H. S.

White, Alexandra C.

#### HIGHLAND RIM ACADEMY

Wiggins, Asher

### CORDOVA

#### EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Henley, Ross

### DOVER

#### STEWART COUNTY H. S.

Tanner, Glenn

### DYERSBURG

#### DYERSBURG H. S.

Rogers, William M.

### EADS

#### BRIARCREST CHRISTIAN H. S.

Boer, Amelia P.  
Conway, Wilson R.  
Green, Cannon B.

### FARRAGUT

#### FARRAGUT H. S.

Chen, Karuna  
Conger, Evan  
Crouchet, Cayden  
Gao, Diana  
Gao, Malcolm  
Huang, Ella  
Kim, Ari  
Lian, Tiffany  
Oguz, Arman

Phan, Dinh  
Pu, Samuel  
Ramanan, Roshan  
Seal, Uma  
Sujithkumar, Uday  
Toon, Harrison  
Wu, Rickie  
Ye, Ella  
Zhao, Caroline

### FRANKLIN

#### BATTLE GROUND ACADEMY

Compton, Ryan  
Pinson, Clay

#### CENTENNIAL H. S.

Castelo, Anson E.  
Jensen, Rane S.  
Rodriguez-Rincon, Iker M.  
Smith, Brandon R.  
Smith, Collin J.  
Tapperson, Chloe A.  
Williamson, Logan P.

#### FRANKLIN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

De Souza, Griffin J.

#### FRANKLIN H. S.

Altman, Jane D.  
Brown, Andrew S.  
Gallars, Adam L.  
Holloran, Alessandra W.  
Hatley, Ruby S.  
Horne, Abigail B.  
Huang, Yiming A.  
Inampudi, Sri Lalithesh  
Le, Anh D.  
Marina, Ryan J.  
Parton, Connor H.  
Rastogi, Naman  
Reynolds, Samuel J.  
Rock, Liam J.  
Sessions, Elizabeth D.  
Smith, Lydia D.  
White, Malenda S.  
Zhang, Emma

#### FRED J. PAGE H. S.

Bera, Anshul  
Berry, Hailee  
Brandon, Calen  
Callahan, Daniel  
Cherry, Ann  
Fox, Brady  
Kickirillo, David  
Rodriguez, Cole

### GERMANTOWN

#### GERMANTOWN H. S.

Banks, Ashlyn  
Pleitez, Ashley

#### HOUSTON H. S.

Bao, Rosalyn  
Bryant, Sophie  
Gorantla, Shriyansh  
Jiang, Aubree  
Lee, Jacob  
Mandavia, Rohan  
Ouyang, Wendy  
Ren, Yifei  
Richardson, Abigail  
Shipman, James  
Velychko, Veronica

### GRAY

#### DANIEL BOONE H. S.

Francisco, Atticus W.  
Williams, Lucas N.

### HENDERSON

#### CHESTER COUNTY H. S.

Frix, John W.

### HENDERSONVILLE

#### HENDERSONVILLE H. S.

Foster, Brycen L.

#### MERROL HYDE MAGNET SCHOOL

Barra, Owen M.  
Leggett, Mason G.

#### POPE JOHN PAUL II H. S.

Amonette, Robert  
Castro, Alex

### JACKSON

MADISON ACADEMIC  
MAGNET H. S.  
Cheng, Coby

### JOHNSON CITY

SCIENCE HILL H. S.  
Bushell, Sean  
Li, Sunny  
O'Neal, Allie  
Patel, Arnab  
Patel, Ashini

### KINGSPORT

DOBYNS - BENNETT H. S.  
Alyafi, Abdulrahman

### KNOXVILLE

BEARDEN H. S.  
Johnson, Aidan J.

#### CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Driscoll, Catherine  
Weast, Andrew

#### KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC H. S.

Zengel, Mary S.

#### L&N STEM ACADEMY

Green, Benjamin  
Pelaia, Dominick  
Wang, Stewart

#### WEBB SCHOOL

Kowalski, Samuel E.  
Ramjee, Kaiser  
Willoughby, Kirby M.

#### WEST H. S.

Anderson, Elsa  
DeLuca, Stella  
van Nes, Sebastian  
Vasko-Klima, Marco

### LAWRENCEBURG

LAWRENCE COUNTY H. S.  
Ensign, Jacob R.

### LEBANON

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL  
Adkins, James B.

#### WILSON CENTRAL H. S.

Almumayiz, Taim  
Beltran Mejia, Sergio

### MARTIN

WESTVIEW H. S.  
Belew, Alex

### MARYVILLE

WILLIAM BLOUNT H. S.  
Minutolo, Cara

#### HERITAGE H. S.

Mabe, Alexa

#### MARYVILLE H. S.

Autry, Alexandra  
Luhn, Alexander  
Webb, Samuel

### MEMPHIS

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS H. S.  
Donato, Daniel R.  
Toms, Pearce P.

#### EAST H. S.

Andrews, Abigail

#### HARDING ACADEMY

Barber, Camden S.

#### HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL

McCloskey, Melody

#### LAUSANNE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

Arshad, Farah A.  
Chi, Max L.  
Lyons, Asha M.  
Mu, Katherine

#### MEMPHIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

Alexander, Philip C.  
Johnson, Soren S.  
Khawaja, Abdullah M.

## Semifinalists: 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program

### Tennessee (continued)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mukatira, Shay R.<br>Nichol, Benjamin D.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Sugalski, Soren<br>Tan, Audrey                                                                                                                                               | Castro-Harris, Naomi<br>Davidson, Henley B.<br>Guina, Emma R.<br>Lazear, Ezekiel R.<br>Miller, Colt L.<br>Wooldridge, Cecilia A.         |
| ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL<br>Loden, Hannah                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | FRANKLIN ROAD ACADEMY<br>Fleming, Beckett                                                                                                                                    | <b>SPRINGFIELD</b><br>INNOVATION ACADEMY<br>King, Wells A.                                                                               |
| UNIVERSITY H. S.<br>Papadopoulos, Jason                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | HARPETH HALL SCHOOL<br>Cropsey, Emma<br>Eyler, Elizabeth<br>Gambill, Carlisle<br>Green, Zoe<br>Hong, Sophie<br>Meyer, Cora                                                   | <b>THOMPSON'S STATION</b><br>INDEPENDENCE H. S.<br>Chen, Edwin<br>Dong, Zixuan<br>Fulton, Jonathan<br>Hughes, Jackson<br>Weller, Corinne |
| WESTMINSTER ACADEMY<br>Wells, Elijah                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL<br>Hauk, David B.<br>Hornkohl, Hannah                                                                                                             | <b>TULLAHOMA</b><br>TULLAHOMA H. S.<br>Nalin, Adrian                                                                                     |
| WHITE STATION H. S.<br>Bhupesh, Rainaa<br>Bondi, Zoe<br>Cheng, Charlotte<br>Cui, Raymond<br>Digmon, Elizabeth<br>Feng, Jack<br>Miao, Phoebe<br>Reed, Naila<br>Rupke, Rosalyn<br>Shi, Alex<br>Shi, Evan<br>Wang, Clark<br>Wang, Emma<br>Yan, Anson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | HUME - FOGG ACADEMIC H. S.<br>Carroll, Caden<br>Gann, Edward<br>Gider, Abigail<br>Hotchkiss, Owen<br>Ryland, Anika                                                           |                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>MILLINGTON</b><br>FAITH HERITAGE<br>CHRISTIAN ACADEMY<br>Guo, David                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | JAMES LAWSON H. S.<br>Wetsell, Rylan                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>MILTON</b><br>HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL<br>Chafong, Samantha                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.<br>ACADEMIC MAGNET FOR HEALTH<br>SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING<br>Nguyen, Mason<br>Warren, Maggie E.                                                       |                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>MOUNT JULIET</b><br>GREEN HILL H. S.<br>Gregory, Max A.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | LIPSCOMB ACADEMY<br>Choi, Zoe V.                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                          |
| MOUNT JULIET H. S.<br>Patel, Shaan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | FATHER RYAN H. S.<br>Lo, Henry<br>Saivar, Cade T.                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>MURFREESBORO</b><br>CENTRAL MAGNET SCHOOL<br>Allen, Landon<br>Anderson, Jacob B.<br>Bauer, Elijah K.<br>Baumann, Brendan G.<br>Cho, Daehyun L.<br>Clagg, Connor J.<br>Craig, Carter L.<br>De Paz, Roberto M.<br>Gamble, John Kenneth J.<br>Hoelzl, Parker J.<br>Holzmann, Michael T.<br>Huang, Benjamin<br>Jackson, Hollis M.<br>Jackson, Meridian L.<br>Jennings, Cohen B.<br>McIntosh, Kaitlyn R.<br>Newby, Joshua Y.<br>Phillips, Evelyn<br>Romig, Isadora M.<br>Sanders, Preston E.<br>Surbaugh, Truitt J.<br>Talapuse, Mohinder C. | ST. CECILIA ACADEMY<br>Fagin, Gabrielle B.                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>NASHVILLE</b><br>MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY<br>Brandes, Enno<br>Brown, Buckley<br>Emch, Elliot<br>Fletcher, Reid<br>Frech, Andrew<br>Guo, Justin<br>Head, Jackson<br>Hirschman, Charles<br>Lefler, Hampton<br>Li, Kevin<br>Moss, Robert<br>Sava, Hunter<br>Smithwick, William<br>Willers, Charles<br>Willis, Brody                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | UNIVERSITY SCHOOL<br>Drewry, Alexandra<br>Gellert, Lucia<br>Margalit, Lily<br>Puzniak, Karsen<br>Ramachandran, Ruchika<br>Stahl, Zaharia<br>Truss, Alexander<br>Young, Julia |                                                                                                                                          |
| ENSWORTH H. S.<br>Cox, Caroline<br>Damp, Anders<br>Korn, Sutton<br>Kurtz, William<br>Rademacher, Duncan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>NEWBERN</b><br>DYER COUNTY H. S.<br>Ross, Rachel                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>NOLENSVILLE</b><br>HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL<br>Goggans, Sophie                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | NOLENSVILLE H. S.<br>Davis, Chaelie<br>Pradeep, Puneeth<br>Russell, Avery<br>Seyfried, Jonas                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>OAK RIDGE</b><br>OAK RIDGE H. S.<br>Han, Emily<br>O'Meara, Emmett<br>Rowden, Duncan<br>Weston, Simon                                                                      |                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>OLIVEHILL</b><br>HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL<br>VonNiederhausen, Christian                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>ROCKVALE</b><br>ROCKVALE H. S.<br>Conway, Emma                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>SIGNAL MOUNTAIN</b><br>SIGNAL MOUNTAIN H. S.<br>Dapp, Seven H.<br>McDonald, Shad S.<br>Panicker, Ananya D.<br>Panicker, Arshia D.                                         |                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>SMYRNA</b><br>STEWARTS CREEK H. S.<br>Mitchell, Abel                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>SPRING HILL</b><br>SUMMIT H. S.<br>Barr, Euan A.                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                          |