



**NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION**

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**SEMIFINALISTS IN THE 2021  
NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
September 9, 2020 Announcement**

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**Advance: For release on Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

**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 NMSC's website at [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).*

**Semifinalists in the 2021 National Merit® Scholarship Program**

(Evanston, Illinois) Today officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 66<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 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. Over 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than 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 approximately 400 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

## **Steps in the 2021 Competition**

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup>), 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, and write an essay.

From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 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 2021. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit<sup>®</sup> \$2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 220 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 180 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2021 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 353,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

# # #

# Semifinalists: 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program

## KENTUCKY

### ALEXANDRIA

CAMPBELL COUNTY H. S.  
904 Clark, Abigail L.  
740 Schnee, Ethan T.

### BARDSTOWN

NELSON COUNTY H. S.  
303 Fell, Keeton A.

### BEREA

BEREA COMMUNITY H. S.  
742 Reed, Coleman T.

MADISON SOUTHERN H. S.  
455 Pryor, Carter D.

### BOWLING GREEN

BOWLING GREEN H. S.  
302 Strow, Tucker K.

THE GATTON ACADEMY OF  
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE  
IN KENTUCKY

459 Barnaby, Sachi O.  
202 Chang, Samuel T.  
000 Clevenger, Nicholas M.  
723 Davison, Andrew R.  
000 Dumancic, John P.  
400 Farmer, Sofia B.  
450 Handshoe, Benjamin J.  
628 Hegde, Krupa N.  
999 Higdon, Calvin D.  
209 Huang, Gloria  
843 Humphrey, Cody J.  
121 Jones, Margaret V.  
999 Kool, Raychel J.  
000 Lunsford, Steven R.  
455 Lyvers, Joseph L.  
999 Pendleton, Keegan J.  
303 Ryumae, Mina K.  
000 Sandhu, Anmol  
160 Satish, Diksha  
559 Taylor, Alexandra C.  
000 Taylor, Lauren M.  
742 Zhang, Jason

### CECILIA

CENTRAL HARDIN H. S.  
450 White, Samuel C.

### COLUMBIA

ADAIR COUNTY H. S.  
999 Archey, Timothy F.

### CORBIN

CORBIN H. S.  
185 Garland, Kameron E.  
522 Lawson, Madeline R.

### CRESTWOOD

HOMESCHOOL  
455 Franco, Cameron S.

SOUTH OLDHAM H. S.  
450 Beyerle, Benjamin M.  
455 Dardano, Brooke E.  
303 Stephens, Christopher D.

### DANVILLE

BOYLE COUNTY H. S.  
302 Wise, Alexander D.

### EASTERN

FLOYD CENTRAL H. S.  
160 Scott, Kade L.

### EDGEWOOD

DIXIE HEIGHTS H. S.  
160 Schowater, Tyler J.

### FORT KNOX

FORT KNOX H. S.  
302 Cecil, Mark S.

### FORT THOMAS

HIGHLANDS H. S.  
904 Finseth, John Z.  
254 Russ, Julianna M.  
430 Young, Matthew K.

### FRANKFORT

WESTERN HILLS H. S.  
908 Hill, Harrison  
843 True, Gabriel E.

### FRANKLIN

FRANKLIN - SIMPSON H. S.  
459 Mendel, John W.

### GLASGOW

GLASGOW H. S.  
450 Bishop, Cade M.

### GOSHEN

NORTH OLDHAM H. S.  
000 Abd-Elhamid, Omar  
454 Chou, Claire Z.  
160 Conway, Molly C.  
999 Mitchell, Carter J.  
907 Terry, Isaiah

### HARTFORD

OHIO COUNTY H. S.  
836 Ashburn, Kenedi R.

### HEBRON

CONNER H. S.  
467 Stewart, Emma J.

### HOPKINSVILLE

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS ACADEMY  
628 Desai, Rohan

### INDEPENDENCE

SIMON KENTON H. S.  
990 Welp, Sarah M.

### LA GRANGE

OLDHAM COUNTY H. S.  
555 Bussell, Tyler K.  
870 Jemtrud, Jenna N.

### LEBANON

MARION COUNTY H. S.  
454 Thompson, Samuel J.

### LEXINGTON

HENRY CLAY H. S.  
303 Caldwell, Hayden W.  
000 Dyer, Elias J.  
000 Ewing, Megan N.  
000 Gardner, Lily H.  
000 Goodwin, Lawrence E.  
465 Jacobs, Lia K.  
000 Kim, Irene Y.  
904 Knight, Robert C.  
740 Lucier, Catherine R.  
000 Moore, Elizabeth L.  
000 Rahman, Jasir K.  
000 Whaley, Hannah N.  
000 Winkler, Evan I.

### PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR H. S.

836 Albrecht, Sarah E.  
550 Bograd, Sadie L.  
906 Brown, Graham S.  
303 Chen, Benjamin J.  
999 Colvin, Tatum S.  
628 Dhar, Saisha  
628 Falluji, Emma T.  
467 Gabbard, Jackson B.  
303 Guan, Benjamin J.  
451 Hayden, Grant A.  
000 Katz, Noah E.  
000 Li, Dylan C.  
999 Macchiavello Cauvi, Fernando  
999 Park, Joonwoo D.  
999 Rashad, Khalid S.  
883 Staykova, Gabriella I.  
467 Subramaniam, Tharania  
628 Sundarajan, Aditya  
000 Susini, Zach S.

999 Tummla, Lohith C.  
455 Wei, Wendy J.  
463 Zhang, Nancy

### LEXINGTON CATHOLIC H. S.

710 Cutter, Samuel J.  
450 Wright, Jonathan M.

### LEXINGTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

451 Feller, Zachary A.  
450 Lytle, Joshua D.

### SAYRE SCHOOL

710 Deckard, Jackson L.  
301 Lutz, Spencer  
209 Reynolds, Richard D.  
463 Stewart, Parker J.  
450 Woodruff, James D.

### LONDON

NORTH LAUREL H. S.  
450 Sanders, Nathan

### LOUISVILLE

ASSUMPTION H. S.  
999 Cassin, Amelia E.  
999 Koch, Sarah E.

### ATHERTON H. S.

619 Cook, Tessa  
740 White, Sabrina E.

### BALLARD H. S.

450 Grant, Kaden R.  
450 Lankford, Robert D.  
161 Liem, Shannon D.  
870 Wallace, Laurel E.

### DU PONT MANUAL H. S.

000 Al Quran, Abdurrahman  
000 Arnold, Jackson  
000 Balasubramanian, Smrithi  
000 Bowman, Wavid  
000 Cao, Zachary  
000 Crowley, Katherine  
000 DuPlessis, John  
000 Francois, Tomas  
000 Gallagher, Elizabeth  
000 Gallup, Eden  
000 Grebe, Ethan  
000 Gundluru, Madhumitha  
000 Hayes, Laila  
000 Huang, Emma  
000 Jones, Keaton  
000 Jouja, Ibrahim  
000 Kanmadikar, Pranav  
000 Kingston, Shirlin  
000 Liu, Shaun  
000 Lynch, Matthew T.  
000 Milliken, Natalie  
000 Morgan, Anna  
000 Ogburn, Samantha  
000 Pascua, Sophia  
000 Patel, Isha  
000 Pourghasemi, Roshan  
000 Render, Elaina R.  
000 Rose, Emma  
000 Srinivasan, Murari  
000 Vadhanam, Aakash  
000 Van Nort, Warren  
000 Vemuri, Sreevasa  
000 Wagner, Yael  
000 Waters, Caroline  
000 Wu, Franklin  
000 Xu, Justin  
000 Zhu, Alex

### EASTERN H. S.

999 McGorty, Tristan T.

### HIGHLANDS LATIN SCHOOL

742 Murdoch, Judah A.  
950 Steinbach, Emily S.

### KENTUCKY COUNTRY

DAY SCHOOL  
000 Halbleib, Grace M.  
000 Kutmah, Mahmoud  
000 Mahajan, Raina L.  
000 Rawson, Emily A.

### LOUISVILLE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

161 Beck, Eli V.  
000 Burke, Benjamin G.  
999 Foley, Grant M.  
712 Stevens, Margaret M.

### SACRED HEART ACADEMY

999 Carrig, Caroline A.  
166 Terrell, Lilia G.

### ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL

742 Siciliano, Gerard A.

### ST. XAVIER H. S.

000 Brashear, Charles E.  
000 Burch, Justin M.  
000 Burns, Daniel H.  
000 Ching, Carson Joseph E.  
000 Frey, Andrew G.  
000 Moeller, William H.  
000 Stropkay, Harrison F.

### MADISONVILLE

MADISONVILLE NORTH  
HOPKINS H. S.  
999 Popescu, Anthony

### MOREHEAD

CRAFT ACADEMY AT MOORHEAD  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
451 Louis, Matthew E.  
465 Reed, Kyle A.  
451 White, William D.

### MOUNT WASHINGTON

BULLITT EAST H. S.  
000 Kiesewetter, Lukas A.

### MURRAY

MURRAY H. S.  
451 Shutt, Kyra L.

### NICHOLASVILLE

HOMESCHOOL  
455 Hahn, Samuel R.

### WEST JESSAMINE H. S.

450 Riffell, Nathan A.

### OWENSBORO

APOLLO H. S.  
450 Payne, Nathaniel J.

### DAVIESS COUNTY H. S.

000 Martin, Daniel R.  
160 Tidwell, Emmylou

### OWENSBORO CATHOLIC H. S.

000 Silvert, Emma C.

### PADUCAH

MC CRACKEN COUNTY H. S.  
836 Wooten, Mason M.

### PARK HILLS

COVINGTON CATHOLIC H. S.  
000 Williams, Peter J.

### PIKEVILLE

PIKEVILLE H. S.  
000 Lin, Jason

### RICHMOND

MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOL  
712 Parker-Noblitt, Everett T.

### RUSSELL

RUSSELL H. S.  
214 Abul-Khoudoud, Sara O.  
605 Prasad, Ayog  
465 Raich, Jackson

### SHEPHERDSVILLE

BULLITT CENTRAL H. S.  
870 Dixon, Hunter R.

### SOUTHGATE

HOMESCHOOL  
303 Silverton, Ariel J.

### TAYLOR MILL

SCOTT H. S.  
218 Watson, Olivia G.

### TAYLORSVILLE

SPENCER COUNTY H. S.  
741 Rhee, Benjamin P.

### UNION

RANDALL COOPER H. S.  
843 Norrick, Nicholas T.

**Semifinalists: 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program**

**Kentucky** (continued)

LARRY RYLE H. S.

454 Bush, Kioni

455 Chan, Grace

121 Dumancic, Nikolas A.

450 Huff, Collin D.

303 Playforth, Mitchell L.

**VERSAILLES**

WOODFORD COUNTY H. S.

303 Martin, Keaton T.

**VILLA HILLS**

VILLA MADONNA ACADEMY

600 Bond, Jackson S.

162 Richardson, Emily K.

**WEST LIBERTY**

MORGAN COUNTY H. S.

843 ONeal, Asa C.

**WINCHESTER**

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK H. S.

303 Gibson, Zachary W.

836 Lemmon, Cienna B.

185 Rosas, Chandler B.