



**NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION**

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**SEMIFINALISTS IN THE 2024  
NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
September 13, 2023 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](http://www.nationalmerit.org).*

**Semifinalists in the 2024 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 69<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 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 approximately 320 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 2024 Competition**

Over 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 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, write an essay, and earn SAT<sup>®</sup> or ACT<sup>®</sup> 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 2024. 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 840 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 160 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 160 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 3,800 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2024 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join nearly 375,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

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# Semifinalists: 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program

## MISSISSIPPI

### BAY ST. LOUIS

BAY H. S.  
121 Delcuze, Weston J.

ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE  
740 Simpson, Matthew L.

### BILOXI

BILOXI H. S.  
451 Barnett, Ruth K.  
455 Newman, Rhys K.  
000 Vizzini, Vincenzo J.

D'IBERVILLE H. S.  
999 Lin, Brian

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC H. S.  
999 Agler, Jade L.

### BRANDON

BRANDON H. S.  
999 Bailey, James D.

PISGAH H. S.  
000 Boyd, Payton R.

### CLARKSDALE

LEE ACADEMY  
000 Vassel, Alyssa G.

### CLINTON

CLINTON H. S.  
999 Blake, Musa B.  
943 Gibson, Benjamin C.  
185 Leach, Timothy M.  
501 Parks, Benjamin  
432 Wilson, Nadia K.

### COLLINSVILLE

WEST LAUDERDALE H. S.  
451 Alford, Thomas B.

### COLUMBUS

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR  
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE  
950 Alvarado, Heaven  
454 Choi, Ean  
712 Dang, Mary  
000 Gallo, Julian  
908 Harvey, Sebastian  
600 Lee, Noah  
303 Liao, Ethan  
821 Neal, Jacob  
303 Pettitt, Gabriel  
000 Tu, Landon  
160 Virges, Dorothy  
999 Williams, Jackson  
999 Xue, Iris  
457 Zhou, Junran

### FLORENCE

FLORENCE H. S.  
000 Garrett, Caleb M.

### FLOWOOD

NORTHWEST RANKIN H. S.  
000 Caldwell, James J.  
455 Hall, Katherine M.  
948 Lu, Emily  
454 Watson, Samuel L.  
451 Xie, Caleb

### GULFPORT

GULFPORT H. S.  
200 Bergmann, Elijah  
892 Blackmarr, Ransom J.  
950 Dukeman, Maria E.  
999 Grice, Caroline E.  
302 Neese, Owin M.  
000 Ramirez, Nicolas  
270 Rojas, Julian A.  
999 Wolfstorm, Illyrian S.

WEST HARRISON H. S.  
999 Blake, Landon T.

### HATTIESBURG

OAK GROVE H. S.  
628 Lyons, Mari A.  
000 Shemper, Aidan F.  
000 Singh, Anushka  
907 Zhou, Kallen

### PRESBYTERIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

000 Berteau, Benjamin C.  
000 Brett, Benjamin D.  
722 Chung, Michelle A.  
999 Hrom, John S.  
870 Mellen, William P.  
185 Penn, Simmons E.

### HERNANDO

HERNANDO H. S.  
740 Fulcher, Marianna E.

### HOUSTON

HOUSTON H. S.  
164 Gordon, Elizabeth R.

### JACKSON

JACKSON ACADEMY  
466 Deaton, Richard  
000 Pressler, Noah  
162 Ray, Gautam  
000 Taylor, Titus

### JACKSON PREPARATORY SCHOOL

209 Fulcher, David H.  
000 Herron, William C.  
456 Lundberg, Nolan A.  
999 Moore, William L.  
999 Young, Steven G.

### KILN

HANCOCK H. S.  
000 Lee, Justin K.  
000 McGarrity, Xander S.

### LAUREL

NORTHEAST JONES H. S.  
000 Milner, Tucker

### LONG BEACH

LONG BEACH H. S.  
162 Dulaney, Luke  
168 McDonnell, Riley  
455 Tran, Vicky H.

### MADISON

GERMANTOWN H. S.  
833 Caraway, Gabrielle G.  
833 Estess, Wade R.  
257 Hodges, Sebastian B.  
628 Lakshminarayanan, Preethika  
168 McDonald, Savannah K.  
454 McGee, Liliana  
451 Piburn, Ethan M.

MADISON - RIDGELAND ACADEMY  
461 Iftekhhar, Ridwan

### MADISON CENTRAL H. S.

451 Abdo, Adel A.  
465 Adcock, Thomas M.  
920 Brannon, Colin M.  
459 Campbell, Jordan B.  
999 Farthing, Katherine M.  
999 Gao, Sophie  
600 Heydari, Ryan S.  
214 Hood, Camden M.  
253 Kirk, Annalise B.  
160 Ko, Stephanie S.  
000 Lu, Andy  
628 Medina, Valentina P.  
455 Spitz, Chloe E.  
894 Wong, Samantha Y.  
459 Young, Abraham R.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
000 Doherty, Andrew P.  
000 Williams, Lockard

454 Smith, Turner C.  
833 Thorne, Joshua W.  
600 Zevallos, Gabriella C.

### MANTACHIE

MANTACHIE H. S.  
794 Broadway, James L.

### MENDENHALL

SIMPSON COUNTY ACADEMY  
999 Crace, Brennan

### MERIDIAN

LAMAR SCHOOL  
743 Roman, Christian A.  
999 Turner, Ian G.

### MOSS POINT

EAST CENTRAL H. S.  
000 Bardwell, Kameryn F.

### OCEAN SPRINGS

OCEAN SPRINGS H. S.  
000 Diaz, Michael J.  
450 Frye, Griffin T.  
999 Johnson, Aaron M.  
000 Patel, Krish P.

### ST. MARTIN H. S.

605 Le, Tracy T.  
600 Nguyen, Ricky T.  
628 Phan, Cindy

### OLIVE BRANCH

CENTER HILL H. S.  
168 Chen, Kyle  
175 Gorham, Joshua C.  
161 Snyder, Elizabeth M.

### LEWISBURG H. S.

999 Campbell, Owen E.  
311 Frain, Elijah W.  
214 Green, Gavin W.  
467 Johnson, Cooper O.  
311 Morgan, Ryne B.  
451 Sherman, Bryce M.  
870 Taylor, Claire E.  
836 Terry, Addyson E.  
999 Wood, Jessi N.

### OLIVE BRANCH H. S.

605 Curran, Callie E.  
628 Durley, Logan G.  
311 Hicks, Oliver

### OXFORD

LAFAYETTE H. S.  
950 Bolen, Cameron L.

### OXFORD H. S.

990 Alexander, Captain P.  
000 Allen, Hylan G.  
907 Fruge, Charles M.  
000 Goulet, Gilad  
000 Hemmins, Scarlet V.  
000 Newman, Jackson  
451 Srinath, Navaneeth  
870 Wigginton, Georgia G.

### PASCAGOULA

PASCAGOULA H. S.  
000 Grenn, Hayden G.

### PASS CHRISTIAN

PASS CHRISTIAN H. S.  
453 Giles, Wayne M.

### PEARL

PEARL H. S.  
999 Bounds, Oakley L.

### PETAL

PETAL H. S.  
627 Chennault, Beau A.  
628 Rounsaville, Presley G.

### RIDGELAND

RIDGELAND H. S.  
628 Anugu, Srila R.

### ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

160 Bell, Blake E.  
999 Fender, Luke R.  
870 Garg, Nivedita P.  
682 Lindsay, Justin C.

ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL  
201 Davis, Walker D.

### SOUTHAVEN

DE SOTO CENTRAL H. S.  
000 Brasell, Carson P.  
000 Dendy, Abigail G.  
311 Gomez Walls, Dario  
000 Norris, Julianna C.  
000 Peyton, Noah K.

### SOUTHAVEN H. S.

450 Esperon, Eduardo L.  
904 Moore, Christopher  
999 Valsamis, Gabriel A.

### STARKVILLE

STARKVILLE ACADEMY  
000 Holliday, Harrison G.

### STARKVILLE H. S.

161 Holder, Jenna S.

### TUPELO

HOMESCHOOL  
628 Milev, Simona T.

### TUPELO H. S.

000 Babb, Catherine E.  
000 Henson, William T.

### UNION

UNION H. S.  
302 Johnson, Jackson D.

### WIGGINS

STONE H. S.  
451 Douget, Luke A.  
000 Hickman, Tyler B.