



**NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION**

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**SEMIFINALISTS IN THE 2020  
NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
September 11, 2019 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 NMSC's website at [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).*

**Semifinalists in the 2020 National Merit® Scholarship Program**

(Evanston, Illinois) Today officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 65<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 \$31 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 about 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 2020 Competition**

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2018 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 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 2020. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$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 2020 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 345,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

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# Semifinalists: 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program

## ARKANSAS

### ARKADELPHIA

ARKADELPHIA H. S.  
000 Hayes, Patrick T.

### BATESVILLE

BATESVILLE H. S.  
999 Laslo, Veronica L.

### HOMESCHOOL

628 McClain, Zachary M.

### BENTON

BENTON H. S.  
451 Butler, Bishop J.  
160 Garner, Kirsten E.

### BENTONVILLE

BENTONVILLE H. S.  
160 Asif, Khadeeja  
903 Batta, Samhitha  
561 Berry, Jocelyn J.  
000 Cao, Anh  
162 Elshoff, Olivia A.  
254 Esarte, Matthew J.  
712 John, Malaika J.  
970 Krishna, Arthi  
903 Ray, Kennedy  
160 Singh, Harshdeep  
843 Sonnabend, Jeremy P.  
833 Taylor, Melissa E.  
160 Wilson, Rebecca E.  
999 Woodhouse, Samuel M.

### HAAS HALL ACADEMY

790 Cordero, David J.  
821 Curriden, Theodore  
619 Fennell, Jacob V.  
100 Koster, Asa E.  
870 Peretz, Katherine A.  
451 Roberts, Kenton A.  
450 Rockwood, Adam G.  
712 Venugopal, Nikita  
160 Yarbrough, Sophia G.

### NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

CLASSICAL ACADEMY  
628 Rowe, Hannah J.

### BRYANT

BRYANT H. S.  
450 Av, Kakada  
400 Sweningson, Rachel C.

### CABOT

CABOT H. S.  
161 Johnson, Madeline E.  
303 Peck, Ethan D.  
629 Pray, Eliana D.  
160 Urquhart, Alexis G.  
161 Wilmoth, Zachary

### CENTERTON

BENTONVILLE WEST H. S.  
300 Alvarado, Andres J.  
833 Kewan, Laith O.  
740 Kilgo, Justin A.  
254 May, Adele E.  
300 Moustafa, Ahmed R.  
870 Poyfair, Joshua X.  
908 Thelapurath, Priya

### CONWAY

CONWAY H. S.  
163 Bruenger, Joslyn R.  
950 Butler, Douglas S.  
451 Teague, Gavin I.  
870 Williams, Mackenzie B.

### HOMESCHOOL

450 Hopp, Nicole A.

### ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

201 Broman, Nicholas R.

### EL DORADO

EL DORADO H. S.  
843 Price, Aidan G.  
303 Ratchford, Scott A.  
254 Utsch, Lorin M.

### FAYETTEVILLE

FAYETTEVILLE H. S.  
454 Anand, Namrata  
836 Caudle, Jenna D.  
999 James, Paris T.  
185 Killian, Grace L.  
121 Krizman, Michael A.  
000 Li, Grace J.  
628 Martin, Grace E.  
999 Pierce, Benjamin B.  
000 Pierson, Stephen A.  
628 Reif, Ana C.  
723 Roach, Anna  
836 Sampath, Kaushik  
202 Thomsen, Amanda M.  
741 Tullis, Jason  
121 Young, Carson D.

### HAAS HALL ACADEMY

308 Batson, Avery M.  
607 Bylak, Mitchell J.  
628 Dharwadker, Dominic  
627 Miller, Kendall R.  
301 Nandy, Anshuman  
450 Narayan, Ashwin  
999 Narayan, Vivek  
742 Prabhudesai, Aryan S.  
160 Scott, BreeAnna L.  
628 Shackelford, Christine M.  
000 Wisdom, Charles J.

### FORT SMITH

NORTHSIDE H. S.  
467 Anderson, Benton C.

### SOUTHSIDE H. S.

833 Anower, Mahdir M.  
999 Clardy, Kenneth H.  
175 Gooden, Martina M.  
201 Hannan, Joshua B.  
450 Martin, Heber J.  
160 Phan, Angelica D.  
450 Settlage, Madison E.  
303 Welsch, George A.

### GREENBRIER

GREENBRIER H. S.  
629 Trent, John W.

### GREENWOOD

GREENWOOD H. S.  
450 Hutchinson, William D.

### HARRISON

HARRISON H. S. CONVERSION  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
603 Smith, David M.

### HIGHLAND

HIGHLAND H. S.  
999 Hoppe, Joel M.

### HOT SPRINGS

ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR  
MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES AND  
THE ARTS  
836 Ahn, Yoo-Jin  
302 Devlin, Ronan A.  
166 Eoff, Tristan A.  
000 Hardin, Carson O.  
600 Hoang, Jason  
169 Orlina, Howard Grant E.  
162 Smith, Emily E.  
467 Whitney, Haven K.

### JONESBORO

THE ACADEMIES AT  
JONESBORO H. S.  
202 Darby, Torre J.  
999 Richardson, Eric  
301 Sherman, Matthew F.

### LITTLE ROCK

CATHOLIC H. S. FOR BOYS  
600 Provencher, William H.  
202 Ratycz, Nicholas R.

### CENTRAL H. S.

906 Baker, Keeling  
432 Bates, Jessica L.  
160 Garg, Sakshi  
303 Helms, Andrew D.  
303 Kang, Kelvin L.  
300 Li, Anne  
160 Li, Audrey D.  
605 Liu, Jessica  
161 Nischal, Nathania  
600 Patel, Jahnvi M.  
209 Rike, Mason S.  
628 Vaddavalli, Rishith  
000 Williams, Owen H.  
836 Zhang, Rachel  
162 Zhang, Taylor

### EPISCOPAL COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

000 Johnson, James E.  
000 Messias, Ivan C.

### ESTEM HIGH CHARTER SCHOOL

451 Simancas, Gabriel

### LITTLE ROCK

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
450 McGilvray, Stuart  
710 Wood, William

### MOUNT ST. MARY ACADEMY

999 Boyd, Isabella D.  
175 Palmer, Anna N.

### PARKVIEW ARTS AND SCIENCE

MAGNET H. S.  
542 Schick, Emily G.

### PULASKI ACADEMY

999 Chambers, Harper R.  
628 Robinson, Courtney A.  
999 Waugh, Wilson

### MAGNOLIA

MAGNOLIA H. S.  
000 Bulliard, Gabrielle N.

### MOUNTAIN HOME

MOUNTAIN HOME H. S. -  
CAREER ACADEMIES  
822 Beckham, Grace C.

### NORTH LITTLE ROCK

CENTRAL ARKANSAS  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
467 Burton, Davis R.

### ROGERS

PROVIDENCE CLASSICAL  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
456 DeJarnatt, James C.  
467 Raymond, Isaac J.

### ROGERS H. S.

303 Norris, Jack T.  
450 Potts, Ethan M.  
000 Scogin, Trevor D.

### ROGERS HERITAGE H. S.

833 O'Hearn, Michael E.

### ROGERS NEW TECHNOLOGY H. S.

204 Abercrombie, Austin C.

### RUSSELLVILLE

RUSSELLVILLE H. S.  
999 Carreiro, Daxon S.

### SILOAM SPRINGS

SILOAM SPRINGS H. S.  
900 Arrington, Katherine M.  
700 Cooper, Daniel M.  
000 Hulbert, Emma C.

### SPRINGDALE

HAR - BER H. S.  
900 Franco, Claire S.  
465 Lonneman, Samuel K.

### SHILOH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

740 Mapes, Breanna L.

### SPRINGDALE SCHOOL

OF INNOVATION  
451 Mammay, Oliver P.  
454 Manos, Sara J.

### TEXARKANA

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
451 Miller, Evan P.

### WEST FORK

WEST FORK H. S.  
218 Martin, Nathan R.

### WHITE HALL

WHITE HALL H. S.  
451 Anderson, Ethan B.