

**For Immediate Release**



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## **District 303 Students Named Semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program**

St. Charles, IL – September 29, 2022 – St. Charles East High School Seniors Matthew Hall and Nathan Throneburg, and St. Charles North High School Senior Andrew Nesterov have been named Semifinalists in the 68th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring. 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.

“We are incredibly proud of our National Merit Semifinalists for achieving this high academic honor,” said Audra Christenson, Executive Director of Secondary Education. “This accomplishment is a result of their commitment to academic excellence, perseverance and strong work ethic.”

Additionally, the following students were recognized by the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program as Commended students.

*St. Charles East High School:* Clare Archbold, Christopher Barbera, Nathan Borgstrom, Rachel Cornille, Daniel Flores, Jack Griffin, Andrew Komerska, Abigail Kreeger, Peyton LaCroix, Emma Maxwell, Clara Owen, Dylan Platt, Maggie Rich, Jackson Sengenberger, Ryan Sponzilli, Amanda Stepien, Andrew Szuch, and Hannah Wojcik.

*St. Charles North High School:* Skyler Bell, Alexandra Bryner, Stephen DelBello, Hayley Giancaterino, Adeline Grimm, Nikhil Gupta, Robert Kemp, Kane Kriz, Anatoliy Lynevych, Kayla Menough, Hanna Rey, Cameron Ring, Mia Rodriguez, Ella Roth, Joshua Wahl, and Emily Watanapongse.

High school juniors entered the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2021 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.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2023 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join nearly 368,000 other distinguished young people who have earned 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 340 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.

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