

PRESS RELEASE

ARHS STUDENTS NAMED SEMIFINALISTS IN THE 2016 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has announced 16,000 students nationwide as Semifinalists in the 61ST annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Four Amherst Regional High School students were among those named. They are:

Alexander Hajir
Maia Hamin
Ngan Nguyen
Katya Schwenk.

About 1.5 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as the 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.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to Finalist standing. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win National Merit Scholarships, 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 440 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.



Pictured: Katya Schwenk, Ngan Nguyen, Alexander Hajir, Maia Hamin

ARHS STUDENTS NAMED COMMENDED STUDENTS IN THE 2016 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The following ARHS students have been named Commended Students in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are:

Sage Bailin
Eleanor Barakso
Nathaniel Corp
Tessa Davies
Frances Duncan
Daniel Feldman
Samuel Findlen-Golden
Jared Kannel
Jacob Kaplan

Brody Lunch
Christina Manson
Solomon Rueschemeyer-Bailey
Luke Webb
Owen Wright
Alexander Yakub
Jeremy Yang
Ciaran Young

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2016 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2016 by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).



Pictured:

**Front Row: Jacob Kaplan, Tessa Davies, Daniel Feldman, Christina Manson, Solomon Rueschemeyer-Bailey,
Second Rows: Francis Duncan, Ciaran Young, Nathaniel Corp, Alexander Yakub, Eleanor Barakso, Brody Lynch,
Back Row: Sage Bailin, Jared Kannel, Luke Webb, Jeremy Yang, Samuel Findlen-Golden
Inset: Owen Wright**