

100 Contra Costa County Students Named 2025 National Merit Semifinalists

PLEASANT HILL, Calif.— Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey proudly acknowledges 100 high school seniors who have been named Semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

"Congratulations to our outstanding National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists," said Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey. "Achieving Semifinal status is no small feat. The dedication, determination, and perseverance of these students have led them to this remarkable milestone. I also want to also recognize the invaluable support of their families, teachers, and school communities in fostering their success. We wish these scholars the best as they represent our county and move forward in the competition for National Merit Scholarships."

Dougherty Valley High School in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District leads the county with 33 students earning Semifinalist honors. In total, 18 Contra Costa County high schools are represented among the over 16,000 Semifinalists nationwide.

The schools with Semifinalists include Dougherty Valley (33), California (12), Monte Vista (11), Campolindo (9), Bentley (7), Miramonte (7), and Acalanes (5). Northgate High School has three Semifinalists. Athenian, El Cerrito, and Las Lomas high schools each have two Semifinalists. Meanwhile, Antioch, Liberty, Carondelet, San Ramon Valley, Alhambra, Berean Christian, and Contra Costa Christian high schools all have one Semifinalist.

These exceptional seniors will now advance in the competition for approximately 6,870 National Merit Scholarships, collectively valued at \$26 million, which will be awarded next spring. To qualify for a Merit Scholarship, Semifinalists must meet specific criteria to progress to the Finalist stage. It is anticipated that about 95% of Semifinalists will achieve Finalist standing, and around half of those Finalists will be selected as National Merit Scholars, earning this prestigious title.

Over 1.3 million high school juniors across 21,000 schools entered the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). Semifinalists represent less than one percent of U.S. seniors, marking the highest scorers in each state. National Merit Scholarship winners for 2025 will be announced between April and July.

For more information on the National Merit Scholarship Program, visit www.nationalmerit.org.

DOUGHERTY VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL – 33

- Agarwal, Prisha
- Agarwal, Aryan
- Bhaskara, Aditya
- Bian, Hunter
- Challa, Varun
- Chandrasekhar, Aditya
- Chen, Josiah
- De, Aarush
- Krishna, Adithya M.
- Kumar, Vainavi
- Lee, Jayden D.
- Malani, Rohan V.
- Mehrotra, Khushi
- Mei, Andy L.
- Mishra, Plaban
- Nadhan, Pallavi
- Naidu, Nirav M.
- Narayan, Aditya
- Park, Aiden D.
- Park, Sejun
- Pham, Michael K.
- Rajkumar, Shalini S.
- Sandadi, Rohit
- Shen, Katherine X.
- Wang, Joy
- Wang, Joyce
- Wang, Justin
- Wei, Hongyi
- Wu, Joyce C.
- Xu, Victoria C.
- Zhang, Joshua Z.
- Zhang, Timothy Y.
- Zhao, William J.

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL -12

- Cheung, Meghan G.
- Chu, Isaac L.
- Griffin, Callan B.
- Li, Mengze
- Li, William Y.
- Liang, Kadon O.
- Nayak, Sahil S.
- Piggott IV, William T.
- Rudrakshi, Naman S.
- Srinivasan, Amritha
- Thippavajjala, Srikar
- Zhao, Cindy Y.

MONTE VISTA HIGH SCHOOL - 11

- Atkinson, Kalen J.
- Bijlani, Trisha
- Cao, Stephanie Y.
- Chao, Rex S.
- Dolan, Liam K.
- Ferman, Emre
- Fernandez, Sofia F.
- Gandhi, Arshia
- Kabbarah, Bashar
- Kayari, Amanda E.
- Kuwahara, Callen M.

- SAN RAMON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - 1**
Luo, Nicholas H.