

## **ASTI Student Now NMS Semi-Finalist**

Congratulations to ASTI senior Chixue (Sybil) Fu, who is a semifinalist in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program! According to the national program, she is the only student in Alameda to be a semi-finalist this year.

ASTI is AUSD's Early College High School, where students also take courses at College of Alameda. Sybil, who has been taking college courses since 9<sup>th</sup> grade (although they aren't required until 11<sup>th</sup> grade) is on track to graduate from high school with an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Arts and Humanities next May. About 30% of ASTI's seniors graduate with an AA degree.

By all accounts, Sybil is an impressive student. In addition to doing well in her schoolwork (she currently has a 4.0 GPA), Sybil taught herself French and ended up scoring 800 on her French language SAT. After also teaching herself art, she won for her grade level in Celebrating Art, a national contest sponsored by Blick Art Materials, and now hopes to start an art charity project to help fund disaster relief. Her goal is to work in foreign affairs with the United Nations in French-speaking countries.

She is equally impressive outside the classroom. As vice president of the ASTI Associated Student Body, Sybil has worked with her team to plan and run school elections, school wide rallies, dances, and awards nights. She also works as a Kumon tutor and is involved with the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, where she has learned traditional dance, calligraphy, and instruments.

When she goes to college next year, she will be the first in her family to do so.

Sybil says becoming a semi-finalist "was a pleasant little surprise," and her advice for younger students who are trying to manage both academics and extra-curricular activities would be "to set goals for themselves and have a timetable for their milestones along the way. Keeping on top of what needs to be done leaves time for what one wants to do, which is what gets me through the week."