



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23

Contact: Aimee Gordon
Director of Communications
253.358.6931
gordona@psd401.net

Gig Harbor High student named National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalist

Gig Harbor, WA – A Gig Harbor High School (GHHS) student was named a National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalist, among only 16,000 other students nationwide.

Eliana Dietrich, a senior at GHHS, is in a special group of students across the nation with the highest scores on the 2021 PSAT, a standardized test administered to high school juniors.

“We are so proud of Eliana and her accomplishments. She’s an amazing young woman with a bright future ahead of her,” said Principal Michele Suiter.

According to the National Merit Scholarship Program, 95 percent of the semifinalists will be named finalists, and only 7,250 of those students will receive a scholarship. The total amount of money given from the scholarship program is estimated at \$28 million.

To become a finalist, Dietrich must be endorsed by their school principal, show a record of consistently high academic performance in grades 9 through 12, and earn similar scores on their SAT or ACT.

The finalists are may receive three scholarships:

- The National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship;
- The Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship Awards; and
- The College-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards.

Semifinalists who are not chosen as finalists may receive one of National Merit Program Special Scholarships, provided by corporations and business organizations.

###

PHOTO CAPTION: Elian Dietrich, a senior at Gig Harbor High School, was named a National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalist in September, 2022.

Photo provided by Mindy Dietrich.