



Hannah Park COURTESY OF TENAFLY SCHOOLS

# Violinist named National YoungArts finalist

## From Staff Reports

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For Tenafly High School violinist Hannah Park, who was recently named a finalist in the National Young Arts Competition, music is an essential part of life.

"To me, music is a medium I use to connect with others and something that genuinely makes me happy," the senior said. "I believe that art can convey things that language cannot."

Every year thousands of performing, visual and literary artists age 15-18 apply to National YoungArts, an intensive program in which finalists collaborate with peers across ten disciplines, developing their craft with internationally recognized leaders in their fields.

Finalists in their senior year are further eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts - one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

All award winners, including Finalist, Merit, and Honorable Mention award levels, receive mentorship and financial awards; gain access to a lifetime of creative, professional development, and

funding opportunities.

Park, who was also accepted to the All-National Honors Ensemble this fall, is a member of the school's orchestra, played violin for the fall musical, is a member of the New York Youth Symphony, is a concertmaster of the New Jersey All-State Orchestra, participated in the National Youth Orchestra 2 and was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America.

In 2021, she was a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist award in 2021 and was featured on NPR's From the Top this past April.

When asked about her decision to audition, Park, who studies with Ms. Soyeon Ahn, added, "I had seen videos of National YoungArts Week and was amazed by everything from the talent to the venue itself. I also knew some of the finalists, and they were all people I genuinely admired.

"Because of this and given that many of my friends had participated in YoungArts previously, I thought entering myself would be a challenging goal I could work towards."

For more information on Tenafly High School, visit [www.tenaflyschools.org/thc](http://www.tenaflyschools.org/thc).