

News Release

Tenaflly Public Schools
Contact: Christine Corliss
Publicity Coordinator
E-Mail: ccorliss@tenafly.k12.nj.us
Phone: 201-816-4554

Tenaflly Middle School Students Take Home the Gold, Silver, and Bronze for 2021 National Spanish Examinations

Eighth graders earn 16 medals and six honorable mentions; Gold Awardee Maya Fischler is only New Jersey participant to earn perfect score

For Immediate Release

Tenaflly, NJ – June 18, 2021 – Students at Tenaflly Middle School brought home the gold, silver, and bronze this year when 16 students earned medals and six more honorable mentions for excellent performance on the 2021 National Spanish Examinations. The students, who are all part of the Spanish language program at the school, earned a total of seven gold, three silver and six bronze medals along with six honorable mentions.

The National Spanish Examinations are a motivational contest to recognize student achievement in the study of Spanish and to stimulate further interest in the teaching and learning of Spanish.

"Attaining a medal or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," said Kevin Cessna-Buscemi, National Director of the Exams. "The exams are the largest of their kind in the United States with over 55,000 students participating in 2021."

The students, taught by Spanish teachers Jessica Sesti and Rachael Neira, have a long history of high achievement on these exams.

"We are very proud of our 8th graders," said Sesti. "It is an honor to have so many students perform well on the National Spanish Exam."

Added Neira, "This year certainly presented some challenges, but it was encouraging to see all the students who participated and shined. They have very bright futures ahead of them."

The National Spanish Examinations are administered each year in grades 6 through 12, and are sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

The winners for Tenaflly included, for Classroom Experience: Silver awardee Naomi Bekkerman; for Outside Experience: Gold awardees Maya Fischler, Aidan Chua, Liam Tenenbaum, Amanda Fukui, Hugh Knoepp, Miranda Cheng, and Dominick Miller; Silver awardees Kathryn Thompson and Brady Sansotta; and Bronze awardees Bryan Bin, Maia Goldman, Cailyn Min, Daniella Mor, Anna Kira Ponerros, and Yoav

Goldberg; and honorable mentions Juliet Lee, Dina Albert, Isaac Topfer, Joe Cogan, and Eliot Na; and for Bilingual: honorable mention Lucia Martinez-Pelaez.

Gold Awardee Maya Fischler was the only New Jersey participant to earn a perfect score.

For more information on Tenafly Public Schools, visit <https://www.tenaflyschools.org>. For more information on Tenafly Middle School, visit <https://www.tenaflyschools.org/tms>.

###

