



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

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PENNINGTON, N.J., April, 2024—Pennington Students Among Those Ranked Nationally in *Le Grand Concours*, a French Language Contest.

Several students at the Pennington School have ranked nationally in the 89th annual event, according to Lisa Narug, National Director of *Le Grand Concours*. *Le Grand Concours* is a national competition sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF). Students were evaluated for their written, oral, and listening comprehension skills in French. Nearly 45,000 students competed in the 2024 event.

A gold medal, for scoring in the 95th percentile, was awarded to Layten Hoffman (Level 1). This ranks him 6th in the nation for the Level 1 contest.

Silver Medals, for finishing in the 85-94th percentiles, go to Alejandro Luna (Level 1) and Cecelia Embleton (Level 4).

Bronze Medals, for finishing in the 75-84th percentiles, go to Axel Sandin Orea (Level 4) and Liam Baigun (Level 5).

Finally, the following students earned Honorable Mentions for their scores in the 50th through 74th percentiles: Phineas Choe, Isabella Jiang, Vivaan Ravindran, Neve Sirois, Katie Dwyer, Angelyn Li, Maria Garcia Rodriguez, Alexandra Rogankov, Xiaona “Jenny” Zhu, Moyang “Eliza” Zou, Shreya Mookherjee, Mykaela Sanders, and Sophia Murphy. All honorees are students of Mesdames Sonja Karp and Luran Hocquaux in French 1 through Advanced Placement courses.

AATF President Eileen Walvoord said, “These students have demonstrated excellence in their study of French and are to be highly commended. In their French classes, throughout the school year, they have used the French language to engage with authentic documents and individuals around the world, all the while exploring cultures as diverse as Mali and Monaco, Senegal and Switzerland, Tunisia and Togo. The superior level of language achievement that they have attained will serve them well as they use these linguistic and communication skills throughout their personal and professional lives, interacting with diverse peoples and cultures around the world and in their own communities. The students’ parents should also be commended for their support of their children and for the French programs that make this outstanding achievement possible. Congratulations to all! *Félicitations à vous tous!*”

Pennington students receiving *Le Grand Concours* honors are listed below, by state or country and hometown, followed by their grade level in 2023-24:



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NEW JERSEY

Ewing: Neve Sirois, 9

Lawrenceville: Sophia Murphy, 12

Hillsborough: Mykaela Sanders, 11

Pennington: Katie Dwyer, 10; Angelyn Li, 10; Shreya Mookherjee, 11

Princeton: Phineas Choe, 9; Vivaan Ravindran, 9; Xiaona “Jenny” Zhu, 11

Skillman: Cecelia Embleton, 10

PENNSYLVANIA

Washington Crossing: Layten Hoffman, 11

CANADA:

Dollard-des-Ormeaux: Liam Baigun, 11

CHINA

Guangzhou: Isabella Jiang, 9

Shanghai: Moyang “Eliza” Zou, 11

MEXICO

Huixquilucan: Alejandro Luna, 8

Ciudad de México: Axel Sandin Orea, 11; Maria Garcia Rodriguez, 11

UKRAINE

Odessa: Alexandra Rogankov, 11

The Pennington School is an independent coeducational school for students in grades 6 through 12, in both day and boarding programs. The curriculum is college preparatory, with an emphasis on individual excellence, fostering the development of the whole student through academics, athletics, community service, and the creative and performing arts.