

For Immediate Release

September 19, 2023

Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

CCSD has 34 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists this school year

Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud of the 34 students from the Class of 2024 who are semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) released the names of more than 16,000 semifinalists last week.

Office of Communications

Eric Gallien, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed.
Deputy Superintendent

Vanessa L. Denney, M.Ed.
Interim Executive Director of
Communications

The following CCSD students are 2024 semifinalists:

Academic Magnet

Andrew W. Angermeier
Warren C. Cohn
Elizabeth S. Compton
Harry S. Ding
Nicholas W. Edwards
Colin C. George
Adam P. Kremer
Campbell N. Leshner
Elizabeth C. Manuel
Zachary O. Matthews
John K. McQueen
Henry J. Monteith
Jacob T. Olinger
Jessie Ross
John S. Rutter
Todd Sander
Thompson W. Sasser
Caroline M. Spann
Maryn G. Tombs
Ava N. Trolley
Emerson Wiseman
Kabir A. Zamana

Charleston County School of the Arts

Julia A. Boyer
Jessica H. Johnson
Margaret R. Largent

James Island Charter

Harold L. Mullin

Lucy Beckham

Kathryn C. Bennett
Elizabeth F. Goldberg
Jillian F. McCafferty
Lilah J. Smith

Wando

Colton P. Keith
Kathryn P. MacDonald
James E. Perkins
Viona Z. Su

Academic Magnet High School leads the state with 22 semifinalists.

"We are so proud of these Raptors for this achievement," said Academic Magnet Principal Jake Perlmutter. "It is a remarkable personal accomplishment for each of them and a huge organizational accomplishment to have so many students recognized as National Merit semifinalists."

These CCSD high school seniors will compete for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth close to a combined \$28 million that will be awarded in the spring.

"We are so proud of our three scholar-artists," explained Dr. Shannon Cook, principal of Charleston County School of the Arts. "Their commitment to excellence is evident in all they do. We are thrilled to celebrate this honor with them and look forward to hearing about their future accomplishments."

High school juniors entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

"Harry Mullin is an extraordinary student, with a generous heart and a deep commitment to his school and community," stated James Island Charter High School's principal, Tim Thorn.

To become a finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application that includes the student's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

"As part of our first class to attend LBHS their whole high school career, these semifinalists represent not only the highest academic achievement but the strength and determination that the Class of 2024 represents," explained Anna Dassing, Lucy Beckham High School's principal. "They have worked tirelessly to overcome and persevere through a global pandemic to be top in their class and we could not be prouder of this incredible accomplishment."

2024 National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 375,000 other distinguished young people who have the title of Merit Scholar.

"We are so proud of all our National Merit Scholarship semifinalists," added Wando High School Principal Chas Choker. "This is a true testament to the hard work and dedication they have given in their high school career. We look forward to honoring their work this year."

For more information, contact CCSD's Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

###

About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.