

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Twenty-eight CCSD students earn 2022 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist honors

Division of Strategy and
Communications

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Charleston, SC — Once again, Charleston County School District (CCSD) is near the top of the state with 28 Semifinalists in the 67th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) released the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists last week.

The following CCSD students are 2022 Semifinalists:

Academic Magnet

Mary C. Compton
Brett M. Cox
Kevin D. Fan
Louisa R. Grubb
Callaghan C. Monnier
Kaylin L. Morris
Claudia Rose Perkis
Randall C. Reed
Leddy A. Scheurer
Shay M. Selm
Anna Leigh Tangeman
Asher L. Wallen
David Y. Wang
Huiwen Wang
Piper D. Wood

Charleston County School of the Arts

Ella A. Bundy
Elliott C. Catoe-Griffis
Elaina H. Gable
Ryan M. Kopanski

Wando

Claire E. Andersen
Maddox R. Barron
Bailey M. Chave
Samuel J. Desantis
Nolin P. Harris
Jett M. McGrath
Akanksha S. Patwardhan
Sarah G. Rickborn
Ryan L. Teachman

According to school and district records, four NMSC Semifinalists are the most Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA) has had.

“We are so proud of our student artists!” exclaimed SOA Principal Dr. Shannon Cook. “They have studied, practiced, and honed skills that illustrate what a gifted group of students they are.”

Academic Magnet High School has the second-most Semifinalists (15) in the state.

"These students have displayed amazing focus and resilience during the last few school years," said Academic Magnet Principal Jake Perlmutter. "This accomplishment reflects that dedication and determination. The entire AMHS community is so proud of these scholars for their hard work and this huge achievement."

Wando has nine NMSC Semifinalists for the second time in three years, nearly equaling their school record of 10 (2017).

"The faculty and staff celebrate and salute our nine NMSC Semifinalists," added Wando Principal Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer. "Their effort and commitment to excellence are reasons for their academic success so far and will carry them throughout their educational career."

These high school seniors will continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth close to combined \$30 million that will be awarded in the spring.

High school juniors entered the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2020 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.

To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application that includes the Semifinalist'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.

2022 National Merit Scholarship finalists will be contacted by NMSC in February and winners will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 362,000 other distinguished young people who have the title of Merit Scholar.

For more information, contact the Division of Strategy and Communication at (843) 937-6303.

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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 of 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 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.