



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

For Immediate Release: September 30, 2024

Contact: **Jennifer Taverney**, jennifer.taverney@pennington.org, 609-559-5285

PENNINGTON, NJ, September 30, 2024—Three Pennington Seniors Named as Semifinalists in the 2025 National Merit® Scholarship Program

Earlier this month, officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) in Evanston, Illinois announced the names of more than 16,000 twelfth-graders from across the country who are semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program; it is a distinction held by less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors. Pennington’s Shreya Mookherjee ’25, Anirudh Suren ’25, and Siyi Yang ’25 are among the semifinalists who will continue on in the competition in pursuit of nearly 7,000 scholarships offered this spring, which collectively total over \$25 million.

NMSC® was established in 1955 with the following goals: honoring the nation’s scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence. According to the organization, “Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.”

To become a finalist, the semifinalist must submit a detailed scholarship application with the help of the school official recommending them for consideration; the application includes detailed information about their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, and employment, as well as any and all honors and awards received. Additionally, semifinalists must write an essay and earn SAT® or ACT® scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test.

A list of the NMSC® semifinalists, arranged by state or country and hometown, follows.

MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge: Siyi Yang

NEW JERSEY

Bordentown: Anirudh (Anir) Suren

Pennington: Shreya Mookherjee

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.

–30–

Photo Caption: Semifinalists in the 2025 National Merit® Scholarship Program from The Pennington School, from left to right: Shreya Mookherjee ’25, Siyi Yang ’25, and Anirudh (Anir) Suren ’25.