



Media Contact: Terry Corallo  
E-Mail: [tcorallo@tenafly.k12.nj.us](mailto:tcorallo@tenafly.k12.nj.us)  
Phone: 201-816-4554

## News Release

---

# **Tenafly Celebrates National Merit Scholarship, and National Recognition Program Recipients for Hispanic, African-American, and First-Generation Students**

*6 Tenafly High School Semifinalists are now eligible for National Merit Scholarships*

Tenafly, NJ – November 18, 2024 – Tenafly High School proudly announces that seniors Miranda Cheng, Ryan Jang, Adam Liakhovitski, Luke Oh, Seiichiro Takayama and Monet Wright have been named Semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Among the nation's highest scorers on the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, Semifinalists represent less than one percent of U.S. High School seniors.

More than 15,000 Semifinalists are expected to advance to the Finalist level and will be notified of this designation in February 2025. The 2025 National Merit Scholarship winners will then be selected from this group of Finalists as they compete for one of three types of scholarships worth nearly \$26 million:

- National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships
- Corporate-sponsored scholarships
- College-sponsored scholarships

In addition to this year's six Semifinalists, Tenafly also recognizes 21 National Merit Commended Students. Our Commended Students are: Ananya Anchlia, Insuh Baek, Joowan Byun, Richard Cavaliere-Mazziotta, Kavya Chettur, Kailyn Cho, Hannah Choi, Aidan Joachim Chua, Sachin Durgam, Tomas Fabbroni, Ian Fleischer, Amanda Fukui, Maximilian Grach, Anisha Gupta, William Hsu, Daniel Israeli Miller, Olivia Kee, Alexander Klein, Javier Klein, Hugh Knoepp, Joe Kuwama, Sophia Lee, Elyan Mazigh, Dominick Miller, Aaron Noh, Olivia Park, Guy Persitz, Aidan Raghu, Lunette Shaw, Emily Singer, Seung Kyu Sung, Pranav Suresh, Liam Tenenbaum, Iosi Tetro, Brendan Won, Jordan Yanowitz, Ganghyun Yoo, Heeseo Yoon, Hanna You, Henry Zhang, and Justin Zhu. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers and may be candidates for Special Scholarships offered by corporate sponsors.

## National Recognition Programs

Tenaflly High School also celebrates this year's recipients of the National Hispanic, National African American, and First Generation (new for this year) Recognition Program Awards:

- *National Hispanic Recognition Program* - grade 12 except where noted: Andres Aldeco, Sophia dos Santos, Tomas Fabbroni, Elena Goiria Gesteira, Javier Klein, Alexander Klein, and Maria Merklen Pimenta De Medeiros (grade 11)
- *National African American Recognition Program* - grade 12 students, Joshua Beaver, Dmitri Jefferson and O'Shea Liles; and
- *First Generation Recognition Program* - grade 12 students, Gain Lim and Adar Serok.

*NOTE: As with the National Merit Scholarship Program, these three programs use the junior year PSAT/NMSQT as the qualifying test. There are no financial awards attached to these three awards, but it is a considerable honor and notable achievement. Receiving this award can open doors for college admissions and increase scholarship opportunities.*

"Our students are known to be high-achievers, and we are proud to have so many seniors once again named as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists and Commended students," said Tenaflly High School Principal Jim Morrison. "We also appreciate the additional recognitions for our Hispanic, African American, and first generation students. As a school community that embraces diversity, our families choose us because we provide a safe, nurturing environment which promotes student growth, and sets high expectations for all."

Tenaflly High School is consistently ranked as one of the best high schools in the state and the nation. The Tenaflly Board of Education will honor these outstanding recipients at this evening's (November 18, 2024) meeting.

###

### **About the National Merit® Scholarship Program**

According to the National Merit® Scholarship Program [press release](#), 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, in which they provide information about 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. National Merit Scholarship winners of 2025 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join over 382,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title. For more information on the National Merit Scholarship Program, visit <https://www.nationalmerit.org/>.

For more information about the National Recognition Programs, visit [HERE](#).

*For more information on Tenaflly Public Schools, visit <https://www.tenafllyschools.org>.*

*Follow us on Facebook, Instagram & X (@TenafllySchools).*