

# Seniors are National Merit semifinalists

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Tenaflly High School recently announced 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.

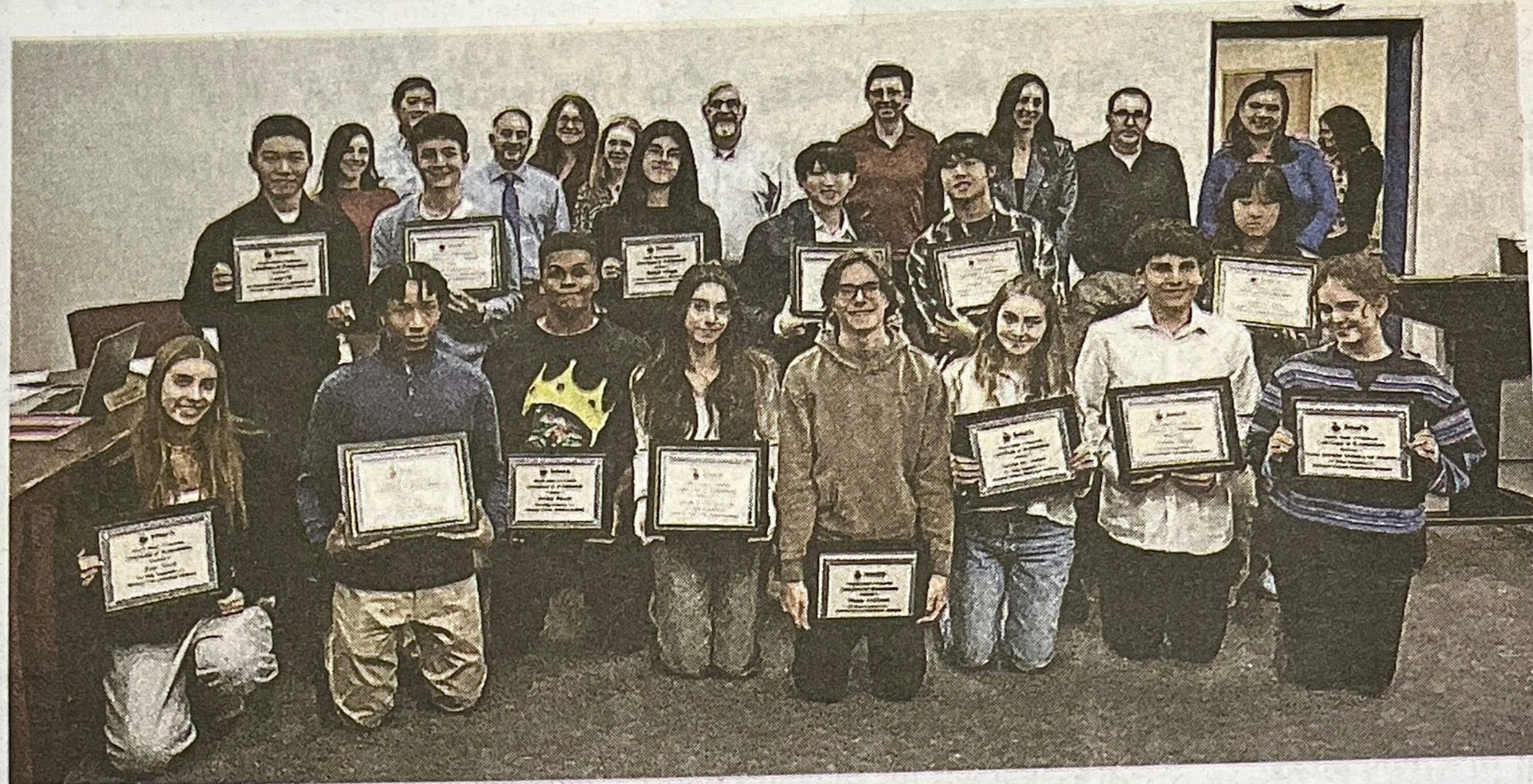
More than 15,000 semifinalists are expected to advance to the finalist level and will be notified of this designation in February. The winners will then be selected from that group as they compete for one of three types of scholarships worth nearly \$26 million - National Merit \$2,500 scholarships, corporate-sponsored scholarships and college-sponsored scholarships.

In addition to this year's semifinalists, Tenaflly also recognized 21 National Merit commended students: Ananya Anchlia, Insuh Baek, Joowan Byun, Richard Cavaliere-Mazziotta, Kavva 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. These students placed among the top 50,000 scorers and may be candidates for scholarships offered by corporate sponsors.

Tenaflly High School also recognized 2024 recipients of the National Hispanic, National African American and First Generation (new for this year) Recognition Program awards:

National Hispanic Recognition Program awardees were 12th graders Andres Aldeco, Sophia dos Santos, Tomas Fabbroni, Elena Goiria Gesteira, Javier Klein and Alexander Klein; and 11th grader Maria Merklen Pimenta De Medeiros.

In the National African American Recognition Program, 12th grade students Joshua Beaver, Dmitri Jefferson and



Students from Tenaflly High School were honored at a board of education meeting in November for being recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Awardees are shown with members of the board and the superintendent.  
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O'Shea Liles were awarded.

Gain Lim and Adar Serok were recognized in the First Generation Recognition Program.

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.

"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."

The number of National Merit Scholarship Program 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.

For information on the program, visit [nationalmerit.org](http://nationalmerit.org). For information about Tenaflly Public Schools, visit [tenafllyschools.org](http://tenafllyschools.org).