



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

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PENNINGTON, N.J., May 12, 2025—Accolades for Students on Global Language Exams Pour In

A multitude of Pennington students have recently earned national honors on exam competitions across three different language disciplines.

Le Grand Concours, a national competition sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF), acknowledged several Pennington students for excellence in their study of that language. Lisa Narug, national director of the program, explained that students are evaluated based upon their written, oral, and listening comprehension skills in French; 2025 marked the competition's 90th year, with over 46,000 student contestants from across the country.

The following students of French were recognized with a silver medal: Romina Hidalgo '28, Layten Hoffman '25, Valentina Sanchez '27, and Jiaqi Zhang '28. Receiving bronze medals were Maria García Rodríguez '25, Hugo Gonzalez '27, Tanusri Reddy '28, and Xiaona Zhu '25. Honorable mentions went to Alessandro Bennati '28, Cecelia Embleton '26, Valerie Gavilanes '28, Layla Griffin '27, Wannuo Jin '28, Angelyn Li '26, Carolina Loh '27, Shreya Mookherjee '25, Kerri Moran '26, Vivaan Ravindran '27, Axel Sandin Orea '25, Alexander Schad '26, Neve Sirois '27, Xinyao Zhang '28, Charis Zong '29, and Moyang Zou '25. All Pennington honorees are students of Mesdames Sonja Karp and Luran Hocquaux in French I through Advanced Placement classes.

Nearly two dozen students at Pennington have earned awards on the 2025 National Latin Exam. This year, the annual exam was administered to over 100,000 students from all fifty states and twenty other countries. The exam tests students on Latin grammar, Roman history, Roman mythology, and Roman culture, including the reading of a passage in Latin for comprehension.

Six students received gold *summa cum laude* awards in their respective levels of the exam: Charlie Lewin '27, Kerri Moran '26, Tara Raman '28, Arden Shi '30, Ciaran Walsh '26, and Dingtong Zou '25. Earning the silver *maxima cum laude* award were James Chandrasaputra '28, Romina Hidalgo '28, Miaoyan Peng '28, Dhruv Ramaswamy '25, Illayanila Sathiespillai '29, Nishka Vyas '26, and Yanxin Wu '26. The *magna cum laude* award was earned by Jules Bourgoin '28, Deethya Karthikvatsan '25, Ana Latronica '29, Thomas McGinnis '29, Jinxuan Qi '25, and Emma Schmidt '27. Finally, *cum laude* awards went to Braydon Bonfig '27, Saskia Cooper '26, and Sasha Morgan '27. These students are currently enrolled in Latin classes ranging from Latin B to AP Latin and study under faculty members William Dingee and Peter Secrest.

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Finally, the American Association of Teachers of German released the results of this year's National German Exams, levels 1, 2, 3, and 4, and many Pennington students received recognition for their scores. Each exam consists of fifty multiple-choice questions focusing on viewing and listening tasks, while an additional fifty questions, also multiple-choice, are devoted to readings. The material for these exams is not created specifically for the exam-takers, but is instead taken from sources meant for consumption by the native German-speaking population.

The highest level of distinction on the German exam—a gold medal—was earned by Henry Armstrong '26, Katharina Koppenhofer '27, Honghe Liu '27, Zara Meehan-Ritter '26, Chi Fui Ni '27, and Siyi Yang '25. Silver medalists are Yongjia Liu '27, Tomáš Ludvík '25, Miaoyi Peng '28, Joey Riley '27, Elliot Sciaraffo '27, Yizun Shao '28, and Yannick Titus '28; and bronze medals went to Chenxi Zhu '28, Mauricio Kume Kiyota '28, Zhaowei Liu '28, and Ishaan Khetarpal '26. Achievement certificates were awarded to Drew Birkenstock '29, James Brandies '28, Oliver Brown '28, Nicholas Cardoso '28, Bryson Chase '27, Hannah Conboy '28, Gabriella Cook '29, Tymofii Panasenko '27, José Ponce De Leon '25, Zach Van Dillen '27, and Tate Zoll '28. All of the above are students of Pennington's teacher of German Peter Chase.

Pennington students receiving national language exam honors are listed below, by state or country and hometown, followed by their grade level in 2024-25 and language of recognition.

MARYLAND

Chevy Chase: Axel Sandin Orea, 12 (F)

MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge: Siyi Yang, 12 (G)

NEW JERSEY

Chesterfield: Tate Zoll, 9 (G)

Columbus: Kerri Moran, 11 (F, L)

East Brunswick: Ishaan Khetarpal, 11 (G)

Ewing: Neve Sirois, 10 (F)

Flemington: Nick Cardoso, 9 (G)

Guttenberg: Valerie Gavilanes, 9 (F)

Hamilton: Joey Riley, 10 (G)

Hillsborough: Jules Bourgoin, 9 (L)

Lawrenceville: Katharina Koppenhofer, 10 (G); Drew Birkenstock, 8 (G); Oliver Brown, 9 (G); Layla Griffin, 10 (F); Charlie Lewin, 10 (L); Illayanila Sathieshpillai, 8 (L)

Monmouth Junction: Tara Raman, 9 (L)

Pennington: Bryson Chase, 10 (G); José Ponce De Leon, 12 (G); Romina Hidalgo, 9 (F, L); Deethya Karthikvatsan, 12 (L); Thomas McGinnis, 7, (L); Shreya Mookherjee, 12 (F); Dhruv Ramaswamy, 12 (L); Emma Schmidt, 10 (L); Ciaran Walsh, 11 (L)

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Princeton: Henry Armstrong, 11 (G); Saskia Cooper, 11 (L); Zara Meehan-Ritter, 11 (G); Vivaan Ravindran, 10 (F); Jinxuan Qi, 12 (L); Arden Shi, 7 (L); Yanxin Wu, 11 (L); Xiaona Zhu, 12 (F); Dingtong Zou, 12 (L)

Ringoes: Angelyn Li, 11 (F)

Rocky Hill: Elliot Sciaraffo, 10 (G)

Skillman: Cecelia Embleton, 11 (F)

Titusville: Tanusri Reddy, 9 (F)

West Windsor: Zach Van Dillen, 10 (G)

NEW YORK

New Palz: Yannick Titus, 9 (G)

New York City: Carolina Loh, 10 (F)

PENNSYLVANIA

Langhorne: Braydon Bonfig, 10 (L)

New Hope: Gabriella Cook, 8 (G); Sasha Morgan, 10 (L)

Washington Crossing: Layten Hoffman, 12 (F)

Yardley: James Brandies, 9 (G); Hannah Conboy, 9 (G); Ana Latronica, 8 (L); Nishka Vyas, 11 (L)

CANADA

Terrebonne, Quebec: Alessandro Bennati, 9 (F)

CHINA

Beijing: Chenxi Zhu, 9 (G); Charis Zong, 8 (F)

Hangzhou: Miaoyi Peng, 9 (G); Miaoyan Peng, 9 (L)

Jiaxing: Xinyao Zhang, 9 (F)

Ningbo: Wannuo Jin, 9 (F)

Shanghai: Yongjia Liu, 9 (G); Zhaowei Liu, 9 (G); Chi Fui Ni, 10 (G); Yizun Shao, 9 (G); Moyang Zou, 12 (F)

Shenzen: Honghe Liu, 10 (G)

Xi'an: Jiaqi Zhang, 9 (F)

CZECH REPUBLIC

Praha: Tomáš Ludvík, 12 (G)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo: Hugo Gonzalez, 10 (F); Alexander Schad, 11 (F)

INDONESIA

Jakarta Selatan: James Chandrasaputra, 9 (L)

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MEXICO

Lerma: Valentina Sanchez, 10 (F)

Mexico City: Maria García Rodríguez, 12 (F); Mauricio Kume Kiyota, 9 (G)

UKRAINE

Vyshgorod: Tymofii Panasenko, 10 (G)

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.

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