



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

For Immediate Release: May 30, 2025

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PENNINGTON, N.J., May 30, 2025—Members of the Class of 2026 Honored at Special Junior Prize Ceremony

The Pennington School held a special award ceremony on May 19 for select students within the junior class. Presiding over the ceremony were Dean of Academic Affairs Scott Peeler and Upper School Dean of Students Samantha Stern-Leaphart.

Sofia Kulp earned the Yale University Book Award, which is presented each year to a Pennington junior who represents outstanding personal character and intellectual promise. As a high school junior who embodies Tulane's motto of "Not for one's self, but for one's own," and who demonstrates excellence in academics, leadership, and public service, Kian Phillips was the recipient of the Tulane University Book Award. Samik Mookherjee received the Rensselaer Medal Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement for his superlative achievement in mathematics and science.

Acknowledged for her extraordinary level of service towards others, both in and outside of the School community, Caiden O'Connell received the Pennington School Award to the Student Outstanding in Volunteer Service. The Pennington School Award for Bridging Cultures went to two students: Esther Aboagye and Anna-Kaisa Hokkanen shared the award which recognizes excellence in developing and fostering friendships, as well as attitudes of respect, tolerance, and social justice within our multicultural community.

With his positive outlook, ability to promote friendship and teamwork, and commitment to physical fitness, Finn Garner was the winner of the Ryan M. Fesko Award. Ishaan Khetarpal took home the Robert Young '70 Memorial Award for a Scholar-Athlete because of his ability to integrate hard work, personal interaction, and spirit of the athlete into every aspect of life at Pennington. The Terry William Weiler '66 Memorial Scholarship went to Brett Sirolly; the award recognizes a junior of solid character, strong academic record, and outstanding involvement within the School's extracurricular activities.

Finally, *Gateway Prizes*, which are given to the students who best exemplify Pennington's core values of honor, virtue, and humility, were awarded to four juniors: Alexander Loh, Connor Tirendi, Nishka Vyas, and Norah Youngblood.

Pennington juniors receiving honors at this ceremony are listed below, by state or country and hometown.

NEW JERSEY

East Brunswick: Ishaan Khetarpal

Flemington: Caiden O'Connell

North Brunswick: Esther Aboagye

Pennington: Finn Garner, Samik Mookherjee, Brett Sirolly

Stockton: Connor Tirendi

Titusville: Norah Youngblood

HONOR.
VIRTUE.
HUMILITY.



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NEW YORK

New York City: Alexander Loh

PENNSYLVANIA

Huntingdon Valley: Sophia Kulp

New Hope: Kian Phillips

Yardley: Nishka Vyas

FINLAND

Espoo: Anna-Kaisa Hokkanen

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-