

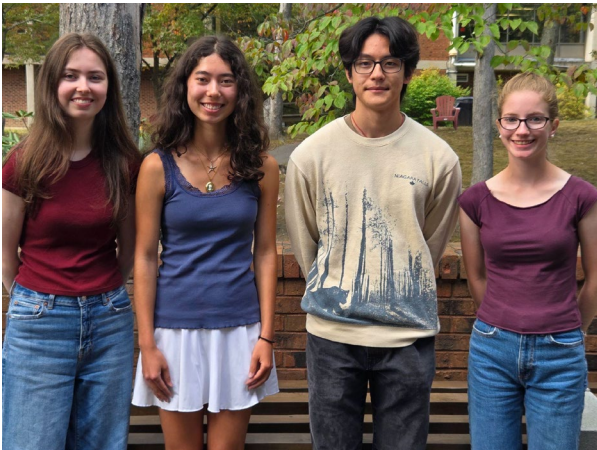


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Five East Greenwich High School Seniors Named as Semifinalists In the National Merit Scholarship Program

EAST GREENWICH, RI, September 12, 2025 – East Greenwich High School is proud to announce that five members of the Class of 2026 — **Katherine Creeden, Savannah Hepel, Olivier Slingsby, Sophia Speranza, and Zion Sun** — have been named Semifinalists in the prestigious 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program.



On September 10, 2025, officials from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) revealed the names of more than 16,000 Semifinalists in the 71st annual competition. These academically talented students represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and now have the opportunity to continue in the competition for nearly \$26 million in scholarships that will be awarded in Spring 2026.

L-R: Katharine Creeden, Savannah Hepel, Zion Sun, and Sophia

Speranza.

Olivier Slingsby was not available for this photo.

“We are incredibly proud of Katherine, Savannah, Olivier, Sophia, and Zion for achieving this remarkable honor,” said Anne-Marie Flaherty, School Counseling Department Chairperson. “Their academic excellence, leadership, and dedication are an inspiration to our entire school community,” added Dr. Patricia Page, Principal of East Greenwich High School. Superintendent Dr. Thomas Kenworthy also praised the students, noting, “This recognition reflects not only the talent and hard work of these remarkable young people, but also the support of their families, teachers, and the entire East Greenwich community.”

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To become Finalists, students must submit a detailed application that includes their academic record, leadership experiences, community service, and a personal essay. They must also earn SAT or ACT scores confirming their earlier PSAT/NMSQT performance. Approximately 95% of Semifinalists are expected to advance to Finalist standing, and about half of all Finalists will ultimately earn a National Merit Scholarship.

Three types of scholarships will be awarded in 2026:

- **National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships**, awarded on a state-representational basis
- **Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarships**, awarded to students meeting specific sponsor criteria
- **College-sponsored Merit Scholarships**, offered to Finalists who attend the sponsoring institution

National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced nationwide between April and July 2026. These students will join a distinguished group of nearly 382,000 young people who have been recognized as Merit Scholars since the program's founding.

The National Merit Scholarship Program, established in 1955, is a privately funded not-for-profit initiative dedicated to recognizing and encouraging academic excellence across the United States. More than 1.3 million juniors from approximately 20,000 high schools entered the 2026 program by taking the 2024 PSAT/NMSQT, which served as the initial screening for this year's competition.

About East Greenwich High School

East Greenwich High School (EGHS) is a comprehensive, public high school serving students in grades 9-12. The school community boasts a variety of accolades, including being designated as a national Unified Champion School in 2023, and a 5-Star School against state and federal accountability metrics. The school is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and has been named to the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll.

The keystone of the school's culture is expressed in the district's mission:

The mission of the East Greenwich Public Schools is to genuinely know, support, and celebrate all students in meeting their full potential. We are committed to meaningful collaboration among faculty, staff, students, families, and the community, recognizing our collective responsibility to continue to deliver a high-quality education system for all.

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