



Madeira Board of Education, 7465 Loannes Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45243
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Madeira High School Names Three National Merit Semifinalists

Three members of the Madeira High School (MHS) Class of 2026 have been named National Merit Semifinalists in the 71st annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Evan Cissell, Owen Donovan, and Ben Wetzel will continue in the competition for nearly 7,000 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered in the spring of 2026.

The National Merit® Scholarship Program (NMSC), is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®)—which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.3 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements. Semifinalists must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the school, write an essay, and earn scores that confirm the students' performance on an earlier test.

Approximately 95% of over 16,000 Semifinalists are expected to advance to the Finalist level. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group and announced in nationwide news releases in the spring. Those scholarship recipients will join more than 368,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2026 will be announced in the spring.



*Pictured (l to r): Owen Donovan,
Ben Wetzel, and Evan Cissell*