



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

For Immediate Release: May 31, 2026

Contact: Jennifer Taverney, jennifer.taverney@pennington.org, 609-559-5285

PENNINGTON, N.J., May 31, 2026—Members of the Class of 2027 Honored at Special Junior Prize Ceremony

The Pennington School held a special award ceremony on May 21 to recognize select students within the Class of 2027. Presiding over the ceremony were Head of Upper School Scott Peeler and Upper School Dean of Students Samantha Stern-Leaphart.

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, Sydney Zipp was the recipient of the *Tulane University Book Award*. Maxwell Kaufman received the *Rensselaer Medal Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement* for his superlative accomplishments in mathematics and science.

Acknowledged for her extraordinary level of service towards others, both in and outside of the School community, Sydney Zipp received the *Pennington School Award to the Student Outstanding in Volunteer Service*. The *Pennington School Award for Bridging Cultures* was presented to Muhan Tian for excellence in developing and fostering friendships, as well as fostering attitudes of respect, tolerance, and social justice within Pennington's multicultural community.

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

Finally, *Gateway Prizes*, awarded to the students who best exemplify Pennington's core values of honor, virtue, and humility, were given to four juniors: Lidia Gilch, Shona Karp, Tymofii Panasenko, and Jacob Sperling.

Several other juniors were also recognized during the Senior Award ceremony on May 29. The *Betty Lan Eng Award*, which recognizes and encourages a rising senior demonstrating talent in graphic design and/or fine art, went to Zhicheng Li. For extraordinary musical abilities and significant contributions to Pennington's music program, the following three juniors received the *Music Merit Award*: Ruichen Ding, Jayen Shah, and Neve Sirois.

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

NEW JERSEY

Ewing: Neve Sirois

Hamilton: Joseph Riley, Mason Schultz

Lawrenceville: Maxwell Kaufman

Millstone Twp: Sydney Zipp

Pennington: Shona Karp

Princeton: Jayen Shah, Gus Shapiro

Ringoes: Jacob Sperling

HONOR.

VIRTUE.

HUMILITY.

112 WEST DELAWARE AVENUE | PENNINGTON, NJ 08534-1601 | 609-737-1838 | WWW.PENNINGTON.ORG



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

PENNSYLVANIA

Upper Holland: Lidia Gilch

WASHINGTON

Bellevue: Zhicheng Li

CHINA

Beijing: Ruichen Ding

Chaoyang: Muhan Tian

UKRAINE

Vyshgorod: Tymofii Panasenko

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-