



News release
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Jackson High students named 2024 National Merit semifinalists

Semifinalists can further compete for finalist recognition and college scholarships



Pictured left to right: Asst. Principal Sechin Tower, Asst. Principal Bethany Stoddard, Zhengyu "Tiger" Sun, Alice Fu, Stephanie Lee, Jaelen Oh, Rahul Bonthu, Kovidh Singh, Asst. Principal Michelle Renee, Principal Lance Balla

Mill Creek, WA--Six Everett Public Schools seniors have been named as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. Rahul Bonthu, Alice Fu, Stephanie Lee, Jaelen Oh, Kovidh Singh and Tiger Sun of Henry M. Jackson High School join over 16,000 semifinalists nationwide who qualified for this prestigious honor.

Over 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

(PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application that includes information about the semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official and write an essay.

About 15,000 students are expected to advance to the finalist level, and in the spring, they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected based on their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

Those students will compete for one of three merit scholarships:

- \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship (2,500 awarded nationally)
- Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship Award (about 840 awarded by about 160 corporations and businesses nationally)

- College-sponsored Merit Scholarship (3,800 awarded by about 160 colleges and universities)

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2024 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join nearly 375,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

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For more information:

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