



# RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Tom Gorman  
Basil Pizzuto  
Department Supervisors  
Guidance Counselors

**From:** Jeff Nyhuis

**cc:** Dan Fishbein  
Debra Anderson

**Date:** September 2019

**Re:** National Merit Scholarships – Class of 2020

We received the results of the National Merit Scholarship Competition. About 1.5 million students took the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) last October and entered the National Merit Program, a nationwide competition for recognition and awards. Only some 16,000 who qualified as semifinalists have an opportunity to continue in the competition for Merit Scholarships to be offered next spring.

The approximately 16,000 semifinalists named in each year's Merit Scholarship Competition show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of semifinalists in a state or a school is not a valid measure of the quality or effectiveness of any educational unit. It is the individual student who is honored in this competition. Any attempt to compare high schools, educational systems, or states on the basis of such data constitutes misuse and will lead to erroneous and unsound conclusions.

The following ten students have been designated semifinalists:

An, Jongyun  
An, Taeseok  
Chang, Christy S.  
Donnelly, Nora G.  
Jerdee, Olivia N.

Lee, Choong Jae  
Mendoza, Annabel S.  
O'Keefe, Edward P.  
Patlollu, Sidharth  
Zhao, Baiyue

Before they can be considered for Merit Scholarship awards, semifinalists must advance to the finalist level of the competition by fulfilling additional requirements. These include having an outstanding academic record throughout high school, being endorsed and recommended by the high school principal and submitting SAT scores that confirm the earlier PSAT/NMSQT performance and finally, they must have a social security number.

In addition to the nine semifinalists, the following 25 students have been identified as Commended Students in the 2018 competition:

Bamberg, Katherine A.  
Blair, Cameron  
Carlson, Tomas E.  
Cheng, Vanessa  
Choi, Sean  
Crosly, Benjamin A.  
Ellinghaus, James  
Ertle, Emily A.  
Fogg, Avery  
Handley, Ridley P.  
Kim, Nathaniel L.  
Kye, Nicole J.  
Mabli, Grace E.

Micale, Joseph L.  
O'Hara, Caitlyn M.  
Park, Dylan N.  
Park, Eugene  
Rhew, Hoon Hee  
Sakharov, Yaroslav M.  
Sherman, Brendan J.  
Sherman, Cole B.  
Son, Daniel  
Sterling, Ethan G.  
Terman, Philip W.  
Yang, Inhyeok

These students are among the 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation who are honored for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the competition for Merit Scholarship Awards to be awarded in 2020, Commended Students may be candidates for special scholarships offered by corporate sponsors.

Letters of Commendation from Ridgewood High School and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation will be presented to these students.

The attached table provides a ten-year history of Ridgewood High School's students' accomplishments in the Merit Program. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation cautions – *qualifying scores and numbers of recognized students are meaningful only within the context of a particular year's merit program, and use of such data for any other purpose is neither valid or appropriate.*



JN/ms  
Attachment

## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

<b>Grad. Year of Class</b>	<b>Size of Class</b>	<b># Tested</b>	<b># of Semifinalists</b>	<b># of Commended Students</b>	<b># of Recognized Students</b>	<b>% of Class Tested</b>	<b>% of Test Takers Recognized</b>	<b>% of Class Recognized</b>
2020	436	207	10	25	35	47.5	16.9	8.0
2019	436	211	9	35	44	48.4	20.9	10.1
2018	430	189	2	18	20	44.0	9.5	4.7
2017	425	225	4	25	29	52.9	12.9	6.8
2016	424	262	2	39	41	61.8	15.6	9.7
2015	420	279	7	31	38	66.4	13.6	9.0
2014	420	299	8	30	38	71.2	12.7	9.0
2013	416	318	5	33	38	76.4	11.9	9.1
2012	396	293	5	31	36	74.0	12.3	9.1
2011	421	324	6	27	33	77.0	10.2	8.0