



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **National Merit begins its search with 72 from GCPS**

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has started its nationwide search for the students who will be named 2020 National Merit Scholars, winners of scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be announced starting next spring. As part of this first step, 72 **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** seniors have been named 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists. The students from 12 Gwinnett high schools are part of approximately 16,000 top students from across the nation who will now compete for the official National Merit Scholar title and thousands of dollars in scholarships that are awarded annually to graduating seniors.

### **The 2020 National Merit Semifinalists from GCPS are:**

**Archer HS**  
Summer R. Porter

**Brookwood HS**  
Alexandra J. Barskiy  
Zachary O. Bloodworth  
Tarel D. Dennie  
Amen H. Gashaw  
Jacquelyn Gwynn  
Aidan T. Hentschel  
Christian H. Kim  
Tanuj Patel  
Neil R. Patram  
Gregory R. Zhang

**Collins Hill HS**  
Jenise R. Bowling

**Duluth HS**  
Garrett R. Baird  
Shalin A. Jain

**Grayson HS**  
Josue Estrada-Cordoba  
Claire E. Mistretta

**Gwinnett School Of Mathematics Science**

**And Technology**  
Juan-Pablo Armes  
Victoria J. Chung  
Huy C. Dai  
Frances Day  
Gautam Desai  
Kareem Elfoulie  
Neha Gregory  
Aiden Jacobazzi  
Emily H. Kim  
Jennifer J. Kim  
Ray Li  
Young Q. Lin  
Tristan A. Linn  
Hanson Liu  
Faith E. Mchan  
Isabel L. Mchenry  
Vraj J. Patel  
Chirayu M. Salgarkar  
Nihar D. Shah  
Davin W. Shi  
Wenjun Wang

**Mill Creek HS**  
Claire M. Grant  
Cassidy J. Hettesheimer  
Madelyn K. Hurd

Madison B. Leming

**Norcross HS**  
Skylar P. Barnash  
Luke J. Gries  
Chance M. Keown

**North Gwinnett HS**  
Maya Chande  
Alexander G. Fonzi  
Bret A. Jacob-Wolos  
Rachel D. Kim  
Justin K. Lee  
Maria Li  
Savannah K. Luney  
Page K. Nellis  
Michael R. Robinson  
Benjamin N. Stracner  
Gabrielle B. Wheeler

**Parkview HS**  
Joy Dang  
Rhiannon B. Eplett  
Toby S. Nguyen  
Jessica Y. Pan  
Aarsh A. Patel  
Mary Wang

### **GWINNETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**THE MISSION OF GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.*

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It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

**2010 and 2014 Winner of**



**Peachtree Ridge HS**

*--more--*

Alice V. Ao

William L. Ao  
Andrew A. Chen  
Kevin Choi  
Bryan J. Kim  
Eunice C. Kim  
Daniel J. Lee

Reanna B. Rafiq  
Arvind Raza  
Alice Z. Yu

**South Gwinnett HS**  
Henoc Zinga

These 72 Gwinnett students, part of the Class 2020, were chosen for this competitive process based on their college entrance exam scores. They are competing with other semifinalists from around the nation for some 7,600 National Merit scholarships, worth more than \$31 million.

Approximately 1.6 million students in more than 21,000 high schools entered the competition last school year as juniors by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as the initial screening for program entrants. The semifinalists named in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program are the highest scoring entrants in each state.

A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. These academically talented students then compete to become finalists. That recognition is determined by looking at the student's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, and honors and awards received.

These students will compete for three types of National Merit Scholarships with winners for 2020 announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July.