



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Six Gwinnett seniors among National Merit winners**

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced that six **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** seniors are 2020 National Merit Scholars.

The six Gwinnett students join a growing list of students who continue to receive notification of scholarships. The National Merit Scholars from GCPS for 2020 are:

| <b>Name</b>          | <b>School</b>   | <b>Probable Career</b> | <b>Award</b>                       |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Tarel D. Dennie      | Brookwood HS  | Human Rights           | National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship |
| Shalin A. Jain       | Duluth HS   | Engineering            | National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship |
| Vraj J. Patel        | Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology | Engineering            | National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship |
| Davin W. Shi         | Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology | Economics              | National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship |
| Cassidy Hettesheimer | Mill Creek HS   | Media                  | National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship |
| Mary Wang            | Parkview HS   | Computer Science       | National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship |

The National Merit Scholars are part of a group of distinguished students nationwide judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. As designees, they each receive a scholarship for \$2,500. The students were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors from a pool of more than 15,000 finalists in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. The committee reviewed each student's academic record including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from two standardized tests; contributions/leadership in school

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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**



*-more-*

and community activities; an essay written by the student; and a recommendation written by a high school official.

The competition began when more than 1.5 million students, who at the time were high school juniors, took the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as the initial screening for program entrants. The highest scoring participants in each state were then selected as semifinalists. From the semifinalist group, 15,000 met the very high academic standards and other requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

*For more information about the NMSC, contact (847) 866-5100.*