



Contact: Erica Winegar,  
Marketing and Communications Coordinator  
Telephone: (763) 258-2545  
Email: [erica.winegar@providenceacademy.org](mailto:erica.winegar@providenceacademy.org)

## Eight Seniors Receive Top Marks from National Merit Scholarship Program

PLYMOUTH, MINN. (Sept. 24, 2018)—Providence Academy seniors Caitlin Heaney, Michael Mahoney, Connor McIntee, Gabriella Munger, and Harrison Vetter have been recognized as National Merit Semifinalists. These five students are among 16,000 from across the nation who were announced as National Merit Semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered in the spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. Over 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and about half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

In addition to the five Semifinalists, seniors Eleanor Christianson, Dylan Drean, and Clara McMillan have been recognized as National Merit Commended students. These individuals show exceptional academic promise, as they are among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2019 competition by taking the PSAT/NMSQT as juniors.

"We are excited by the national recognition of five seniors as National Merit Semifinalists and three as National Merit Commended Students. We are seeing actual growth in achievement among Providence Academy (PA) students at the highest levels: no fewer than 37 PA students in five years have scored at or above the 99th percentile on College Board college entrance exams. Additionally, while our students are admitted routinely to 'stretch' colleges, all of our students are being situated for right-fit college admittances commensurate with their aptitudes, abilities, and performance. Clearly, the kind of disciplines that PA and PA peer groups instill help students stretch themselves in the process," said Director of College Counseling and Learning Support Services Mrs. Sarah Hogan.

School Headmaster Dr. Todd Flanders also remarked, "We are of course delighted and proud of our semifinalists and commended students, comprising ten percent of the senior class. We are delighted and proud, as well, of all of our students, who have chosen to commit to the rare path in academics, athletics, and arts that is Providence Academy."

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### *About Providence Academy*

*Providence Academy is an independent, nonprofit, Roman Catholic private Pre-K through 12 college-preparatory school in Plymouth, Minnesota. Providence Academy aims to graduate citizens who are informed believers, sound thinkers, and people of character—in a word, good Christians, prepared to meet the challenges and complexities of American life in the 21st century.*