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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **79 PLANO ISD STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM SEMIFINALISTS**

**PLANO, TX, September 16, 2021** – A notable 79 Plano ISD seniors were named semifinalists in the 67th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors earned this prestigious distinction and now advance to compete for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$30 million.

High school juniors entered the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists 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.

From the approximately 16,000 national semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the finalist level, which will be announced in February by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation®. To become a finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed application about the student's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors/awards received. Scholarship recipients will be announced in the spring of 2022 and are selected from the finalists.

Plano ISD's semifinalists are:

### **Plano East Senior High School**

- Etash Chandran

- Priya Darbha
- Ishaan P. Javali
- Shrey Joshi
- Neel R. Kanamangala
- Jackson K. Keith
- Alan Lin
- Garrett M. Liu
- Mansi Madaik
- Tanaz K. Muhamed
- Deepti Nandakumar
- Shreya Palivela
- Vyshnavi S. Poruri
- Saara K. Sastry
- Anderson Shih
- Sriya S. Teerdhala
- Nathan H. Tran
- Garrett D. White
- Richard R. Wille
- Brianna H. Zhang

### **Plano Senior High School**

- Wei-Jet Chiew
- John J. Dunbar
- Zhier Fan
- Sumedha Gonur
- Aaron K. Lee
- Neeka A. Lin
- Hiranmayee Mohan
- Arnav Murthy
- Nandini Pal
- Gregory I. Park
- Navya Ramakrishnan
- Rebecca Song
- Charles H. St. John
- Srikar A. Yang
- Jasper J. Yin
- Kendra Zhong

## **Plano West Senior High School**

- Aaron M. Alexander
- Aayush A. Bhakkad
- Taara Bhaskaruni
- Farhan H. Buvvaji
- Michael T. Cao
- Alyssa W. Chan
- Andrew Y. Chen
- Dexter Q. Chen
- Ayon S. Das
- Jessica C. Ding
- Godwin Y. Duan
- Angelina C. Ehara
- Katherine M. Forson
- Rithvik Ganesh
- Charvi Goyal
- Neil K. Gupta
- Priyanka Gupta
- Max F. Hartfield
- Charles Z. Hou
- Kelly L. Hu
- Sofia A. Ijazi
- Jun Hwan Jung
- Niharika Kishan
- Anushka Kumar
- Mitali Kurinji
- Srija Lahiri
- Ellen Lan
- Shiyuan Liang
- Luke C. Liu
- Christopher H. Lo
- Nathan Ma
- Shreya Nag
- Kamau L. Njendu
- Julian R. Pak
- Aditya Rai
- Shriya D. Reddy
- Urvi Roy

- Snaeha Shriram
- Kaustubh Sonawane
- Meghna Subramanium
- Tia Tewari
- Karen Wang
- George Zhang

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### **About Plano Independent School District**

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) ([www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs more than 7,000 staff members who serve more than 50,000 students in 72 schools and 11 service facilities. Mission: Our Plano ISD learning community will educate, inspire and empower every student to activate their unique potential in a dynamic world.