



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SEPT. 25, 2020

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## 103 PLANO ISD STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

**PLANO, TEXAS, SEPT. 25, 2020** — A notable 103 Plano Independent School District high school seniors were named semifinalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors earned this prestigious honor.

More than 1.5 million juniors in approximately 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program competition by taking the 2019 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 honorees from each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

These academically talented high school seniors now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, semifinalists and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application and provide information about the semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official and write an essay. Finalists will be notified in February.

Plano ISD's semifinalists are:

### Plano East Senior High School

- Humza M. Afzal
- Priya Bapna
- Alexander J. Boyd
- Chloe E. Chan
- Alicia R. Daley

- Kanishk Garg
- Melody D. Hong
- William C. Hurley
- Emily Lai
- Luke T. Maden
- Pratyush Mallick
- Manaal Mohammed
- Venu M. Poruri
- Patrick D. Premilan
- Myhewet E. Seyoum
- Rachel E. Simms
- Chloe Tee
- Avirat A. Thakor
- Yuvraj S. Uddanti
- Pranav B. Varanasi
- Tiffany E. Wei
- William Zhang

### **Plano Senior High School**

- Jishnu Basu
- Aditi Bhaskar
- Aditi Buch
- Alyssa N. Campbell
- Stephanie C. Goff
- Khushi C. Hiremath
- Molly J. Holsinger
- Tisha Nakakes-Nguyen
- William H. Otte
- Brianna V. Phan
- Avi Puranik
- Paul G. Resmer
- Gwyneth T. Svatek
- Emma Ting
- Alex J. Tomkinson
- Samuel J. Wang
- Matthew Xu
- Daniel Z. Yu
- Kelly F. Zhao
- Kyle H. Youngquist

### **Plano West Senior High School**

- Erin T. Albertin
- Tejas Bansal
- Kellen M. Cao
- Ryan Y. Chai

- Natalie N. Chapin
- Amanda L. Chen
- Michael Chen
- John S. Choo
- Noah Y. Chung
- Arman Deendar
- Ivana P. Durcanska
- Brendan D. Ehrman
- James E. Fawcett
- Yash Garg
- Wesley Geng
- Justin A. Hall
- Bryanna M. Hernandez
- Cindy F. Hu
- Eric T. Jiang
- Adithya Karthik
- Lamisah A. Khan
- Yejean Kim
- Rohan R. Kolhe
- Tanvi G. Kulkarni
- Sugandha Kumar
- Madeleine R. Lee
- Renee H. Li
- Matthew J. Lin
- Phillip M. Liu
- Michelle L. Ma
- Joshua B. McDonald
- Pratyush Mohapatra
- Momen A. Muhammad
- Alexander W. Ni
- Alyssa Nie
- Rishi Niranjana
- Jessica J. Ouyang
- Aashna Pathi
- Pranav Pattatathunaduvil
- Claire K. Ponder
- Govardhan T. Poondi
- Joyce L. Qin
- Juliette N. Reeder
- John K. Rho
- Yash Saxena
- Sophie A. Schochet
- Andy X. Shufer
- Caleb D. Stam
- Asim Suhail
- Tanvi P. Talla
- Victor K. Tsao

- Camille T. Wenick
- Emma Z. Ye
- Lillian K. Ye
- Angela A. Yi
- James S. You
- Griffyn R. Young
- Peter J. Yu
- Jessica Zhang
- Lucy L. Zhang
- Vivian 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 6,900 staff members who serve more than 53,000 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.