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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Thirty-seven Montgomery Blair High School Seniors Named as  
National Merit Scholar Semifinalists**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Thirty-seven Montgomery Blair High School seniors, 31 of whom are from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, were named on September 12 as National Merit Scholar Semifinalists in the 2013 competition, which is sponsored annually by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. These students will be considered for advancement to Finalist standing based on their academic achievement. If selected as Finalists in February 2013, they will compete for \$2,500 scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as well as corporate- and college-sponsored awards. Of the approximately 1.5 million students who took the screening test for this award, the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), approximately 16,000 were selected as Semifinalists, and about 15,000 will be Finalists. Roughly 8,300 of these Finalists will earn scholarships and the title of National Merit Scholar.

The Blair Magnet Class of 2013 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists include Eva Albalghiti, Marcus Benyamin, Annie Dunn, Jack Foster, Jason Hyun, Miles King, Emily Lathrop, and Kuangyu Tai of Silver Spring; William Cai, Daniel Chen, Sharon Chen, Sean Maguire, Eric Qiao, and Myles Wagner of Potomac; Vivienne Chen, Samir Durvasula, Rebecca He, Elizabeth Liu, Lisha Ruan, Audrey Shi, and Samuel Zbarsky of Rockville; Samantha Cody, Evan Kahn, and Thomas Loomis of Chevy Chase; Tatyana Gubin, Diwakaran Ilangovan, Tony Liang, and Janvi Raichura of Gaithersburg; Daniel Liu of Germantown; Charlie Pasternak of Bethesda; and Jinhie Skarda of Kensington. Blair Seniors also named as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists are Isaac Friend of Takoma Park; Thomas Gaddy of Kensington; Adam Lott, Langston Taylor, Ian Teixeira, and Sarah Wilson of Silver Spring.

Again this year Montgomery Blair is home to more National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists than any other high school in Montgomery County. The total numbers of semifinalists at all Montgomery County Public High Schools are as follows: Albert Einstein (1), Bethesda-

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Chevy Chase (6), Damascus (1), Montgomery Blair (37), Northwest (1), Poolesville (7), Richard Montgomery (26), Sherwood (2), Thomas S. Wootton (14), Walt Whitman (25), and Walter Johnson (6), Winston Churchill (11). Richard Montgomery High School is home to the county's International Baccalaureate Program, and many other high schools offer specialized learning academies and programs.

National Merit Scholar Semifinalist and Blair Magnet senior Emily Lathrop comments on Blair's, and in particular the Blair Magnet's, numerous Semifinalists, "It's awesome that so many of my friends in Blair Magnet also received this honor. I believe that the rigor and intellectual content in the Magnet courses prepared us well to face new academic challenges once we graduate. I will really miss this community when I leave for college next year."



Montgomery Blair Magnet senior Emily Lathrop is one of Montgomery Blair's thirty-seven 2013 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists, 31 hailing from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program.

### **About The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation**

This organization was founded by a group of concerned students, teachers, administrators, and alumni in 2008. Its purpose is to promote science, mathematics, and computer science education by supporting the Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School in its efforts to develop resources and refine practices needed to provide a rigorous and

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enriched education for students, staff, and the community at large. The Foundation is incorporated in the state of Maryland and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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