



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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

Silver Spring, MD—Thirty-two Montgomery Blair High School seniors, 28 of whom are from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, were named as National Merit Scholar Semifinalists in the 2015 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 2015, they will compete for \$2,500 scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as well as corporate- and college-sponsored awards. Of the approximately 1.4 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 7,600 of these finalists will earn scholarships and the title of National Merit Scholar.

The Blair Magnet Class of 2015 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists include Mari-Therese Burton of Ashton; Adam Busis, Theodore Corrales, Samantha Menegas, and Arjuna Subramanian of Silver Spring; Rosa Choe, Ziyu Liu, Elisabeth Machielse, Jingjing Xu, Dennis Yang, and Austin Yuan of Gaithersburg; Matthew Das Sarma, Aditi Subramanian, Sarah Wagner, Catherine Xue, and Kevin Zhang of Potomac; Calvin Dong, Eli Hartman, Jingce Lei, Bendeguz Offertaler, Harini Salgado, Michael Winer, Brenda Wu, Victor Xu, and Harrison Zheng of Rockville; Anna Keleher and Wen Qing Xu of Takoma Park; and Kara Watkins-Chow of Kensington. Blair Seniors also named as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists are Andrea Brown and Brianna Kitts of Silver Spring, Wesley Hopkins of Takoma Park, and Benjamin Safford of Rockville.

National Merit Scholar Semifinalist and Blair Magnet senior Mari-Therese Burton expresses her thankfulness, “It is a great honor to be named as a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist, and I would like to thank the Blair Magnet program and teachers for always encouraging me to think critically. I enjoy challenging myself

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intellectually, and the Blair Magnet program provides a strong foundation for all students to achieve their academic goals.”

Fellow National Merit Scholar Semifinalist and Blair Magnet senior Austin Yuan graciously adds his gratitude, “I am honored to have been named a Semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program. I want to thank the Blair Magnet program for providing me with a great learning environment so I can reach my full academic potential.”



Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program seniors (from left) Mari-Therese Burton and Austin Yuan are two of the high school’s 32 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists, 28 hailing from the Blair Magnet. (Photos courtesy of the Burton family and Lifetouch Inc.)

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 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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