

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jason Gordon
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Release Date: Oct. 8, 2008

One National Merit Semifinalist, two Commended seniors at CHS

Canyon High senior Casey Pernsteiner was named a National Merit Semifinalist and Hailey Batterton and Rebecca Allen were named Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program. CHS principal Brad Brown will present a Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, to these scholastically talented seniors.

Only approximately 16,000 students, out of 1.4 million that took the Pre-SAT test nationwide, were named National Merit Semifinalists. Of those, approximately 15,000 students are expected to be named National Merit Finalists based on their SAT scores. Approximately half of those will be selected as Merit Scholarship winners, earning the Merit Scholar title.

"I was definitely excited when I heard the news," Pernsteiner said. "I'm looking forward to the fact I might be named a finalist. I know this can open a lot of doors for me in the future."

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2009 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of the students that took the Pre-SAT test nationwide.

"The young people are distinguished by their strong academic performance in this rigorous competition," a spokesperson for National Merit Scholarship Corporation said. "Our nation's pursuit of educational excellence can be furthered by publicly honoring these outstanding students and by acknowledging the important role schools play in fostering their development."

We hope that this recognition will contribute to their educational opportunities and encourage all students to strive to realize their potential.”

Pernsteiner, of New Braunfels, hopes to attend Washington University in St. Louis and is undecided on a major. Her parents are Bill and Lisa Pernsteiner.

Batterton, of New Braunfels, hopes to attend the University of Texas at Austin or Brown University and major in anthropology or biology. Her parents are Rob and Holly Batterton.

Allen, of New Braunfels, hopes to attend Wheaton College, Washington University in St. Louis or Trinity University in San Antonio and major in English. Her parents are Russ and Diann Allen.

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Four SVHS seniors named National Merit Commended Students

Smithson Valley High seniors Noah Abolafia-Rozenweig, Tori Barnes, Alison Pain and Zan Walker have been named Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program. SVHS principal Chris Trotter will present a Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, to these scholastically talented seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2009 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered the 2009 competition by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“The young people are distinguished by their strong academic performance in this rigorous competition,” a spokesperson for National Merit Scholarship Corporation said. “Our nation’s pursuit of educational excellence can be furthered by publicly honoring these outstanding students and by acknowledging the important role schools play in fostering their development. We hope that this recognition will contribute to their educational opportunities and encourage all students to strive to realize their potential.”

Abolafia-Rozenweig, of Spring Branch, hopes to attend Washington University in St. Louis and major in philosophy or psychology. His parents are Mark and Betty Abolafia-Rozenweig.

Barnes, of Canyon Lake, is undecided on a university or a major. Her mother is Chery Barnes.

Pain, of Spring Branch, hopes to attend the University of Texas-Austin or Texas A&M University and major in biochemistry. Her parents are Kevin and Gwen Pain.

Walker, of Canyon Lake, is undecided on a university. He wants to major in foreign language translation and interpretation. His mother is Alecia Barker.

Pain is currently second and Abolafia-Rozenweig is ninth out of 632 Smithson Valley High seniors in the school's academic rankings.

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Two CHS seniors named Hispanic Scholars

Canyon High seniors Monica Quintanilla and Andrea Stanfill have been recognized by the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program, established in 1983, is a College Board program that provides national recognition of the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school seniors and identifies them for postsecondary institutions.

Students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) as high school juniors and by identifying themselves as Hispanic. This year, more than 196,000 PSAT/NMSQT takers nationwide identified themselves as Hispanic, and more than 4,000 of those students have been recognized as National Hispanic Scholars or Honorable Mention Finalists based upon their PSAT/NMSQT scores and their academic achievements.

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission it is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,200 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves 7 million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, and the Advanced Placement Programs (AP). The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns.

Quintanilla, of New Braunfels, hopes to attend the University of Texas-Austin and major in architectural engineering. Her parents are Arturo and Marilyn Quintanilla.

Stanfill, of Garden Ridge, wants to attend the University of Texas-Austin and study psychology. Her parents are Bruce and Marga Stanfill.

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SVHS seniors named Scholars in National Achievement Program

Smithson Valley High seniors Joseph Acevedo, Rosanne Canfield, Rebeca Clary and Skylar Garcia have been recognized by the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program.

Fellow SVHS senior Markia Douglas has been recognized by the National Achievement Scholarship Program, which has provided recognition for outstanding African-American high school students since 1964.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program, established in 1983, is a College Board program that provides national recognition of the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school seniors and identifies them for postsecondary institutions.

Students enter the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) as high school juniors and by identifying themselves as Hispanic. This year, more than 196,000 PSAT/NMSQT takers nationwide identified themselves as Hispanic, and more than 4,000 of those students have been recognized as National Hispanic Scholars or Honorable Mention Finalists based upon their PSAT/NMSQT scores and their academic achievements.

Douglas was one of 3,100 students recognized by the National Achievement Scholarship Program out of more than 160,000 PSAT/NMSQT takers nationwide who identified themselves as African-American. Outstanding participants are referred to regionally accredited U.S. colleges and universities.

Acevedo, of Canyon Lake, is undecided on a university or major. His father is Roy Acevedo.

Canfield, of Bulverde, wants to attend the University of Texas-Austin, Texas A&M University or Pepperdine University and study marketing, advertising or business. Her parents are Gregory and Grace Canfield.

Clary, of Canyon Lake, hopes to attend Texas A&M University or Rice University and major in English. Her parents are David and Laura Clary.

Douglas, of Spring Branch, wants to attend Baylor University, Brown University or Washington University in St. Louis and major in biology. Her parents are Mark and Michelle Douglas.

Garcia, of Spring Branch, hopes to attend the University of Texas-Austin or Texas A&M University and major in civil engineering. Her parents are Raul and Audrey Garcia.

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