

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

**Contact:** Jason Gordon  
830-885-1234

**Release Date:** Sept. 14, 2007

### **SVHS' Genovese named National Merit Semifinalist**

Smithson Valley High senior Matthew Genovese knew he did exceptionally well on the Pre-SAT.

He scored 220 out of a possible 240 on the test he took in October 2006.

The hardest part was waiting to see where exactly he would rank in the National Merit scheme of things.

It was worth the wait, as Genovese found out shortly after the fall semester began that he's a National Merit Semifinalist.

"I've been looking forward to this day since last year," Genovese said. "I knew I had a chance after talking with Mrs. (SVHS counselor Marcia) Murphy, but it was still tough waiting it out."

Only approximately 16,000 students, out of 1.4 million that took the Pre-SAT test nationwide, were named National Merit Semifinalists.

"To beat those kinds of odds is incredible," Murphy said. "He should be very proud."

Despite knowing the high honor was within the realm of possibility, the news still surprised Genovese.

"I was really excited when I heard," he said. "I know this opens up a lot of doors for me that otherwise wouldn't have been opened. It will probably save my parents a lot of money when I get to college."

Genovese now must take the SAT test, and if he scores well he will be named a National Merit Finalist.

About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to be named National Merit Finalists. Of those, approximately half will be selected as Merit Scholarship winners, earning the Merit Scholar title.

“It was certainly a remarkable test score Matthew received,” SVHS principal Chris Trotter said. “We definitely think he’ll be a National Merit Finalist.”

Genovese, who wants to major in Middle Eastern Studies, said his top college choice is Texas A&M, while the University of Texas, the University of Nebraska, Tulane University and the University of Oklahoma are also on his list.

Genovese, who lives in San Antonio, said he plans on taking the SAT in either October or November.

His parents are Lynda and Javier Martinez, and Daniel and Tiffany Genovese. His sister, Katharine, is a freshman at Smithson Valley High.

-CISD-