



Southwest Allen County Schools

4824 Homestead Road
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46814
Phone: (260) 431-2016
Fax: (260) 431-2063
E-Mail: erichwine@sacs.k12.in.us

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Emily Richwine
Director of District Communications
(260) 431-2016
erichwine@sacs.k12.in.us

Homestead Announces 2016 National Merit Semifinalists

Three high school seniors to compete for National Merit Scholarships.

FORT WAYNE, IND., Sept. 21, 2015 — Homestead High School is proud to announce the names of three semifinalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship program.

Nirupama Devanathan, daughter of Srinivasan and Neeraj Devanathan; Harrison Lippie, son of Dr. David and Tenley Lippie; and Kendal Paul, daughter of Donna Paul, are among 16,000 semifinalists in the 61st annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors will now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth \$32 million.

About 1.5 million juniors in nearly 22,000 U.S. high schools entered the 2016 National Merit Program by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a finalist, a semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the school principal, and

earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier qualifying test performance. The semifinalist and a school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, which includes the student's self-descriptive essay and information about the semifinalist's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

National Merit Scholarships will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. Those scholarship recipients will join more than 308,000 other distinguished young people who will have earned the Merit Scholar title.

About Southwest Allen County Schools

Nationally recognized and locally known for its award-winning programs, high-quality staff, and strong parental and community support, [Southwest Allen County Schools](#) is dedicated to a shared mission of preparing today's learners for tomorrow's opportunities.

About the National Merit Scholarship Corporation

The [National Merit Scholarship Corporation](#) (NMSC) was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 440 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

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