



TWO SETON STUDENTS NAMED FINALISTS FOR NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Two Seton Catholic Seniors, Anika Christensen and Christian Kang, have been named National Merit Scholarship Finalists. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships. 16,000 Semifinalists were announced in September 2021, and in February 2022 Christensen and Kang were notified they had advanced to Finalist standing along with 15,000 other students in the country. Advancing to the finalist level provides the chance to be awarded three types of Merit Scholarships: National Merit \$2500 Scholarships, corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarships awards, and college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards.

“This was one of my biggest goals going into high school, I wanted to really buckle down on my academics, and it was really rewarding for that to pay off because it was a lot of work,” says Christensen.

Students enter the National Merit Program by taking the preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“I think I did almost every SAT practice workbook that was available,” says Kang. “There was even a very specific strategy I developed for doing different sections that worked a bit better for my brain.”

“I started prepping for the PSAT in 8th grade. The English part comes very easily to me, but Math I’m not so adept with, so I spent some extra time with my teachers who met with me a ton during lunch periods and helped me to fill any gaps,” says Christensen.

The preparation for the PSAT/NMSQT also served as a great introduction to future college routines and practices.

“I think it kind of helped me develop good study habits for the rigorous studying that I may need to do, and time management as well. I had to get all of my schoolwork done too, so all of that was kind of learned in the process,” says Kang.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation began notifying the winners of the scholarships in March and the process continues through June 2022. Approximately half of all Finalists will win a scholarship.

For more information about the National Merit Scholarship Corporation visit <https://www.nationalmerit.org/s/1758/start.aspx?gid=2&pgid=61>

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