

# TWO TIVY STUDENTS QUALIFY AS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALISTS

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Tivy High School students Dylan Otka and Thomas R. Hierholzer have been notified by the National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSPP) that they are two of only about 16,000 students, or approximately one-third of the 50,000 high scorers, that have qualified as Semifinalists.

The **National Merit® Scholarship Program** is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (**PSAT/NMSQT®**)—a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements.

As Semifinalists, Otka and Hierholzer have the opportunity to compete for the approximately 8,200 Merit Scholarships awarded in the spring of 2010. Reaching finalist status with the NMSPP qualifies students for National Merit Scholarships, Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarships, and College-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards. Merit Scholarship awards are supported by over 500 independent sponsors and the NMSC's own funds.

In February, some 15,000 Semifinalists will be notified if they have advanced to Finalist standing.

For more information, contact the National Merit Scholarship Corporation at (847)866-5100 or visit their website: <http://www.nationalmerit.org/>.