

Howell High School Senior Named 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist

HOWELL, Mich., Sept. 15, 2023 - Howell High School senior Liam Clark has been named a semifinalist in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. Clark is among the more than 16,000 students nationwide to achieve this honor. Over 1.3 million students nationwide entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The semifinalists represent less than one percent of all U.S. high school seniors and are the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

Semifinalists who wish to compete for a National Merit Scholarship must advance to the finalist round of the program. To be named a finalist, a semifinalist must complete a detailed application and essay that proves their academic record, participation in school and community activities, leadership abilities, honors, and awards received and be endorsed by a school official.

"National Merit Scholarship semifinalists are among the top students in the nation. To be named a semifinalist is a great accomplishment that less than one percent of students nationwide achieve," said Jason Schrock, Howell High School principal. "This honor is a testament to Liam's hard work and dedication. All of us at Howell High School and Howell Public Schools are very proud of Liam and wish him well as he advances in the scholarship program."

"I am not sure how I got here, and I am glad to have done well," said Clark. "I think it is great to be part of such an elite group, and I'm glad I can represent our community in the National Merit Scholarship program." After graduation, Clark hopes to attend the University of Michigan and study something that combines biology and engineering.

Of the semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the finalist level. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected based on their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

National Merit Scholarships

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2024. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$2,500 Scholarships awarded on a state-representational basis. About 840 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 160 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 160 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 3,800 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution. National Merit Scholarship winners of 2024 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and

concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join nearly 375,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

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