



Joseph Malach Named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

Newark High School senior Joseph Malach has qualified as a semifinalist in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program – a major national award for academic excellence.

The announcement was recently made by National Merit Scholarship Corp., which has run the awards program since 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®)—which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

As one of approximately 16,000 high school seniors who are semifinalists, Malach, the son of Michelle and Joseph Malach of Parker Road in Newark, who currently has a 98.86 GPA at NHS, now has the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships to be offered next spring.

To receive further consideration, he must advance to finalist standing by fulfilling additional requirements; only finalists can compete for Merit Scholarship awards.

Thrilled that Malach was named a NMSC semifinalist, NHS Principal Tom Roote is enthusiastically “rooting”, if you will, for the NHS senior as he continues on in the process of applying to become an NMSC finalist.

“Working with Joey these past few years has been my pleasure,” he said. “Interestingly enough, and a credit to Joey’s varied talents, I don’t first think of Joey’s GPA when I consider his great contributions to NHS. Joey lives the school values on a daily basis. He is an extraordinarily mindful individual and has gifts I yearn to share whenever possible.

“Joey has shown a strong affinity towards the fine arts. I have enjoyed a number of his performances over the past few years. It has been great watching his gifts flourish at NHS. If I recall correctly, he is a brass specialist who performs regularly with Downbeat, our jazz groups and is a regular participant in our fall play/spring musical. Somehow, and I truly don’t know how he does it, he manages to achieve at the highest level on his AP course work.”



Each February, some 15,000 semifinalists are notified by mail at their home addresses that they have advanced to finalist standing. High school principals are notified and provided with a certificate to present to each Finalist.

All winners of Merit Scholarship awards (Merit Scholar designees) are chosen from the finalist group based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments—without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

A variety of information is available for NMSC selectors to evaluate: the finalist's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, the high school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the Finalist's own essay.

Beginning in March and continuing to mid-June, NMSC notifies approximately 7,500 Finalists that they have been selected to receive a Merit Scholarship award. Merit Scholarship awards are of three types:

- **National Merit \$2500 Scholarships**

Every Finalist competes for these single payment scholarships, which are awarded on a state-representational basis. Winners are selected without consideration of family financial circumstances, college choice, or major and career plans.

- **[Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards](#)**

Corporate sponsors designate their awards for children of their employees or members, for residents of a community where a company has operations, or for Finalists with career plans the sponsor wishes to encourage. These scholarships may either be renewable for four years of undergraduate study or one-time awards.

- **[College-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards](#)**

Officials of each sponsor college select winners of their awards from Finalists who have been accepted for admission and have informed NMSC by the published deadlines that the sponsor college or university is their first choice. These awards are renewable for up to four years of undergraduate study.