

WELLINGTON
School District

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For immediate release

Contact: Shelby Metcalf, Communications Specialist

Phone: 620-326-4300 ext. 2058

Email: smetcalf@usd353.com

PRESS RELEASE



Julia Starnes named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

Julia Starnes, a senior at Wellington High School, has been named a semifinalist in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program.

About 16,000 high school seniors in total have been announced as semifinalists in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. The students in the 66th annual contest will compete for 7,600 scholarships, worth around \$30 million, awarded in the coming spring.

Over 1.5 million juniors in approximately 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 competition last school year by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which serves as the initial screen for program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, included the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

To become a finalist, semifinalists and high school officials must submit detailed scholarship applications, with an academic record, participation in school and community activities, and demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards. Semifinalists must have outstanding academic records throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by high school officials, and write essays.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2021 will be announced in four nationwide new releases beginning in April and concluding in July.