



East Baton Rouge Parish School System  
1050 S. Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
Phone (225) 922-5400 FAX (225) 226-7900  
[www.ebrschools.org](http://www.ebrschools.org)

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**Sonya T. Gordon**  
Public Information Officer,  
Department for Communications &  
Community Engagement  
(225) 922-5611 office  
(225) 328-4763 cell  
[sgordon@ebrschools.org](mailto:sgordon@ebrschools.org)

## **Media Advisory**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
October 10, 2008**

### **National Merit Names 18 EBRPSS Students Semifinalists**

**Baton Rouge, La.** – The cream of the crop. The best of the best. Students with high academic achievement. **We have it all here at East Baton Rouge Parish School System (EBRPSS), where several students who have been named semifinalists in the 54<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program.** Finalists will be announced in spring 2009.

EBRPSS has the most semifinalists, 18 students from two high schools (Baton Rouge Magnet and McKinley high schools), from the area and the second highest number of semifinalists from school districts statewide (second only to New Orleans Public Schools).

Nationally, about 16,000 students were named semifinalists and will continue to compete for about 8,200 National Merit Scholarships to pay for college. All told, the scholarships are worth \$35 million.

**National Merit semifinalists from EBRPSS are:**

**BATON ROUGE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL**

Xenia Antipova  
Brandon D. Bark  
Angela C. Chun  
Gregory N. Coles  
Logan A. Cummings  
Nathan K. Glueck  
Shela Gu  
Eunjin Jang  
Seena M. Khosravi  
Michelle H. Liu  
Annette R. Luther

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## **NTL. MERIT /2**

### **BR Magnet HS Semifinalists Continued ...**

Mary R. Moroney  
Vivek Sharma  
Bo Zhang

### **McKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

Devin L. Guillory  
Dylan T. Macon  
Jack R. Perry  
Dana K. Trahan

### **Commended students are:**

#### **BATON ROUGE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL**

Emmi P. Aguillard  
Dina Blokhin  
Kalpanee D. Gunasingha  
Anne E. LaPlante  
Allison Leu  
Linda Liu  
DeLong Meng  
Jonah M. Nagelberg  
Lindsey A. St. Pierre  
Myeisha L. Webb

#### **McKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

Russell E. Friedy  
Elizabeth W. Ingram  
Jacob Jesch

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. Generally, about 90 percent of semifinalists are expected to obtain finalist status, and half the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship and earn the title of Merit Scholar.

More than 1.5 million juniors in more than 21,000 high schools entered the 2009 National Merit Program by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents less than 1 percent of US high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a finalist, a semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. The semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, which includes the student's self-descriptive essay and information about the semifinalist's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

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