



## Press Release

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### Five St. Cecilia Academy seniors recognized by National Merit program; four seniors qualify as AP Scholars

Five St. Cecilia Academy students – 9 % of the senior class – have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program for high scores on the PSAT. Seniors Marissa Bulso, Claire Horrell and Amelia Simms are National Merit Semifinalists; seniors Sara Hornberger and Anna Kate Read are being recognized for their high scores and could be named Commended Scholars. In addition, four SCA seniors were recognized by College Board for scoring high on multiple Advance Placement exams last spring.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 55th annual National Merit Scholarship Program this week. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 National Merit Scholarships. The scholarships, worth more than \$36 million, will be offered next spring. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. Commended students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry, the 2009 PSAT. There are 34,000 commended students nationwide.

The seniors recognized as AP Scholars by College Board are: Marissa Bulso, Ann Quigley and Abby Morrison. All three students scored three or above out of a possible five points on the three AP exams each took as a junior. Senior Caitlin Heflin was recognized as an AP Scholar with Honors for scoring 3.25 out of a possible five points on the four AP exams she took as a junior.

The seniors recognized are leaders at St. Cecilia Academy not only in the classroom but in extracurricular activities as well. Marissa Bulso, of Brentwood, is co-president of the German/Latin Club. Claire Horrell, of Nashville, is a member of Model U.N., Youth Legislature, Science Olympiad, Quiz Bowl, Student Council, and Spanish Club. Amelia Simms, of Nashville, is vice president of German/Latin Club. Sara Hornberger, of Nashville, is president of Spanish Club, treasurer of Student Council, and a member of the track team. Anna Kate Read, of Brentwood, is secretary of National Honor Society, Liturgy and Retreat Ambassador, vice president of French Club, and a member of the SCA Ambassador Board. Ann Quigley, of Nashville, is a member of the cross country team; Caitlin Heflin, of Nashville, is treasurer of National Honor Society and vice

president of Dance Ensemble; and Abby Morrison, of Nashville, is a member of soccer team and vice president of Art Club.

St. Cecilia Academy is Nashville's oldest private high school, founded in 1860 by the Dominican Sisters of the St. Cecilia Congregation. The Academy has been named to the Top 50 best Catholic high schools in the U.S. list four times since 2004. Seventy-eight percent of the Class of 2009 earned college scholarships totaling \$4.6 million.

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**Cutline:** *St. Cecilia Academy seniors, from left, Amelia Simms, Ann Quigley, Marissa Bulso, Claire Horrell, Abby Morrison, Sara Hornberger and Anna Kate Read, were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program and by the College Board for high scores on the PSAT and AP exams.*