



One Chosen as National Merit Semifinalists from Jefferson City High School

Jefferson City High School has announced that **Graham Bond** has been recognized as a **National Merit Semifinalist**. The 16,000 Semifinalists in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program were designated from some 1.5 million program entrants in over 21,000 high schools nationwide. Students entered into the competition by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test used by NMSC as an initial screen of entrants. Representing less than one percent of each state's high school seniors, Semifinalists are the highest scoring program entrants in each state, and they are the only participants to have an opportunity to continue in the competition for Merit Scholarships to be offered next spring.

Graham Bond, son of Andrew and Quinn Bond, is a member of the National Honor Society. His academic endeavors, throughout his high school career, have been very impressive. He has been on the achievement list his freshman, sophomore, and junior year. He has an outstanding GPA and scored a 36 on his ACT. Also, Graham has earned the AP Scholar with Honor Award for his performance on the AP exams. Graham also represents JCHS as the President of JCHS Speech and Debate team and has placed in the top 16 at NCFL National Debate tournament. He is a six-time gold medalist at MSHSAA State Musical Festival, Oboist for the Jefferson City Symphony Orchestra and an active member of the JCHS Jazz Band.

A semifinalist must fulfill several requirements to become a finalist in the extremely rigorous competition for Merit Scholarship awards. Among those requirements are meeting very high academic standards in college preparatory course work, submitting SAT I scores that confirm the PSAT/NMSQT performance and being fully endorsed by the high school principal. Finalists will be announced in April or May.

Ten students at Jefferson City High School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the more than 1.9 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

At Jefferson City High School:

One student qualified for the **National AP Scholar Award** that is granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. **Elijah Hilty** (2019 graduate) was awarded this honor.

Two students qualified for the **AP Scholar with Distinction Award** by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These two students are **Nicholas Erickson** (2019 graduate) and **Elijah Hilty** (2019 graduate).

Five students qualified for the **AP Scholar with Honor Award** by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These five students are **Graham Bond** (12th grader), **Valerie Holt** (2019 graduate), **Edward Powers** (12th grader), **Clara Scovill** (12th grader) and **Katie Vogel** (2019 graduate).

Three students qualified for the **AP Scholar Award** by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are **Ainsley Corwin** (11th grader), **Jacqueline Hensley** (12th grader), and **Hannah Keely** (2019 graduate).

The 12th grade students have at least one more year in which to complete college-level work and possibly earn a higher-level AP Scholar Award.

Through 34 different college-level courses and exams, AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit or advanced placement and stand out in the college admission process. Each exam is developed by a committee of college and university faculty and AP teachers, ensuring that AP Exams are aligned with the same high standards expected by college faculty at some of the nation's leading liberal arts and research institutions. More than 3,800 colleges and universities annually receive AP scores. Most four-year colleges in the United States provide credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying exam scores. Research consistently shows that AP students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams (based on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest) typically experience greater academic success in college and have higher college graduation rates than students who do not participate in AP.

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of more than 5,900 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools.