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## **Saint Joseph Academy Senior Katelyn Blouch Named Semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program**

**CLEVELAND, OH** – Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced that senior Saint Joseph Academy student Katelyn Blouch is a Semifinalist in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Katelyn competed with 1.5 million students from 22,000 high schools nationwide who took the PSAT/NMSQT®, the initial screen for National Merit Semifinalists. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state.

With this honor, Katelyn now has the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit® Scholarships worth nearly \$32 million that will be offered next spring.

Katelyn is actively involved in both academics and extracurricular activities at Saint Joseph Academy. She has already completed six Advanced Placement (AP®) classes, adding three more this year. Outside of the classroom, Katelyn is a member of Stage Crew, where she served as the stage manager of the 2019 fall play, plays violin in the string orchestra and involved in the Introduction to Accordion class. She is currently in the process of starting a debate club at the Academy. Prior to COVID-19, Katelyn volunteered as an usher at Playhouse Square twice a month.

These activities and coursework allowed Katelyn to deepen her knowledge of mathematics and history, laying the foundation for a successful future. “The combination of high expectations and encouraging support from the entire Saint Joseph Academy community has inspired me to always do my best work. Math is my favorite subject because it is mostly objective, rather than subjective. There are set equations and each question has a specific answer. Calculus has been my favorite class because all of the

information can be applied to real world examples. Calculus analyzes change, and I enjoy learning how to use math to better understand the world. History is intriguing because like math, it helps me to understand why the world is the way it is. The class that has prepared me the most for college is AP<sup>®</sup> Calculus BC. It taught me how to pace myself with classwork and work through new material, as well as how to reach out when I needed help,” she shared. Katelyn is a graduate of Avon Middle School, and lives in Avon with her parents Mr. Brent and Mrs. Cynthia Blouch. She will be majoring in Engineering in college and her college decision is currently between two highly competitive schools: The University of Notre Dame and Duke University. Congratulations, Katelyn!

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*Now in its 131<sup>th</sup> year, Saint Joseph Academy is the only all-girls Catholic high school in the City of Cleveland. With a current enrollment of 675 young women, Saint Joseph Academy is rooted in the spirituality of the Congregation of St. Joseph and works to foster unifying relationships with God and all creation. Each young woman is empowered to achieve academic excellence, and inspired to a life of compassionate leadership and service in a global society. Saint Joseph Academy is located at 3470 Rocky River Drive in Cleveland. For more information, visit [www.sja1890.org](http://www.sja1890.org) or call 216.251.6788.*