

# *Germantown School District*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FOUR GERMANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AS SEMIFINALISTS IN THE 2019 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Principal Joel R. Farren, of Germantown High School, announced today that **Asher Anderson, Shree Dudhat, Russel Mendes and Charles Van Fossen** were named “Semi-finalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.” These students have earned the distinction based on their results from the October, 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). 1.6 million current seniors from across 22,000 high schools participated in taking this test during the fall of their junior year. As a result, these four students are in an elite group of less than 1% of current United States high school seniors.

These four students are among approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 64<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program. All four academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$31 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 410 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC’s goals of honoring the nation’s scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

