



# HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"*

*Office of the Superintendent of Schools*  
65 McCampbell Road  
Holmdel, NJ 07733  
tel: 732-946-1800  
fax: 732-946-1875

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Robert McGarry, 732.946.1800

### **HHS SENIOR NAMED SEMIFINALIST IN NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

HOLMDEL (October 24, 2016) – The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has announced its 2017 Semifinalists and Commended Students in the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual program and as usual, Holmdel High School students are included among them.

Holmdel High School senior Mehr Sawant has been named a Semifinalist in this year's program while fourteen other students earned recognition as Commended Students. They are: Joe Barbaro, Ethan Ching, Jenny Chu, Rachel Fryefield, Ben Guaragno, Aishwarya Kalyanaraman, Russell Kamback, Luke Kim, Cedric Noel, Kiran Setlur, Shika Vinodanandan, Charles Xu, Christopher Xu, and Steven Yuan

Approximately, 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. 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.

From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February 2017 they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. With four AP courses under her belt and five more on her schedule this year, Ms. Sawant has already demonstrated great potential for college success.

"It is always gratifying to have so many of our students recognized for their academic achievements," said Superintendent, Dr. Robert McGarry. "It's a testament to the excellence in teaching and learning for which our district is known."