



CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Academic Excellence in the Catholic Tradition Since 1906

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Immediate Release

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Catholic Central Announces Semifinalists in National Merit Scholarship Program

Four CC scholars hope to advance to Finalist standing in scholarship competition.

GRAND RAPIDS, MI, Sept. 29, 2011 – Principal Greg Deja of Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School announced this week that seniors Ryan Pelak, David VanderZee, Jonah Potter and Brian Lach have been named as Semifinalists in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Names of about 16,000 Semifinalists nationwide were announced in the 57th annual National Merit Scholarship Program on Sept. 14. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for the approximately 8,300 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$34 million that will be offered next spring. About 90 percent of Semifinalists are expected to advance to Finalist standing and of those, more than half will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the title of Merit Scholar.

In addition, the school announced that seniors Abigail Esch, Madylan Horrigan, Jordan Sykes, and Tyler Sykes were recognized as National Merit Commended Scholars. Although they will not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition

“It is very gratifying for us as a school to see the talents and hard work of our students and faculty receive this recognition,” said Deja in a note to parents. “Celebrating scholarship is paramount as we continue to build our academic program. We congratulate the class of 2012 on their scholastic achievements.”

Established in 1906, Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School is the oldest diocesan co-educational high school in the nation. The school has a current enrollment of 676 students.

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Providing a Catholic culture for instruction and faith formation that challenges students to know and love God, seek knowledge and truth, respect the dignity of each person, and contribute to society through leadership and service.