

News Release

Five Dobbs Ferry High School Seniors Recognized in 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. October 6, 2015—Dobbs Ferry High School seniors **Sofia Checa** and **Gabriel Lane** have been named semifinalists in the 61st annual **National Merit Scholarship Program** and three other students, **Arjun Chatteraj**, **Nathan Barnett** and **John Cattabiani** have been named Commended Students. Checa and Lane are among 16,000 semifinalists nationwide to earn this distinction and represent the top-scorers in each state. Semifinalists now have the opportunity to continue in the National Merit Scholarship competition vying for final spots and 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million. Those candidates who qualify as finalists will be notified in early February.

Sofia Checa is an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma candidate and member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. At Dobbs Ferry High School she is a member of the Math League. An accomplished cellist, Sofia was selected to play with the National Youth Orchestra and participated in a nine-city tour this summer traveling throughout China. The Orchestra played two concerts in the United States at Carnegie Hall and the Performing Arts Center at SUNY Purchase. During the school year, she performs with the New York Youth Symphony. Sofia is also a 3rd degree black belt in karate and teaches karate on the weekends. She is undecided about what she will major in next fall.

Gabriel Lane is an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma candidate and member of the National Honor Society and Italian Honor Society. He is also a member of the High School's Hiking & Wilderness Club. Outside of school, he trains at the Lilov Fencing Academy in Nyack, New York. For the past four years, he has been fencing competitively throughout the tristate area and in 2014 took 8th place in the Division III Epee event at the Summer Nationals. Gabriel also plays acoustic guitar. He is undecided about his major in college.

Arjun Chatteraj is an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma candidate and member of the National Honor Society and French Honor Society. He is in his third year of the Science Research Program at the High School. Arjun participates in Peer Tutoring, the Legislative Branch of Student Government and is a member of the Chorus and Acapella Choir. Outside of school he plays tennis and takes Tae Kwon Do. He plans to study math/statistics next year in college.

Nathan Barnett is an IB Diploma candidate and a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. He is also in his third year of the Science Research Program. In school, Nathan is a member of the Hiking & Wilderness Club and the Ultimate Frisbee Club. In his spare time he teaches karate in Hastings and is a 3rd degree black belt. He would like to be a pre-med major in college.

John Cattabiani is a member of the National Honor Society and the Italian Honor Society. A versatile musician, he plays drums in the Pit Band for the High School musicals and has also been a member of the High School Orchestra for the last four years where he plays the Bass. Additionally, he performs in a band outside of school. John is a member of the High School

Cross Country Team and runs the 5K. He also participates in both Winter and Spring Track. He would like to study music and economics at college next fall.

"Dobbs Ferry High School is very proud to have five students earn awards in this year's National Merit Scholarship Program. This recognition honors outstanding academic achievement and I would like to congratulate each of our students on this wonderful accomplishment," said High School Principal John Falino.

The initial National Merit Scholarship competition began with approximately 1.5 million juniors from 22,000 high schools who took the 2014 Preliminary SAT (PSAT/NMSQT) qualifying test. For more information about the competition, please visit www.nationalmerit.org

For more information, please contact:

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