



Nolan Catholic High School

- *Esto Dux ~ Be a Leader* -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four Nolan Catholic High School Seniors Named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

FORT WORTH – Nolan Catholic High School is proud to announce that four members of the Class of 2008 have qualified as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. The semifinalists are: Christine E. Dryden, Christopher T. Fitzer, Andrea L. Meza, and Catherine J. Samson.

These seniors are among 16,000 students, or approximately one-third of the 50,000 high scorers on the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test, who were notified that they have qualified as Semifinalists. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and includes the highest scoring entrants in each state.

“The entire Nolan Catholic High School family salutes the special achievement of these four seniors,” said NCHS Principal Stephen Hiner. “They are among the highest scoring entrants in the state of Texas.”

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must advance to Finalists standing in the competition. To do this, the students must be endorsed and recommended by the principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm their earlier qualifying test performance. Semifinalists must submit a detailed scholarship application which includes the student’s self-descriptive essay and information about their participation and leadership in school and community activities.

About 90 percent of all Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will be selected as Merit Scholarship winners, earning the Merit Scholar title. This selection is based on their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin or religious preference.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. It was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Program. Scholarships awarded through the program are underwritten by NMSC’s own funds and by approximately 500 business organization and education institutions that share NMSC’s goals of honoring the nation’s scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Nolan Catholic High School is a private, co-educational college preparatory institution of the Diocese of Fort Worth administered in the Marianist tradition. Nolan Catholic was founded in 1961.

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