

**For Immediate Release**

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## Media Release

### **CCSD Well-Represented in Third Wave of NMSC Winners for 2018**

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**Charleston, SC** – Another successful school year was completed in Charleston County School District (CCSD), with over 2,600 high school seniors graduating last week. Yesterday, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) revealed seven of those seniors are 2018 college-sponsored National Merit Scholarship winners.

The NMSC announced approximately 3,500 students, including 77 from the state of South Carolina, are receiving these specific scholarships, which are financed by U.S. colleges and universities. Hundreds more recipients will be announced in July. Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the finalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program who plan to attend their institutions. These awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

The following CCSD students are 2018 college-sponsored National Merit Scholarship recipients:

#### **Academic Magnet High School (AMHS)**

Jasper J. Bishop - University of South Carolina  
Sophie M. Crosby - University of South Carolina  
David W. Martin - Clemson University  
Hannah R. Martin - University of South Carolina  
Kevin T. Walsh - Clemson University

#### **Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA)**

Walker S. Menkus - University of South Carolina

#### **Wando High School (WHS)**

Jonathan H. McKinney - Furman University

“Academic Magnet High School is again honored to see more of our students added to the list of National Merit scholarship winners,” stated Principal Catherine Spencer. “The students represent the best of Charleston County School District and the state of South Carolina in their academic

achievement, leadership, and service. We applaud them and wish them well in their future endeavors at some of our outstanding state universities."

This year, 178 higher education institutions are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sponsor colleges and universities include 100 private and 78 public institutions in 44 states and the District of Columbia.

"Walker has been an outstanding artist and scholar," Principal Shannon Cook said. "We are proud of his accomplishments and thrilled to celebrate this NMSC honor with him."

According to the NMSC, more than 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship competition when they took the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. In September 2017, approximately 16,000 semifinalists were named on a state-representational basis in numbers proportional to each state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors. Semifinalists were the highest-scoring program entrants in each state and represented less than one percent of the nation's seniors.

"Jonathan walked the 'Warrior Way' throughout his entire high school career at Wando," explained Principal Sherry Eppelsheimer. "He joins a prestigious list of extraordinary students who have earned scholarships from NMSC. Jonathan should take pride in this honor, and we are extremely proud of him."

By the conclusion of the 2018 competition, about 7,500 Finalists will have been selected to receive National Merit Scholarships totaling over \$31 million.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of National Merit Scholarships offered each year are underwritten by 410 independent corporate and college sponsors that support NMSC's efforts to honor the nation's scholastically talented youth and encourage academic excellence at all levels of education.

This brings the total number of CCSD students to earn money from NMSC in 2018 up to 21. Back in April, seven scholars [earned](#) prestigious corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships. In May, seven more students from CCSD were named [National Merit \\$2,500 Scholarship](#) winners.

For more information about the CCSD students who were named 2018 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners, contact the Office of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.