

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, School Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-039 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE SEMIFINALISTS IN THE 2023 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FROM SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDIES (SAS), NEW WORLD SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, AND MIAMI BEACH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

The National Merit Scholarship program was developed to recognize and honor academically talented students by conducting nationwide academic scholarship programs. To qualify for the 2023 National Merit Scholarship program, high school juniors had to take the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). Semifinalists must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT® or ACT® scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February 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. National Merit Scholarship winners of 2023 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July.

School for Advanced Studies (SAS) has 14 students that have been designated as 2023 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. This year, SAS has more students designated for this honor than any other public, private or charter school in Miami-Dade County. The SAS students are as follows: Ryan Brito, Raul Campos, Adrian Colio, Bryan Diaz, Alexandra Ceballos, Thais Estrada-Nunez, Eugene Francisco, Jeffrey Jiang, Sarah Jimenez, Jacy Perez, Tomas Rubio, Amelie Valles, Emma Wolman, and Ian Zhou.

New World School of the Arts student Larissa Souki and Miami Beach Senior High School student Colin Strom have also been named as 2023 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. District 3 is proud to recognize these students as well as the leadership of SAS Principal Dr. Omar Monteagudo, New World School of the Arts Principal Dr. Contessa Bryant, and Miami Beach Senior High School Principal Alfred Torossian.

These students have achieved exceptional academic and extracurricular success and have shown incredible talent and potential. They are to be commended for this achievement and recognized for their outstanding leadership in the pursuit of excellence.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUCIA BAEZ-GELLER:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-039 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program from School of Advanced of Studies (SAS), New World School of the Arts and Miami Beach Senior High School.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-039
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE SEMIFINALISTS IN THE 2023 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM FROM SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDIES (SAS), NEW WORLD SCHOOL OF THE
ARTS, AND MIAMI BEACH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the National Merit Scholarship program was developed to recognize and honor academically talented students by conducting nationwide academic scholarship programs. To qualify for the 2023 National Merit Scholarship program, high school juniors had to take the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). Semifinalists must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT® or ACT® scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test; and

WHEREAS, from over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February 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. National Merit Scholarship winners of 2023 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July; and

WHEREAS, School for Advanced Studies (SAS) has 14 students that have been designated as 2023 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. This year, SAS has more students designated for this honor than any other public, private or charter school in Miami-Dade County. The SAS students are as follows: Ryan Brito, Raul Campos, Adrian Colio, Bryan Diaz, Alexandra Ceballos, Thais Estrada-Nunez, Eugene Francisco, Jeffrey Jiang, Sarah Jimenez, Jacy Perez, Tomas Rubio, Amelie Valles, Emma Wolman, and Ian Zhou; and

WHEREAS, New World School of the Arts student Larissa Souki and Miami Beach Senior High student Colin Strom have also been named as 2023 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. District 3 is proud to recognize the accomplishments of these students as well as the leadership of SAS Principal Dr. Omar Monteagudo, New World School of the Arts Principal Dr. Contessa Bryant, and Miami Beach Senior High Principal Alfred Torossian; and

WHEREAS, these students have achieved exceptional academic and extracurricular success and have shown incredible talent and potential. They are to be commended for this achievement and recognized for their outstanding leadership in the pursuit of excellence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-039 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program from School of Advanced of Studies (SAS), New World School of the Arts, and Miami Beach Senior High School.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this nineteenth day of October, A.D. 2022

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary