



National Merit Commended Scholars Come in Bunches at Saint Viator

September 24, 2010

Saint Viator High School officials learned this week that 15 seniors --- nearly four times as many as last year --- had been named Commended Students by the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program.

They include: **Jennifer Ball** of Wheeling; **John Cooley** and **Erin O'Connell** of Palatine; **Nick Baur**, **Danielle Di Silvestro**, **Katherine Maul** and **Gregory Perkowski** of Inverness; **Andrew Hayes** of Mount Prospect; **William Holsworth** of Barrington; **John Kim** of Bartlett; **Elizabeth Freda**, **Anthony Pensa** and **Kevin Young** of Arlington Heights; **Rachel Ruddick** of Des Plaines; and **Edward Zahrebelski** of Hoffman Estates.

These come on top of the two National Merit Semi-Finalists from Saint Viator High School, **Peter Cleary** of Arlington Heights and **Robert Moynihan** of Schaumburg, named earlier this month.

"This is an extremely bright group," says Saint Viator Principal Eileen Manno. "We are in our second year of offering the PSAT prep course, but I think it speaks to the rigorous curriculum and the efforts of our teachers --- every day, every year."

Nationally, Commended Students represent the top five percent of the more than 1.5 million students who enter the 2011 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT, which is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship.

Although they cannot advance in competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students represent some of the most academically talented students in the country, say officials with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Each student will receive a letter of commendation from Saint Viator, as well as the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which they hope will enhance their educational opportunities as they pursue academic success.