



## **Saint Viator Students Named National Merit Semi-Finalists**

August 27, 2010



Peter Cleary, left, and Robert Moynihan were named National Merit Semi-Finalists.

Saint Viator seniors Peter Cleary of Arlington Heights and Robert Daniel Moynihan of Schaumburg joined an elite group: Both were named semi-finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Program, based on their preliminary SAT scores taken in 2009.

Officials with the National Merit Scholarship Program said that the semi-finalist pool represents the highest scoring entrants in each state, or less than one percent of high school seniors.

Both Cleary and Moynihan will have a chance to advance to the finalist level, from which the National Merit Scholars are chosen.

Saint Viator Principal Eileen Manno said both students excel in and out of the classroom, and have scored well on their pre-college testing in part because of their rigorous course work pursued at Saint Viator.

“We’re thrilled,” Manno said. “It’s a tremendous accomplishment for these students and their families. National Merit recognition reflects all their hard work, as well as the school’s commitment to academic excellence.”

Cleary is an honor student and member of both the National Honor Society and the French National Honor Society. He is also a member of the new-student mentoring program, LINK Crew, and an outstanding cross country runner, swimmer and water polo player at Saint Viator. Last spring he was an all-conference selection in water polo with the East Suburban Catholic Conference, as well as a member of the Metro Catholic Conference Aquatics all-academic team.

Moynihan also is an honor student and a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. He competes in soccer and basketball, and also represents the school in Illinois Math League competitions with the rest of the math team.

Both student athletes also received academic achievement awards last spring from the Illinois High School Athletics Association for maintaining a strong grade point average while competing in high school athletics.

National Merit Scholarship officials say 90 percent of semi-finalists advance to become finalists. They must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test.