



Two Saint Viator Seniors Named National Merit Finalists

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Peter Cleary, left, and Robert Moynihan.

Saint Viator seniors Peter Cleary of Arlington Heights and Robert Moynihan of Schaumburg joined an elite group: Both were named finalists this month 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 pool of finalists represents the highest scoring entrants in each state, or less than one percent of high school seniors, from the 1.5 million that originally took the test.

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.”

As National Merit Finalists, Cleary and Moynihan have the chance to compete for National Merit scholarships, as well as those sponsored by corporations and participating colleges. Specific awards will be announced in the spring.

Cleary is an honor student, a LINK Team leader, 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 who plays soccer and currently is a power forward on the Lions’ varsity basketball team. Off the court, he 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.