



Three Saint Viator Students Named National Merit Semi-Finalists

September 14, 2011



From left to right: Thomas Aichele, Joseph Ferrante and John Trimberger.

Saint Viator seniors Thomas Aichele and Joseph Ferrante, both of Arlington Heights, and John Trimberger of Barrington joined an elite group: They were named semi-finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Program based on their preliminary SAT scores taken in 2010.

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.

The three outstanding students now will have a chance to advance to the finalist level from which the National Merit Scholars are chosen. Last year, two Saint Viator students were named National Merit Scholars, Peter Cleary of Arlington Heights and Robert Moynihan of Schaumburg.

Saint Viator Principal Eileen Manno said these three 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.”

All three have achieved Principal’s honors every year, are members of the National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society, and received scholastic achievement awards from the IHSA.

Aichele plays trombone in the jazz band while managing his roles as an offensive lineman with the football team and playing varsity volleyball in the spring. For the past two summers, he has completed service trips to Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic.

Ferrante helped the baseball team win their second straight regional title and advance to the sectional semi-finals. He also plays soccer in the fall and is a published author, having contributed a chapter to a book published by Saint Viator social studies students on Korean War veterans.

Trimberger is the captain of the Scholastic Bowl and also plays football. Over the summer, he caddied at Inverness Golf Club and found time to volunteer at GiGi’s Playhouse in Hoffman Estates and with its young people with Down syndrome.

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.