

COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

September 2021

HIGH SCHOOL

Twenty-eight Upper St. Clair High School seniors were recently named Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Scott X. Cheung
Alyana S. Childs
William H. Closser
Kaitlyn A. Clougherty
Varun Damarla
Saif A. Durrani
Linus R. Friedman
Shivani A. Jajoo
Rushikesh D. Kulkarni
Maggie F. Lowden
Catalina I. Marchando
Ethan T. Neal
Dev K. Patel
Michael V. Pellicci
Sambhav M. Saggi
Vidhur V. Senthil
Ritvick P. Shah
Sujay K. Shah
Nitish Sharma
Nikhil E. Shetty
Jeet J. Sutreja
Evan Tefft
Alexander Teresi
Hersh R. Tripathi
Madeleine J. Wetzel
Andrew H. White
Shane L. Williams
Adam Zheng

These students are among 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation who are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

Ten Upper St. Clair High School seniors were recently named Semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Competition. The following students scored in the top one percent of all juniors completing the PSAT in October 2020:

Bear Klaber Bottonari
Phoebe Mei-Yin Chen
Sophie Chuang-Yin Chen
Milan Somanath Giroux
Alex James LeKachman
Eden L. Ma
Molly Catherine Maher
Kaelyn Grace Moran
Nivedha A. Suresh
Daniel Jing Wang

Libby Zavadil, an Upper St Clair High School junior earned high honors in the 2021 Labsy Awards, part of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Teen Media Awards. Libby earned first place in the Music (original composition) category for her piece titled “More,” which was created for a string quartet. In addition, she earned an Honorable Mention in the 2D Art & Design category. More than 200 young writers, visual artists, musicians, filmographers and inventors in Allegheny County vied for honors in the library’s 2021 Teen Media Awards.

Three Upper St. Clair High School students recently earned recognition in the 2021 Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest. Recent graduate Emily Rhodes placed second in the Poetry category for her poem, “Blood Sisters.” In addition, junior Maanasa Reddy received Honorable Mention in both the Short Prose and Poetry categories and senior Shana Reddy earned Honorable Mention in Poetry. The contest was open to Allegheny County high school students in grades 9 – 12.

Upper St. Clair High School junior Jason Lu earned high honors in the Carmel Klavier Virtual International Piano Competition for Young Artists. Jason finished first in the competition’s Contemporary Composers, Advanced B (age 16-18) category and was a semifinalist in the Solo category. As a first-place winner, Jason is invited to participate in the Costa Rica Piano Festival next summer.

Two Upper St. Clair High School seniors have earned recognition as Program Scholars from the College Board for their academic achievements and outstanding performance on the PSAT and/or AP. Samari Dreher was named a National African American Recognition Program Scholar and George Atencio was named a National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar. Students who may be eligible have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have excelled on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams; and are African American or Black, Hispanic American or Latinx, Indigenous, and/or attend school in a rural area or small town.

FORT COUCH

A team of Fort Couch Middle School students recently placed second in the Take a Shot at Changing the World video contest. Eighth graders Kaia Petrick, Anoushka Barve and Sara Gillespie created a two-minute video to show the necessary link between science and creativity in coming up with vaccines for COVID, or in any other scientific breakthrough. Kaia, Anoushka and Sara created their own video entry to help “good information about science go viral.” The students were awarded \$250 for their second-place honor.