



## Vestal Central School District

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[www.vestal.k12.ny.us](http://www.vestal.k12.ny.us)

### **NEWS RELEASE: For immediate release**

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### **Vestal High School announces 2023 National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students, as recognized by the National Merit® Scholarship Program**

Vestal High School Principal Dawn F. Young is pleased to announce that two Vestal High School seniors, Banshika Mangal and Samson Wong, have qualified as Semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors were among the over 16,000 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists announced nationwide. Banshika and Samson will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 7,250 scholarship awards worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered in the spring as part of the 68<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

In addition, Mrs. Young is proud to announce that eight more Vestal High School seniors were named Commended Students. Letters of commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, will be presented by the principal to Ameet Ashok, Sophia Chiu, Gustav Gebbie, Alexis Gober, Joshua Jang, Sriya Pallapothu, Grace Yoon, and Maggie Zhang. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2023 competition when they took the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

“Vestal students apply themselves diligently to learning,” said Principal Dawn F. Young. “While this achievement is one moment in time, we know our students are well-prepared by the teachers of Vestal’s K-12 team for any challenge in front of them. Congratulations to our Semifinalists and Commended Students as well as their families on this prestigious accomplishment!”

High school juniors entered the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program when they took the 2021 PSAT/NMSQT®. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

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NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 400 business organizations and higher education institutions that share its goals of honoring the nation’s scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence. For more information about the competition, please visit NMSC’s website at [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org)

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