



PEARLAND HIGH SCHOOL

PEARAMOUNT GROUP

PEARLAND EXCEEDS, ACHIEVES, AND IS READY

RATIONALE FOR NMSQT PSAT/SAT FOCUS



Increasing the Number of Students Qualifying for National Merit Scholars at PHS

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION MISSION STATEMENT

- ❖ The mission of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is to recognize and honor the academically talented students of the United States. NMSC accomplishes its mission by conducting nationwide academic scholarship programs. The enduring goals of NMSC's scholarship programs are:
 - ❖ To promote a wider and deeper respect for learning in general and for exceptionally talented individuals in particular
 - ❖ To shine a spotlight on brilliant students and encourage the pursuit of academic excellence at all levels of education
 - ❖ To stimulate increased support from organizations that wish to sponsor scholarships for outstanding scholastic talent

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED POOL

In late September, more than **two-thirds, approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT®** receive **Letters of Commendation** in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Commended Students are named on the **basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that may vary from year to year** and is typically below the level required for participants to be named Semifinalists in their respective states. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit® Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALISTS

In **early September, about 16,000 students, or approximately one-third of the 50,000 high scorers, are notified that they have qualified as Semifinalists.** To ensure that academically talented young people from all parts of the United States are included in this talent pool, **Semifinalists are designated on a state representational basis.** They are the highest scoring entrants in **each state.** NMSC provides scholarship application materials to Semifinalists through their high schools. To be considered for a National Merit[®] Scholarship, Semifinalists must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards and all other requirements explained in the information provided to each Semifinalist. [Click here](#) to learn about requirements for becoming a Finalist in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program.

NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

In **February, some 15,000 Semifinalists are notified by mail at their home addresses that they have advanced to Finalist standing.** High school principals are notified and provided with a certificate to present to each Finalist.

All winners of Merit Scholarship® awards (Merit Scholar® designees) are chosen from the Finalist group, based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments—without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. A variety of information is available for NMSC selectors to evaluate: the Finalist's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, the high school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the Finalist's own essay.

NATIONAL MERIT WINNER

All winners of Merit Scholarship[®] awards (Merit Scholar[®] designees) are chosen from the Finalist group based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments—without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

NMSC selectors to evaluate:

- Finalist's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system
- Two sets of test scores
- The high school official's written recommendation
- Information about the student's activities and leadership
- Finalist's own essay

TYPES OF NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

- ❖ National Merit[®] \$2500 Scholarships
- ❖ Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards
- ❖ College-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards

PHS NMSQT HISTORY

Year	NM Commend ed Pool	NM Semifinal ists	NM Finalists	NM Winner	National Hispanic Scholars	National Achievement Scholars
2017-18	3	2	0	0	3	0
2016-17	3	1	0	0	4	0
2015-16	8	2	2	1	9	0
2014-15	3	2	2	1	1	1
2013-14	6	2	2	2	5	3

PHS MODEL: PEARAMOUNT GROUP

Current Status:

- ❖ All PHS students were selected for the PEARamount Group based on their October 2017 PSAT Score
- ❖ 2/3's Verbal and 1/3 Math
 - ❖ (73) 10th Grade – Selection Index Score 226-172
 - ❖ (49) 9th Grade – Selection Index Score 207-171
 - ❖ (25) 8th Grade – Duke Tip SAT Score



PHS MODEL

- ❖ Cluster the PEARamount Group in common homerooms – will stay with this homeroom through Senior Year.
 - ❖ (3) 11th grade homerooms
 - ❖ (2) 10th grade homerooms
 - ❖ (1) 9th grade homeroom
- ❖ Failure to attend the scheduled Oiler Hour Tutoring (11th Grade) for the PEARamount Group may be removed from the PEARamount Group Program (9th & 10th Grades Optional)
- ❖ Provide deliberate and intensive test preparation for PSAT to the PEARamount Group during Scheduled Oiler Hour tutoring, lunch provided
- ❖ Strongly recommend that PEARamount Group students take the SAT prep class
 - ❖ Continue awarding elevated GPA for SAT class = 5.0
 - ❖ GPA Waiver available on Pass/Fail basis
- ❖ Coach students for correct coding on the answer document
- ❖ Assist students with completing the National Merit packet. This focused assistance would be provided by the counselor, assistant principal, homeroom teachers, and SAT/PSAT Advisors

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

- ❖ Preferential consideration to college/university admission
- ❖ Increased scholarship opportunities, up to a “full ride”
- ❖ Increased admission to college/major program
- ❖ Improved performance on the PSAT correlates to improved performance on the SAT/ACT/AP exams
- ❖ “Bragging Rights”

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION ON THE PEARAMOUNT GROUP

- ❖ Attend scheduled PSAT practice sessions during Oiler Hour (11:40-12:40)
Lunch provided
- ❖ Every Tuesday and Thursday – will cover math and verbal skills each week
 - Session 1: September 4, 2018 & September 6, 2018
 - Session 2: September 11, 2018 & September 13, 2018
 - Session 3: September 18, 2018 & September 20, 2018
 - Session 4: September 25, 2018 & September 27, 2018
 - Session 5: October 2, 2018 & October 4, 2018
 - Session 6: October 9, 2018 – This is the Pre-Administration Session

PEARAMOUNT SUMMER PREP (OPTIONAL)

- ❖ Join Remind 101 PEARamount
 - ❖ Class of 2020 Code: @peara
 - ❖ Class of 2021 Code: @pearamo
 - ❖ Class of 2022 Code: @pearamoun
- ❖ Verbal: [Vocabulary.com](https://www.vocabulary.com)
- ❖ Verbal & Math: College Board APP: [Daily Practice New SAT](#)
- ❖ Math: Request to join Quizlet class “PEARamount”
- ❖ Textbook/Materials Used in the Oiler Review:
 - *The Official SAT Study Guide* (Blue Book)
 - *Point Boosters*
 - Teacher made resources

*****Content will be covered during Oiler Hour Tutoring, but highly recommend you review in advance during the Summer. OH tutoring will be fast paced.**



NMSQT LINKS

National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test