

Academic Awards

Grades 9 – 12

2020-21



Montgomery High School
Skillman, NJ

Welcome to the 2020-2021 **Student Academic Awards** where we are recognizing our students for their academic achievements.

- **National Merit Commended Scholars**

This year we have **50 National Merit Commended Scholars**. These Senior students are joining approximately 34,000 of their 50,000 high school peers nationally having scored in the 99th percentile on the PSAT in their junior year. This award is in recognition of their outstanding academic promise.

- **National Merit Finalists**

Our next group of Senior students made it to the **final round of the National Merit Competition**. They join a fairly elite group nationally who have the opportunity for National Merit or corporate sponsored scholarships. This year there are **20 finalists** at MHS, an incredible accomplishment.

- **College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program**

Two of our Senior students have been recognized by the **National Hispanic Recognition Program** for scoring in the top **2.5%** among Hispanic and Latino PSAT/NMSQT takers in our region.

- **College Board National African American Recognition Program**

Two of our Senior students have been recognized by the **National African American Recognition Program** for scoring in the top **2.5%** among African American PSAT/NMSQT takers in our region.

Congratulations to all of our academic awardees!



Ms. Corie Gaylord
Director of Student Academics
and Counseling Services

NATIONAL MERIT LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

**Ayako Acton
Vibhu Agarwal
Brandon Chan
Kaitlyn Chau
Matthew Chen
Brandon Cheng
Sanjna Chokshi
Thomas Colagiuri
Rohan Duriseti
Zachary Eichenbaum
Jillian Epstein
Charis Gao
Nidhi Hosamane
Amulya Hota
Ashley Huang
Bhavana Iyengar
Ruchitha Jagana
Aviva Jalona
Rupsa Jana
Sahithi Jarugula
Rohit Jayanthi
Shashaank Joshi
Hugo Kim
Shaunak Kinare
Noah Lee**

**Alex Levy
Connor Li
Faiz Mazhar
Rohin Mishra
Ayush Nallapally
Emma Ni
Neena O'Mara
Stuti Panchal
Dhruv Patel
Ashwyn Ramabadran
Divya Ravikumar
Trisha Senthilkumar
Diya Sethi
Reva Sharma
Nikhil Shukla
Alexander Tan
Alessandra Vandevoorde
Sachin Vel
Amy Xu
Andy Xu
Aleen Xue
Paige Yingling
Eva Zhang
May Zheng
Annie Zhou**

NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

**Piper Epstein
Ethan Feng
Nicole Feng
Myles Gong
Anshul Guha
Andrew Hans
Kavya Kannan
Justin Kim
Parthiv Kommareddy
Rohan Kulkarni**

**Winston Lin
Jennifer Liu
Rayan Nizam
Neha Sarabu
Het Shah
Rohan Shah
Xinyi Sheng
Christopher Tai
James Wang
Daniel Xue**

NATIONAL HISPANIC RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Matteo Couto Frignani
Alessandra Vandevoorde

NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN RECOGNITION

Jillian Epstein
Nidalia Wolfe

SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS

“This award is in honor of our recipient's participation in athletics while maintaining a high standard of academics. At Montgomery High School we believe that it takes a great deal of work to be able to meet our challenging academic schedule while participating in athletics. We commend our Senior Scholar-Athletes for having achieved this.”

Mr. Chris Penna, Director of Athletics

- **Skyland Conference Scholar Athlete Award**
Andrew Hans
Piper Epstein
- **Somerset County Scholar Athlete Award**
Weber Karsay
Andrea Katramados
- **N.J.S.I.A.A. Scholar Athlete Award**
Paige Yingling



VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

"The Visual and Performing Arts Awards recognize our students' incredible creativity and passion for the arts. Choosing one student from each grade level is extremely difficult as so many of our students demonstrate great achievement in the arts. We are so glad to be able to recognize the musical and artistic accomplishments of the students listed here. The recipients of these awards demonstrate very strong artistic achievement, but also show a strong dedication to the pursuit of musical and artistic excellence through their work ethic and leadership." Mr. Adam Warshafsky, Supervisor of Visual & Performing Arts

Band Achievement

Recipients:	Josephina Vala	9th
	Sarah Smires	10th
	Aanya Ravichander	11th
	Neil Advant	12th

Orchestra Achievement

Recipients:	Rachel Stephen	9th
	Aamir Zafrullah	10th
	Amelia Cunningham	11th
	Cai Ronquillo	12th

Choir Achievement

Recipients:	Mariaurora Bibbo	9th
	Noyonika Gupta	10th
	Isabella Juhaeri	11th
	Julia Freitor	12th



Studio Arts

Recipients:	Alexa Cavalli	9th
	Nayyab Farooq	10th
	Marisa Connors	11th
	Mia Kung	12th



Photographic Arts

Recipients:	Alexa Cavalli	9th
	Ishaan Soppimath	10th
	Keiran Dugan	11th
	Madison Ginsberg	12th



21st CENTURY LIFE & CAREERS & CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

“The 21st Century Life and Careers and Career Technical Education Academic Awards are given to students who have displayed exceptional technical skills and a desire to explore and achieve in their respective areas. Each one of these individuals has uniquely demonstrated their dedication, interest, and passion in the classroom.”

Ms. Heather Pino-Beattie, Vice Principal



TV Production**Rahul James****12th**

“Rahul is in TV 3 and is the most reliable, hardworking & talented TV student I have. The segments he puts together are detailed and creative.”

Jennifer Tarquinio**12th**

“Jenny is in TV 2 and works incredibly hard. The time and effort she puts into her projects, morning announcements and the effort that comes with it are impressive.”

Game Design**Nicholas Mistretta****11th**

“Nick is a hard worker, and intelligent. His hard work leads him to a great deal of success.”

Introduction to**Culinary Arts****Jacob Schneider****12th**

“Jacob has taken an interest in culinary arts and is choosing to pursue it further for a career. He has been challenging himself in cooking to really learn and develop his abilities.”

Life Skills**Olivia Wierzbicki****12th**

“Olivia has been taking initiative in Life Skills by starting her own Company making horse treats. She has been demonstrating a strong understanding of product development, marketing and resale.”

Financial Literacy**Miranda Shovlin****12th**

“Mandy is hardworking, and very deserving of recognition.”

Sports & Entertainment**Marketing****Alissa Mitelman****12th**

“Alissa is a great student who works hard, asks great questions, and is always first to volunteer.”

**21st CENTURY LIFE & CAREERS &
CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION continued...**

Computer Science **Harrison Wiseblatt** **12th**
“Harrison is an excellent coder with strong problem solving skills.”

Jillian Epstein **12th**
“Jillian is a hardworking student with excellent problem solving skills and coding skills.”

Aarush Gupta **11th**
“Aarush is a dedicated student, who always completes his work with 100% accuracy.”

George Cao **10th**
“George is a hardworking student with excellent coding skills and problem solving skills.”

Technology Education

Sahaana Gopalakrishnan **12th**
“Sahaana is in Architecture Portfolio and has done projects to improve the school’s appearance. She has worked on the final designs of the garden project in the Tech wing.”

Amrutha Bhavaraju **12th**
“Amrutha is in Architecture Portfolio and has done projects to improve the school’s appearance. She has worked on the final designs of the garden project in the Tech wing.”

Kaia O’Reilly **12th**
“Kaia is an outstanding graphic artist. Her work is detailed and she shows great enthusiasm towards the subject.”

Cailin Howe **12th**
“Cailin has done a great job in material fabrication. She is able to read detailed working plans and can demonstrate this understanding by creating advanced projects.”

SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT

“To honor students for their outstanding contributions to the MHS Science classroom learning communities. These students demonstrated careful skill in the laboratory, outstanding performance on assessments and made significant contributions to the scientific discourse in their respective classes. It is important to note that recipients were high academic achievers and were selected by their teachers to receive this award on the basis of contributions made to the learning environment which enhanced the course for everyone.”

Mr. Jason Sullivan, Supervisor of Science

IPELS

Habibullah Oberoi 9th

“Habib has truly risen to the occasion during this school year. He is an extremely conscientious student who ensures his work is always completed. He is our most active participant in both large and small group settings. He is hard working and has done very well on assessments and his other classwork. He is a role model for his peers.”

Physics

Cameron Bennett 9th

“Cameron has demonstrated a deep level of engagement physics concepts we have explored this year. She is a leader in whole group discussions and collaborates exceptionally well in small group settings. Cameron has shown strong aptitude in physics and her skills as a scientific thinker continues to mature. When Cameron faces a difficult concept, she takes on the challenge and seeks guidance to clarify the concept and strengthen her understanding. She quickly incorporates new ideas into existing conceptual models and communicates expertly both verbally and through her written work.”

Reena Shah

9th

“Reena shows an incredibly bright future in the sciences and has a natural curiosity for diving deep into concepts. Reena goes beyond just being an active participant and finds ways to engage group members who may not be as strong in content and finds ways to get those individuals to make meaningful contributions as well.

iSTEM –

Engineering

Matthew

Bigga-Brecheteau 12th

“Matthieu has done an extraordinary job learning the intricacies of PCBs and is now the local expert on the Bantam milling machine. He is attentive to all aspects of his project from research and budget/supplies to communication of his work.”

Science continued...

iSTEM – Research

Vibhu Agarwal

12th

“Vibhu has taken a novel approach to a practical problem facing almost everyone - poor posture when working on a computer. Vibhu's range of research spans medical ergonomics to computer interfacing applications and machine learning. His passion for the subject and detail in his work is exemplary.”

AP Physics C

Sanjit Kobla

11th

“Sanjit is an enthusiastic and perceptive physics student. His contributions to our discussion in class and during after-school problem solving sessions has raised the level of discourse in creative ways this year. He has built on an excellent conceptual foundation from ninth grade physics, and has shown good insight in applying calculus concepts to novel situations in AP Physics C.”

Chemistry

Jago Dakin

10th

“Jago has the highest grade in the class; he always completes his work; he actively participates and shows an avid interest in chemistry.”

Sarah Smires

10th

“Sarah is a learner who advocates for herself and despite her natural shyness, contributes helpfully to the class. She’s grown in resiliency this year, as many of us have.”

Mikhaela Freitor **10th**

“Students in honors chemistry must work in small groups via Zoom breakout rooms to make observations, analyze evidence, and develop claims. Mika stands out amongst her peers by often volunteering to lead discussions and by helping others attain understanding.”

AP Chemistry

Aarush Gupta

11th

“Aarush Gupta is top notch in class discussions. But most important he does tremendous work in the STEM field be it Science Olympiad or Science League. He delves into the process of knowing stuff.”

Biology

Kyle Sharma

11th

“Kyle is a leader in both class discussions and small group work. He enjoys taking on challenges, and has the ability to help other students understand topics that they are struggling with. He is also very receptive to feedback, and appreciates being steered in the right direction if he is wrong. Even though science is not his passion, his inquisitive nature allows him to excel in it.”

Biology continued...

**Amelia
Cunningham**

11th

“Amelia has managed to navigate the remote learning environment to maximum effect. She is always engaged in the discussion and works hard to motivate her classmates and groups to take part.”

Zohair Khan

11th

“Zohair has worked incredibly hard all year in general biology. He is always prepared for class, works hard during class time, attends virtual sessions for reviews, and participates when asked.”

AP Biology

Annabelle Wang

11th

“Annabelle Wang is the Queen of the Protein Empire! Her deep thinking is an emergent property of her neurons that have been busy firing away the entire school year creating new synapses as she makes biology connections to every aspect of her daily life. She went above and beyond researching and sharing ancillary articles, documentaries and resources as they related to class content out of her own interest. She comes to virtual hour regularly to engage in additional peer discussions about the awesomeness of biology and I always look forward to her very thoughtful and metacognitive emails!”

**Environmental
Science**

Carli Resta

12th

“Carli Resta earned this award through her continued engagement in class discussions, making connections between class content and outside material, and consistently handing in exemplary work throughout the course. Although the class was a semester long, she left a lasting impression.”

AP Environmental Science-

Ishmael Award

Arushi Ramaka

11th

“Arushi has earned the coveted Ishmael award this year for her stellar contributions to APES. Named after the fictional talking Gorilla from the eponymous novel by Daniel Quinn, the Ishmael award is given to those APES students that exemplify the type of student Ishmael is looking for when he writes in the wanted section, “Teacher seeks pupil. Must have an earnest desire to save the world. Apply in person.” Arushi has proven to be a leader in both small and large group discussions. Her passion for the subject is palpable, and her insights - incalculable. She is able to see the poetry in nature, the resilience in the results, and the story within the system. She is humble, compassionate, and willing to learn. Ishmael would be proud!”

ENGLISH ACHIEVEMENT

"The Academic Awards for the English Department are given to outstanding students who have made their love and passion for literature and the language arts evident. These students demonstrate a true investment in English class, whether it be through their thoughtful inquiry, enthusiasm for reading, or creativity and diligence in the completion of tasks. They are hard-working, persistent, engaged students who have impressed their teachers time and time again."

Ms. Karen Stalowski, Supervisor of English

Lauren Tortolani

9th

"Lauren demonstrates a love for learning and specifically, shows passion and love for all things language arts. She is articulate and creative; I enjoy teaching her because of the joy she clearly feels from the content and because she has a willingness to go above and beyond."

Eleanor Cunningham

10th

"Eleanor Cunningham was nominated for the sophomore award because of her love of learning and her genuine enthusiasm in English class. Her spirit and commitment to her academic pursuits make her especially deserving of this recognition."

Raphael Arantes de Oliveira Campos

11th

"Rafael is working so hard, diligently reading everything, and coming to virtual hour to discuss whatever he doesn't understand. He was an ELL student last year and now is holding his own in Honors."

Isabella Arnold

12th

"Isabella is incredibly hard working, inquisitive, and insightful. She is an absolute joy to have in class. Not only does she clearly enjoy literature and all that we do with it in class, but she brings brightness and positivity to the classroom which is worth so very much, especially now."

Riley Howe

12th

"Riley is an AP Lit student this year who has demonstrated a passion and appreciation for literature that we rarely see. Her insight and intellectual curiosity with regard to literature is unsurpassed, so much so that the teachers who know her feel that she could probably teach the AP Lit class herself!"

Princeton Book Award

Catherine Gonzalez

11th

"This award is presented to a student for their overall academic excellence and exemplary community service or civic engagement."

HISTORY ACHIEVEMENT

American History Mikhaela Freitor 10th

“Mika has been an outstanding student of history in both World Studies Honors and US1 Honors. She brings incredible interest, questions, and preparation to each and every class. She always is engaged in learning in any number of ways. She has been a leader in both of her high level history courses and is constantly looking for ways to improve her knowledge and her skills.”

American History Noa Ran Ressler 11th

“Noa’s deep interest in history became apparent in her Freshman year with each of her subsequent teachers lauding her love and commitment to understanding history. She consistently requests additional materials to enhance topics discussed in class and brings independent research to every discussion. Noa’s questioning reflects a desire to understand historical topics beyond the surface level. Further, her enthusiasm and work ethic serves as a role model to other students in the history classroom. Noa focuses on how history can be used to further social justice as evidenced by a video she helped create on the hidden history of racial injustice. She is also an executive of the Montgomery Docents Live Historians. “

Social Studies Sara Maslyn 12th

“Sara is quiet and soft-spoken, but when she sets her mind to a task, she explores every avenue to reach her goal and faces every challenge with determination and passion. She is courageous and fearless both intellectually and visually. Her intellectual strength is balanced with a gentleness which is admired by her peers and faculty. Her genuine enthusiasm for all of her courses makes her a leader in and outside the classroom.”

Helen Gelertner

Book Award Grace Johnson 12th

“The Helen Gelertner Book Award is presented to a Senior who shows true interest in the social sciences and demonstrates integrity, compassion and involvement with the school community. Grace embodies the ideals of a commitment to social justice and civic engagement and is well on her way to changing the world for the better. “

MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENT

“Academic awards for Math are given to students who not only maintain excellent proficiency but who have gone above and beyond in the classroom every day to truly comprehend mathematical concepts and their applications. We thank them for their enthusiastic diligence of the consistent inquiry of mathematics.”

Ms. Jen Riddell, Supervisor of Mathematics

9th

**Nicholas Kang
Priyanka Chatterjee
Pennie Lu
Andrey Nepomnishy**

10th

**Alissa Wu
Zachary Wen
Sanjeev Harikrishnan
Jiaying Liu
Miranda Qing**

11th

**Sami Muhammad
Andrew Wan
Alexander Zambrowski
Sanjit Kobla**

12th

**Alissa Mitelman
Piper Epstein
Zachary Eichenbaum
Charis Gao**



WORLD LANGUAGES

“This Excellence in World Language Award recognizes outstanding achievement in the study of a World Language. These students have demonstrated persistent and passionate interest in world cultures, and dedication to the study and development of proficiency in a world language.”

Ms. Alma Reyes, Supervisor of World Languages



German

Eleanor Engleka

12th



French

Aviva Jalona

12th



Spanish

Grace Johnson

12th



Latin

William Prevost

11th

**Excellence
in English**

Maiwen Mizi-Allaoua

12th



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

“Physical Education is an integral part of the total educational program. It is the phase of education that affords students the opportunity for physical, mental, and social development. The following students demonstrated responsible personal and social behavior - including good sportsmanship, character, and respect. They also demonstrated leadership and are positive role models for their peers. The Physical Education Department is so proud of the following students and congratulates them for being the Health and Physical Education Excellence Award Winners.”

Ms. Naoma Green, Vice Principal

**9th Lucas Szczepanski
Sofia Jaworovich**

**10th Kyle Freundlich
Olivia Barrood**

**11th Henrik Tamas
Amelia Cunningham**

**12th Jordan Dumas
Jennifer Kubik**



**Montgomery High School
Skillman, New Jersey**

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