

CONTACT:

Miranda Connelly, Communications Associate
connelly.m@harrisburgacademy.org, (717) 763-7811
Feb. 15, 2017

Harrisburg Academy Student Named National Merit Scholarship Finalist

WORMLEYSBURG, PA – **James T. '17** has been recognized as a Finalist in the 2017 National Merit® Scholarship Program (NMSP). NMSP honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

The 16,000 Finalists were chosen from the original pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of United States high school seniors. These academically talented Finalists, including Thompson, are now in the running for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth \$32 million that will be offered this spring.

Keo Oura Kounlavong-Sabath, the Academy's director of college counseling, said, "The advantages of an Academy education are many, and they include the support of the College Counseling Office throughout the personalized college search and application process. Having a National Merit Finalist this year emphasizes the Academy's reputation as a top independent school with well-rounded students that colleges desire."



"James is an excellent student and leader. Being named a Finalist will continue to help him achieve the highest standards in academic and co-curricular disciplines through his remaining months of high school and into college," she said.

James, who has attended the Academy since 9th grade, is an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate. He was inducted to the National Honor Society in 2014 and was awarded the IB Scholarship for Summer Study in 2015. James is a member of Tri-M Music Honor Society, the Upper School chorus and band ensembles, and an enthusiastic cast member of yearly Upper School musical productions. He is also a notable student-athlete, playing Varsity Boys' Soccer for four years.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (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 420 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

About Harrisburg Academy:

Established in 1784, Harrisburg Academy is the 17th oldest non-public school in the nation and Harrisburg's only independent school. Our coed, diverse school community inspires students from age three through 12th grade by providing an academically challenging and globally minded liberal arts education focused on dynamic classroom experiences, strong student outcomes, and a commitment to character development. The Academy proudly stands as the first school in the greater Harrisburg area to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma program and merit scholarship.

For more information about Harrisburg Academy please visit our website or contact Miranda Connelly at 717-763-7811 or via email at connelly.m@harrisburgacademy.org.