



Office of Communications  
803 W. Broad Street, Suite 340  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
703-248-5699

For Immediate Release  
September 28, 2005

## Students receive Merit Scholarship honors

Seven students at George Mason High School have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Named as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists were **Maya Cough-Schulze, Ryan Hinely** and **Alex Holachek**. Recognized as Commended Students were **Betsy Elliott, Jennifer Jenkins, Nick Pitas** and **Laura Shu**.



*Pictured left to right: back row: GMHS Principal Bob Snee; Ryan Hinely; Laura Shu; Betsy Elliott; front row: Nick Pitas; Alex Holachek and Maya Cough-Schulze and Director of Counseling Ken Siekman. Not pictured is Jennifer Jenkins.*

More than 1.3 million juniors entered the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). The test measures critical reading, math and writing skills. Approximately 16,000 high school seniors were named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists this year, and 34,000 were recognized as commended students. Semifinalists who are named finalists in February are eligible to compete for National Merit Scholarships, College-sponsored Merit Scholarships and Corporate Sponsored Merit Scholarships to be awarded in March 2006.

###