



## ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

*Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **St. Mary's Academy students named 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists, Commended Scholars**

Portland, Ore. – Sept. 26, 2011 – Two St. Mary's Academy seniors have been named 2012 National Merit Scholarship Corporation Semifinalists, ranking in the top 1 percent of all U.S. high school seniors taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Seven St. Mary's students have been named Commended Scholars, placing among the top 5 percent of the 1.5 million students who took the test.

Semifinalists will continue in the competition for some 8,300 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$34 million that will be offered next spring. About 15,000 of the Semifinalists are expected to advance to the Finalist level. They will be notified of this designation in February.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has recognized about 34,000 Commended Scholars across the nation.

The National Merit Scholarship Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic abilities and potential for success in rigorous college studies. St. Mary's Academy celebrates its students' performance in the competition.

"I am proud of these fine young women and the level of hard work and diligence it takes to earn these accolades. These women are true scholars," said Patricia Barr, St. Mary's Academy Principal.

To learn more about the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, go to [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).

St. Mary's Academy 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists

Nora Helfand (Portland, Ore.)  
Daniella Ohnemus (West Linn, Ore.)

St. Mary's Academy 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Scholars

Fiona Byrne (Beaverton, Ore.)  
Olivia Cantwell (Portland, Ore.)  
Sarah Carey (McMinnville, Ore.)  
Kate Jesse (Portland, Ore.)

Madeleine Reid (Portland, Ore.)  
Sarah Robinson (Portland, Ore.)  
Kristen Warden (Portland, Ore.)

For additional information or questions, please contact Mary Ann Albright, Director of Communications, at 503.721.7715 (direct office), 503.984.2777 (cell), or [maryann.albright@stmaryspx.org](mailto:maryann.albright@stmaryspx.org).

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*About St. Mary's Academy*

St. Mary's Academy is a Catholic high school for young women located in the heart of downtown Portland that provides a challenging college-preparatory education with a focus on developing the whole person. Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy is Oregon's oldest continuously operating secondary school and offers a supportive learning environment to a diverse student body from more than 30 urban, suburban and rural communities in Oregon and Southwest Washington. It is the only school in the state to have received three Blue Ribbon awards from the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about St. Mary's Academy, please visit [www.stmaryspx.org](http://www.stmaryspx.org).