



**ST. MARY'S**  
ACADEMY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**St. Mary's Academy Seniors Named 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program  
Semifinalist, Commended Students**

Portland, Ore. – St. Mary's Academy students have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for their extraordinary academic achievement. Senior, Alia Korot, has been named a 2018 National Merit Scholarship Corporation semifinalist, representing less than one percent of all U.S. high schoolers taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Nine young women from St. Mary's have been named Commended Students in the 2018 National Merit Program, placing among the top 50,000 of the 1.6 million students who took the test nationwide.

Semifinalists will continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit scholarships worth approximately \$32 million that will be offered next spring. Approximately 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to be named finalists, based on SAT scores, academic and extracurricular records, recommendations and essays.

“Here at St. Mary's, we believe in climbing, thriving, in setting the pace. These students demonstrate this through their commitment to achieve academic excellence. We are blessed to have these talented young women in our community, and incredibly proud of their accomplishments,” said Principal Nicole Foran.

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

St. Mary's Academy's 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist

Alia Korot (Rose City Park)

St. Mary's Academy's 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students

Caitlyn Ark (Bethany)  
Hannah Bachman (Alameda/Irvington)  
Sydney Buffonge (Mt. Tabor)  
Kara D'Ascenzo (Markham)  
Nina Fletcher (Rose City Park)  
Kyra Lauersdorf (Northwest Heights)  
Riona O'Donnell (Carlton)  
Beatrice Pickett (Northwest)  
Helen Rossmiller (Piedmont)

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

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At St. Mary's Academy, We Believe.

Located in the heart of downtown Portland, OR, St. Mary's Academy is the state's oldest continually-operating school and its only all-girls secondary school. Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy serves over 725 young women in grades 9-12. The school's college acceptance rate is 100% and SMA students achieve, excel and are recognized locally, regionally and nationally in academic fields, the arts, athletics, community services and extra- and co-curricular activities. [www.stmaryspdx.org](http://www.stmaryspdx.org)