



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Ken Valenti, Public Information Officer

o. 914-576-4305 c. 914-563-5078

kvalenti@nredlearn.org

NRHS Senior Selected as National Merit Scholar

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (May 8, 2019) – New Rochelle High School senior Eliza Crocker, the Class of 2019 valedictorian, has been named a National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship winner, earning a spot among 2,500 top student scholars across the country.

The scholarship winners were chosen from more than 15,000 outstanding finalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. The contest began in October 2017, when 1.6 million students took the qualifying test as juniors. In September, 16,000 semifinalists were named.

“I knew that just being chosen as a semifinalist was a really big honor,” Crocker said. “So being named a semifinalist, then valedictorian and now being chosen for this scholarship on top of that is really humbling.”

The captain of the school’s Mathletes team, Crocker has long planned to study math in college. This year, she has also become interested in political science while taking the AP US Government course at NRHS. She plans to study both subjects, as well as computer science as she decides on a career path in college. She will attend Dartmouth College in New Hampshire in the fall.

“That’s why I chose Dartmouth College,” she said. “The liberal arts education will allow me to explore all my different interests.”

An avid sailor, she also plans to join the Dartmouth sailing team.

Crocker is currently president of the New Rochelle High School chapter of Junior State.

“Eliza is passionate about solving problems, whether that be how to encourage our freshman Junior State debaters to speak at conventions, the best course to take while sailing, or how to think creatively about problems facing society,” said AP US Government teacher Deborah Minchin. “She brings her strong analytical skills to political issues. I am thrilled that she has been recognized as a National Merit Scholar.”

“Eliza is amazing,” said Assistant Principal Camille Edwards-Thomas. “She’s humble, sweet, personable, and such a well-rounded student.”

National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship winners are the Finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of winners named in each state is proportional to the state’s percentage of the nation’s graduating high school seniors.

The scholars were chosen by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors. The committee reviewed each scholar’s academic record, including the difficulty levels of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from two standardized tests; contributions and leadership in school and community activities; an essay written by the finalist; and a recommendation written by a high school official.

NMSC finances most of these single-payment National Merit \$2500 Scholarships. Corporations and foundations that sponsor awards through NMSC also help underwrite these scholarships.

This year’s National Merit Scholarship Program began in October 2017 when more than 1.6 million juniors in about 22,000 high schools took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). Last fall, the highest-scoring participants in each state – a total of 16,000, representing less than one percent of the nation’s high school seniors – were named semifinalists.

About the City School District of New Rochelle

With nearly 11,000 students in 10 schools, the City School District of New Rochelle, through an active partnership amongst community, parents, staff and students, provides a high-quality and challenging education for every child, in a safe, nurturing environment that embraces rich diversity and drives success.

About the National Merit Scholarship Corporation

NMSC, a not-for-profit corporation that operates without government assistance, was founded in 1955 specifically to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of scholarships offered each year are underwritten by approximately 400 independent corporate and college sponsors that share NMSC’s goals of honoring scholastically talented youth and encouraging academic excellence at all levels of education.

###