



Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District
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Brakewood Named National Merit Semifinalist



William Brakewood, a senior at Port Chester High School, is a Semifinalist in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. Officials of the program announced the names of the Semifinalists on Wednesday, September 13.

William is an IB Diploma candidate at the high school and is a member of five honor societies: English, Math, Science, Spanish and Tri-M. He also is Vice President of the PCHS Marching Band and a three-season varsity athlete. An Eagle Scout, William is a talented musician, having earned a spot as a NY Conference All-State trumpet player. He also participates in the PCHS Debate Club.

"We are extremely proud of William for his high score on the PSAT last October that qualified him for this distinction. A by-product of an excellent school system, William has taken the most demanding courses Port Chester High School has to offer, and his talents have shown in all that he has attempted, be it debate club, cross country, the trumpet, or his classes. I congratulate him on this honor," said Dr. Mitchell Combs, the PCHS Principal.

William's school counselor, Vanessa Clay-Williams, expressed delight in learning of his semifinalist status, stating, "William is a true gentleman and a fine scholar; he is an outstanding representative of Port Chester High School."

As one of 16,000 Semifinalists, William will have an opportunity to compete for one of the approximately 7,500 National Merit Scholarships next spring. He and the others will need to fulfill several requirements to advance to Finalist level of the competition, including a detailed scholarship application which includes information about their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment and honors and awards received. They must also submit a letter of recommendation, write an essay and earn certain SAT scores. About half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, according to the program officials.