

From: asranomani <asra@asranomani.com>
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 at 8:27 AM
To: <mediainfo@nmerit.net>
Subject: Media query from journalist -- on deadline today

Greetings Eileen and Matthew,

I am a former Wall Street Journal reporter, writing a column with a deadline of today. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I am writing about a policy issue and citing my family's experience as an anecdote, so my questions are on both fronts.

I would like to know:

1. What is the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's process for notifying commended students that they have achieved that honor?
2. On what date were students notified of their scores this year?
3. In 2020, was my son, [REDACTED], a commended scholar? Below and attached are his results
4. Brandon Kosatka, director of student services at my son's alma mater, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, told a parent this week that the College Board notifies commended students of the honor. Is that true?
5. If so, how long has that policy been in place?
6. If not, how does National Merit Scholarship Corporation expect students to be notified?

I'm on deadline today.

Asra Nomani
304-685-2189

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [VA cutoff](#)

Contact:

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200, Evanston, Illinois 60201-4897 (847) 866-5100

Eileen Artemakis or Matthew Budreau

Phone: (847) 866-5100

Public Information Email: mediainfo@nmerit.net

Website: www.nationalmerit.org

From: asranomani <asra@asranomani.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 12:27 PM
To: Media Info <mediainfo@nmerit.net>
Subject: FW: Media query from journalist -- on deadline today
Eileen and Matthew,

I am resending my query from 11/23/2022.

No one has responded yet.

Here are additional questions:

1. I want a copy of the correspondence sent to principals from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation regarding commended scholars.
2. The letter sent to principals with the commendation notices states in bold: "Please present the letter of commendation as soon as possible since it is the student's only notification."
3. I want the date of the mailing of this letter for 2020, 2021 and 2022, to the principal at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va. Her name is Ann Bonitatibus. Please confirm to whom this mailing was sent to at TJHSST.
4. I would like the total number and names of students who were commended scholars from TJHSST in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Asra Nomani



From: asranomani <asra@asranomani.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 5:28 PM
To: Media Info <mediainfo@nmerit.net>
Subject: Re: Media query from journalist -- on deadline today

Eileen,

This is the first time that we are learning that my son was a commended student.

I have some additional questions.

1. 9/10/2020 -- To whom was the letter sent notifying TJHSST of commended students sent? – [NMSC sends the Commended Student mailing to the attention of the high school principal \(by title only\)](#)
2. How many commended students were there in 2020 at TJHSST? – [NMSC does not publicly announce numbers of Commended Students by high school – your high school may be able to answer this question for you](#)
3. 2021 – When was the letter about the commended students sent in 2021? – [September 16, 2021](#)
4. 2022 -- I already have confirmation of what happened re: this year's mailing. I want to know: why did you wait so long to re-mail the mailing after the package was returned for insufficient postage? – [we processed this as soon as we were notified by the postal service](#)
5. I would like to get copies of the letter that you send principals re: semifinalists and commended students. – [you would have to ask your high school for copies](#)
6. With this situation as an example, why doesn't the National Merit Scholarship Corporation send to the College Board the data of students who are commended students? Does it notify the College Board of semi-finalists and finalists? – [College Board is not involved in the administration of the National Merit Scholarship Program](#)
7. Why doesn't the National Merit Scholarship Corporation also notify students directly that they are commended students, semi-finalists or finalists? – [high school officials have consistently requested to be the first to announce and recognize their Semifinalists and Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program](#)

Asra
304-685-2189

Public Information
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Phone: (847) 866-5100
Fax: (847) 866-5117
Email: mediainfo@nmerit.net

www.nationalmerit.org

From: asranomani <asra@asranomani.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 10:46 AM
To: Media Info <mediainfo@nmerit.net>
Subject: Re: Media query from journalist -- on deadline today

Eileen and Matthew,

I have follow-up questions.

1. Why doesn't the National Merit Scholarship Corporation also notify students directly that they are commended students, semi-finalists or finalists? – [high school officials have consistently requested to be the first to announce and recognize their Semifinalists and Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program](#)

To you answer, even if schools are notified **first**, why don't you directly notify students **after** the school is notified? – **We leave this honor exclusively to the high school officials**

2. With this situation as an example, why doesn't the National Merit Scholarship Corporation send to the College Board the data of students who are commended students? Does it notify the College Board of semi-finalists and finalists? – [College Board is not involved in the administration of the National Merit Scholarship Program](#)

You are not answering my question. I didn't ask if College Board is involved with the administration of the National Merit Scholarship Program. My question is: why do you **NOT share** with the College Board the results of your awards? If you are interested in helping students advance, it seems you would make the information available directly to students. – **This question has been answered – College Board is a separate organization and not involved with our program administration or recognitions**

3. What is the total value of scholarships that you have estimated students received in 2020, 2021 and 2022 if they were commended students? – **Commended students do not receive scholarship awards through NMSC**
4. With whom do you share the data regarding commended students, semi-finalists and finalists? – **All public information regarding NMSC recognitions is posted on our website at www.nationalmerit.org**
5. Fairfax County Public Schools has a contract with National Merit Corporation. Please provide me a copy of the contract. – **NMSC does not have contracts with any school districts (or individual high schools)**
6. I would also like a copy of the 2022 990 for the corporation. Please provide me to that today along with any and all attachments. – **NMSC's 2022 990 will not be filed until October 2023. All other published 990s of the Corporation can be accessed (for free) at www.IRS.gov and www.GuideStar.org (although you will need to sign up for a free account for the latter). If you would like a physical copy or an electronic copy of NMSC's 990, there is a fee of \$10.00 [Form 990 – 50 pages – Total Cost (at 20 cents per page) = \$10.00] for each year, which must be paid in advance. Please mail payment to:**

**National Merit Scholarship Corporation
Attn: Finance
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4897**

In your correspondence with your payment, please specify which year(s) Form 990 you are requesting and the email or mailing address to which the documents should be sent.

From: Media Info <mediainfo@nmerit.net>
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 10:55 AM
To: asranomani <asra@asranomani.com>
Subject: RE: Media query from journalist -- on deadline today

Dear Ms. Nomani,

Please see our replies (in blue) to your questions below.

From: Media Info <mediainfo@nmerit.net>
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 4:11 PM
To: asranomani <asra@asranomani.com>
Subject: RE: Media query from journalist -- on deadline today

Dear Ms. Nomani,

Please see our replies (**in BOLD**) to your questions below.

With this email, we consider this matter to be concluded. Please refer to NMSC's website at www.nationalmerit.org for detailed information (including the inquiries below) about our scholarship program procedures, requirements, recognitions, and scholarship awards.

Public Information

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
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From: Media Info <mediainfo@nmerit.net>
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 5:14 PM
To: asranomani <asra@asranomani.com>
Subject: RE: Media query from journalist -- on deadline today

Dear Ms. Nomani,

I received your voicemail, and Matt Budreau talked with me about your phone conversation with him. We are also in receipt of your email from 11/23. Our office was closed on 11/23 through 11/27, and we are just now getting caught up with correspondence.

To answer your specific question about your son – he was recognized as a Commended Student in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. A letter dated September 10, 2020, was sent to his high school notifying them of this recognition, which included a Certificate of Commendation that the high school presents to the student. I believe Matt explained this process in his phone call with you.

With regard to confirmations of mailings or copies of correspondence between National Merit Scholarship Corporation and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, this inquiry would need to be answered by the high school as the recipient of this information.

Best regards,

Eileen Artemakis

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