

ENGLISH

English \$4,000 Grant Recipient – Matthew Comi, Northwest Christian School

This student has a 4.0 GPA, scored a perfect 5 on the AP Literature and Composition exam (one of four perfect 5's he has earned), and is an AP Scholar with Honor and a National Merit Commended Scholar.

A teacher describes this student as “a person of great depth, creativity and personal discipline; one who makes a conscionable difference in the world about him” and continues by stating that our scholar “has found a way to artfully balance his interest of thought with his interest in people.”

This scholar is a skilled writer whose work has been published numerous times in his school's literary magazine, for which he now serves as editor. He also has spent many hours as a reading tutor with local elementary school students.

English \$3,000 Grant Recipient – Cassandra Partridge – University High School

This student earned a perfect score of 800 on the Critical Reading portion of the SAT and a perfect score of 5 on the AP English Language and Composition exam. She is a National Merit Commended Scholar, has a 4.0 GPA, and is a member of her school's Knowledge Bowl team.

Her AP English teacher states that she engages “in discussion, class work, and homework with a focus and discipline that is truly astounding.” Our scholar tells us that “reading has been an indispensable element of (her) life.” She may pursue a career in medicine as either a pediatrician or a nutritionist and hopes to have her own column in a distinguished food or health magazine.

English \$2,000 Grant Recipient – Caroline Emberton - St. George's School

This student is an AP scholar and a regionally-ranked debater. This student is the president and co-founder of the North Spokane Debate and Speech Club and has directed two public speaking workshops for students between the ages of 8 and 12. She has developed a creative public speaking curriculum for students, and because of the success of that program, she also began an e-lesson mentorship program.

In 2009 she established Debate programs at both West Valley and Northwest Christian and now serves as the Debate coach at both schools.

English \$1,000 Grant Recipient – Rachelle Parsloe - Central Valley High School

This scholar is an accomplished poet and journalist and is already enrolled in college-level courses.

This student is the editor of her school's newspaper and has organized her school's book club. She is a freelance writer for her community's newspaper and is also a news writer for The Vox, the student newspaper published by The Spokesman-Review. In fact, she recently won a first-place award in news writing in a regional competition for her work at that newspaper.

She has been accepted into Emerson College's program for Writing, Literature, and Publishing.

Her AP English teacher tells us that “for her, language and literature are not just subjects to be considered for one hour each day, 180 days per year. Unlike most college-bound students, (she) lives daily the reader’s and writer’s life.”

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies \$4,000 Grant Recipient – Janni Sun – Central Valley High School

Our top scholar in Social Studies has all the outstanding numbers we would expect for such a level of excellence. Perfect 4.0 GPA and class valedictorian. A near perfect 35 on the ACT and 2200 composite SAT. This scholar has achieved a perfect 5 in the European History AP exam and a near perfect 4 in American History. Her honors include AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Commended Scholar and Presidential Scholar nominee. At such a young age, this scholar has been committed to the cause of justice and peace for many years. She translates and edits articles that expose persecution and torture of Chinese dissidents and dreams of being an investigative reporter for the National Geographic Society on culture and conflict.

Social Studies \$3,000 Grant Recipient – Corrine Schmidt – Joel E. Ferris High School

This scholar is a 4.0 GPA student whose remarkable test scores and honors are merely the frame for this portrait of a scholar. A National Merit Commended Scholar and AP Scholar with Honor, this student is a supremely accomplished orator and advocate who has received dozens of awards throughout the state over the past four years. She has received a perfect 5 in U.S. History and a four in World History, tribute to her mastery of the discipline.

This recipient is passionate about human rights and justice around the world. She is president and co-founder of her school’s Action Team, dedicated to building awareness of global and local issues. Additionally, the team has sponsored fun runs to support Grace Giving in Uganda and supports two full time High School students in that country.

Social Studies \$2,000 Grant Recipient – Andrey Melnikov – North Central High School

This student is described as bringing a quasi religious passion to academics and his measureable certainly support that. With a perfect 5 in both U.S. and World History, this student has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary appetite for every aspect of learning. He is able to grasp the continuum of human development and identify the multiple factors and their interplay in shaping human society.

Social Studies \$1,000 Grant Recipient – Howard Lee – St. Geroge’s School

This grant Social Studies has achieved a perfect 5 in both U.S. and European History, but curiously is described by one teacher as not really a “history guy” and by another as the mind of a scientist and the soul of a liberal arts scholar. This scholar dreams of becoming a cardiac surgeon and has volunteered at Sacred Hearts neuro recovery unit. He is the first violin for the Spokane Youth Symphony and a starter for both the school baseball and basketball team, despite the fact that when he first enrolled he could neither dribble a basketball or throw a baseball. That kind of dedication deserves our honor.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics \$4,000 Grant Recipient - Ho Jae Lee - St. George's School

This scholar has been described as a study in contrasts... scientifically minded yet musically talented, respectful and quiet in the classroom yet humorous and engaging with friends.

Mathematically, this student has achieved a perfect 5 on the AP Calculus AB exam and a perfect 800 on the SAT Math Exam. Musically, he has received the highest rating for a solo Tenor performance and first place in the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival. This amazing young man is dedicated to using his gifts for the benefit of others. He serves as a medical interpreter, a research assistant in an Infection Control Clinic and a patient assistant in the Department of Nuclear Medicine and attended several international medical conferences, all of which have helped him in his search for a suitable career in the life sciences. His AP Calculus instructor calls him the real deal who has yet to scratch the surface of his enormous potential.

Mathematics \$3,000 Grant Recipient - David Finkel – University High School

This grant recipient in Mathematics is a scholar of remarkable distinction. Not only has this student achieved perfect 5's in Calculus AB and Calculus BC, but the breadth of this student's academic mastery is shown by the perfect 5's he has obtained in AP exams in U.S. History, English Language and Composition, and American Government and Politics. His commitment to his fellow students is evident in his tutoring and mentoring, all on his own time. He is an Americorps volunteer and mans phones for the troubled and suicidal. This year he serves as a Teaching assistant in his High School's math department.

Mathematics \$2,000 Grant Recipient - Brian Moore – Central Valley High School

This student is a National Merit Commended Scholar and AP Scholar with Honors who has achieved a perfect 5 on the AP Calculus AB exam as well as a near perfect 35 on the ACT and 2280 on the SAT. A two year captain of the school's Math is Cool team this recipient coaches promising fourth and fifth grade math students and recently participated in Operation catapult, a specialized math congress at Rose-Hilman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana. He will enroll at that institution in the Fall where he hopes to obtain a doctorate in Biomedical Engineering.

Mathematics \$1,000 Grant Recipient - Hannah Myers – Joel E. Ferris High School

This scholar is a National Merit Finalist who has achieved a perfect 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam and an outstanding 2290 on the SAT. This student entered 9th grade three full years ahead of her class in Mathematics and skipped tenth grade altogether to attend Running Start at Eastern Washington University. Despite a lifelong commitment to Math, this scholar has helped build a school in Kenya, a hospital in Zambia, and enjoys jazz saxophone and training horses.

SCIENCE

Science \$4,000 Grant Recipient - Amy Bestick - University High School

This student has, according to a teacher, “a beautiful mind – curious, analytical, and insightful. She absorbs difficult content and then applies that knowledge.”

She also has an overall grade point average of 4.0, having taken 8 Advanced Placement classes, achieving a perfect 5 on the AP Chemistry Exam, and received the AP Scholar with Distinction Award. In addition she is a National Merit Finalist, and she scored incredibly high on her Scholastic Aptitude Test.

Another teacher writes, “She is a Renaissance person, with an inquisitive mind, high intellect, and great enthusiasm for learning. She is among the best of the best ever at our school. She is a truly a special person.

Science \$3,000 Grant Recipient – Richard Caulkins – St. Geroge’s School

This student has a perfect 4.0 overall grade point average with an SAT score in the top 99th percentile. He has scored perfect 5’s on each of the Advanced Placement Tests and is an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction.

He is described this way by teachers and counselors: “smart, hard-working, thoughtful, and honest. He has very good thinking skills and sound intuition. He has real intellectual power. He is tenacious about learning.”

He is a member of the school’s first robotics team and has done primary research on the use of chemicals as fire retardants.

Science \$2,000 – Cameron Nemeth --- Central Valley High School

This student has “a zeal for science – is one of the brightest scholars this school has ever produced.” He has a perfect 4.0 overall grade point average with A’s in Advanced Placement Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, and scored 5’s on all four of the AP exam, earning him the award of Advanced Placement Scholar with Honors. He has been a key participant in the Central Valley Knowledge Bowl Team and has been accepted into the Honors College at the University of Washington.

Another teacher writes, “Cameron is a once in a blue moon student. He has a laser-like focus and gift of great intellect. He has the mental and emotional acuity of the best students I have taught in 26 years.”

Science \$1,000 Grant Recipient - Scott Davis ---- Joel E. Ferris High School

This student has a perfect 4.0 grade point average, which included many advanced placement classes. He is, in fact, an Advanced Placement Scholar with Honors, and will graduate as the Valedictorian of his class. His Scholastic Aptitude test scores were superb.

He is described this way by teacher and a counselor: “Scott is a committed student with an obvious love for learning. He is genuine, energetic, self-motivated, and committed to striving for personal excellence. He is an exemplary young man.”

WORLD LANGUAGES

World Languages \$4,000 Grant Recipient - Matei Alexianu - St. George's School

This scholar is studying both French and Chinese, is a National Merit Finalist, and has a 4.0 GPA. This student scored a perfect 800 on the Critical Reading portion of the SAT and a perfect 5 on the AP French Language exam – just one of his EIGHT perfect AP exams. By the time he graduates, he will have taken 12 AP classes, which is the most any student has ever taken at his school.

A counselor compares his stature at school to that of a rock star and is amazed with “his savvy leadership skills and quiet allure amongst his peers.” A teacher tells us that he “has a natural flair for foreign languages,” has “near-native” pronunciation, and “is probably the most proficient student that (he has) ever had in ten years of teaching.”

This fall, he will attend St. Peter's College at Oxford University, where he will study Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. His goal is to have a career that affects economic policy in a way that will make a difference on an international scale

World Languages \$3,000 Grant Recipient – Olgena Hoxha - Gonzaga Preparatory School

This scholar has a nearly perfect GPA and has studied French, Spanish, and Latin in high school. She also began independent study programs in both German and Italian when she was in the eighth grade.

Our scholar volunteers as an English-as-a-second-language tutor at The Institute for Extended Learning, where she works with adults from several different nations. She has also taught French to elementary school students and has volunteered as a translator at Shriners' Hospital.

She plans to attend Gonzaga University this fall and study French, Spanish, and Marketing.

World Languages \$2,000 Grant Recipient – Derrick Cunningham - Mt. Spokane High School

A student of French and Spanish this student is an AP Scholar with Distinction, has a 4.0 GPA, and will be the valedictorian of his class. He is presently enrolled in some college-level courses and has taken more AP courses than anyone in the history of his school.

This scholar tells us that his two passions in life are social justice and language. His greatest ambition is to travel the world in an effort to make himself a more informed and proactive citizen. He plans to attend Seattle University and major in International Marketing and French, with a minor in Italian.

World Languages \$1,000 Grant Recipient – Samantha Lewis - The Oaks Classical Christian Academy

This student has earned a 4.0 GPA while enrolling in her school's most rigorous curriculum, has studied Spanish, Latin, Mandarin, Italian, and French. She is ranked first in her class and is a National Merit Commended Scholar.

She received the National Latin Award for Excellence – in four consecutive years. She has used her linguistic skills on overseas missions, as a volunteer at Deaconess Hospital, and as a camp director.

In college, she plans to study at least one world language and Pre-Medicine, and hopes to eventually work in Third World countries.

FINE ARTS

Fine Arts \$4,000 Grant Recipient - Christa Prentiss - Northwest Christian School

This published artist has maintained a near perfect grade point average and SAT scores. (Damn that A- in Advanced Placement Calculus.) According to an instructor, this scholar is “a fantastic draftsman and when the insight of form and position is combined with voice, humorous or otherwise, the results are remarkable!”

Not content with being a graphic artist this student is also a pianist, vocalist and National Merit Scholar. This scholar is described as a student with intellectual ability, diligence and excellence; an artist with a creative mind and giftedness.

Fine Arts \$3,000 Grant Recipient – Elyce Cutshall - Newport High School

This scholar’s talent so far exceeded the curriculum offered at the high school that a special directed study program was designed to help meet her needs. Determined to excel in both art and academics this student is enrolled in Running Start for classes like History and English allowing this scholar the ability to take all the fine arts classes offered at the High School. Maintaining a 3.8 grade point average while completing many of the classes needed for an AA degree this scholar plans to obtain a Bachelor’s Degree in Furniture Design and ultimately open a furniture design company.

Fine Arts \$2,000 Grant Recipient – Philip Keeve - Central Valley High School

This musician started playing in the first grade. Now a principal in the Spokane Youth Orchestra this student has also branched out to singing and acting. This National Merit Scholar and Eagle Scout has maintained a near perfect grade point average while taking many Advanced Placement Classes. This student leader intends to continue performing in an orchestra while studying economics.

Fine Arts \$1,000 Grant Recipient – Taemin Eum - St. George’s School

This student has been an artist since the age of 7 using art as a communication tool when language skills weren’t sufficient. A submission to a competition that was denied because “the entrant must have had help” was a strong acknowledgement of this student’s skill and encouraged further study in a wide variety of styles. This student looks forward to studying graphic design at an art college with the goal to use his art to help people globally.