

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MCAULEY SENIORS RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Dr. Christine Melone, president/principal of Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, is pleased to announce that the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program has recognized senior Christine Jakes of Palos Heights as a Semifinalist, and seniors Katherine Cronin of Beverly and Anne Dailidonis of Brighton Park as Commended Students. The students took the qualifying PSAT test on National Testing Day in October of 2008.

Christine now has the opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 8,200 merit scholarship awards. To become a Finalist, a Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the students' earlier qualifying test performance. Semifinalists must also complete an application which includes a self-descriptive essay and information about the applicant's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

The Commended Students are among 34,000 high school seniors nationwide who have been recognized for placing in the top five percent of the 1.5 million students who enter the competition. Katherine and Anne will receive a Letter of Commendation from Mother McAuley and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, but may qualify for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. There are approximately 260,000 distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title since its inception.

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