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## PRESS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Andi Johnston, (909) 628-1201 x1616

[andrea\\_johnston@chino.k12.ca.us](mailto:andrea_johnston@chino.k12.ca.us)

### **Three Chino Valley USD Seniors Recognized as National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists**

*Two seniors from Chino Hills High School and one from Ayala High School will have the opportunity to compete for 7,140 National Merit Scholarships estimated to be worth \$28 million dollars.*

Chino, CA – One September 13, 2023, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), a non-profit organization that honors the nation's scholastically gifted students, recognized three Chino Valley Unified School District high school seniors as Semifinalists in the 69<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program competition. Aiden Choe of Ayala High School, and Allison Gao and Joel Kim of Chino Hills High School earned this prestigious distinction after receiving a qualifying score on their 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) during their junior year in high school.

The competition is open to all U.S. high school students who meet published participation requirements and provides students the opportunity to qualify for pivotal post-secondary scholarships. Representing less than one percent (1%) of the nation's graduating seniors, approximately 16,000 students recognized as high scorers have been designated as a Semifinalist. Using the NMSC Selection Index to identify each state's Semifinalist allocation, Aiden, Allison, and Joel are among 2,037 students selected in the state of California.

To move forward in the competition and progress to a Finalist standing, each of our Semifinalists must meet several program criteria that include enrolling full-time in a college or university following their senior graduation, earning the recommendation of their high school principal, completing the NMSC Online Scholarship Application (OSA), and submitting a personal essay that responds to an essay prompt that allows selection committee members the opportunity to become more acquainted with each applicant.

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists will be notified in February if they have been designated as a program Finalist. Once selected, Finalists will have the opportunity to compete for one of 2,500 National Merit Scholarships, valued at \$2,500 per award.

For more information about the National Merit Scholarship Program, please visit <https://www.nationalmerit.org/>

### ***About Chino Valley Unified School District:***

Founded in 1860, Chino Valley Unified School District serves approximately 26,000 students across 35 schools within the Chino Valley and South Ontario areas. Home to 18 California Distinguished schools, students receive a rigorous, 21st century education in preparation for college and career. Thriving performing arts and athletic programs, nationally recognized marching bands and engaging parent-school partnerships distinguish Chino Valley Unified School District as one of the best school districts in California. For more information about Chino Valley Unified School district, please visit [www.chino.k12.ca.us](http://www.chino.k12.ca.us).

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