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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Chino High School Senior Named District's First Presidential Scholar**

*Erin Park of Chino High School is one of two graduating seniors selected to represent the state of California as a 2024 Presidential Scholar in the Arts.*

Chino, CA – Earlier this month, U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, announced the 161 outstanding American high school seniors who have been recognized as 2024 Presidential Scholars for demonstrating outstanding academic achievement, artistic excellence, technical expertise, leadership, citizenship, service, and contribution to their school and community. Among the names listed was Chino High School senior, Erin Park.

“The 161 high school seniors selected for the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Presidential Scholars represent the best of our nation’s schools and inspire hope in the bright future of this country,” Cardona shared in a news release celebrating recipients.

Originally established in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson to honor the nation’s top graduating high school seniors, recipients are selected by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars based on their performance in school, submitted essay, school evaluation and transcripts, as well as “a demonstrated commitment to community service and leadership.” Expanded in 1979 to recognize students who demonstrate talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts, approximately 5,700 youth qualified for consideration out of the nearly 4 million high school seniors expected to graduate this year.

During her sophomore year, Erin was also recognized as a 2022 YoungArts Winner for her caliber of artistic achievement. Evaluated by an esteemed discipline-specific panel of artists through a rigorous blind adjudication process, Erin was honored with 720 of the most accomplished visual, literary, and performing artists from across the country.

Beginning her dancing career at the young age of four, Erin found a love for concert contemporary dance and ballet. Aspiring to dance in a professional concert dance company, Erin will spend the next year abroad in Canada training and performing with the Arts Umbrella Post-Secondary Dance Program. She has also received correspondence from the Korean Embassy and offered a government scholarship for U.S. Presidential Scholars of Korean heritage.

Community members interested in learning more about the U.S. Presidential Scholar Program are encouraged to visit <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>.

### ***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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