

Albemarle County School Board
Commendations
November 12, 2009

1. The young women's chorus at Burley Middle School, *The Burley Bearettes*, were honored as "National Grand Champion" from Music Festivals, Inc., a company specializing in music competitions. The group was named the top performing middle school choir in the United States among hundreds of groups from across the nation after performing in New York City in April.
2. **Sue Sheffield** is being recognized by the Virginia Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education for her work last year in promoting enrollment in Career and Technical Education courses – particularly those courses that might be overlooked by students.
3. In partnership with the College Board, the Seimens Foundation established the Seimens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology and the Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement. The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to providing scholarships and increasing access to higher education for talented mathematics, science, engineering, and technology students. The Seimens Competition seeks to promote excellence by encouraging students to undertake individual or team research projects. It fosters intensive research that improves students' understanding of the value of scientific study and informs their consideration of future careers in these disciplines. **Alison Yu**, a 12th grader at Albemarle High School, has been recognized as a Semi-Finalist in the Seimens National Math and Science Competition.
4. Established in 1955, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. NMSC conducts the [National Merit® Scholarship Program](#) and the [National Achievement® Scholarship Program](#)—annual competitions for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships.

NMSC's goals are:

- to identify and honor academically talented U.S. high school students;
- to stimulate increased support for their education; and
- to provide efficient and effective scholarship program management for organizations that wish to sponsor college undergraduate scholarships.

All three of the comprehensive high schools have commended students and semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Commended Students are named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that may vary from year to year and is below the level required for participants to be named Semifinalists in their respective states. Although Commended Students do not continue in the

competition for National Merit® Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

The commended students for Albemarle County Public Schools are:

<u>Albemarle High School</u>	<u>Monticello High School</u>	<u>Western Albemarle High School</u>
Danielle Buynak Brian Chen Hong-Yi Chen Albert Chung Nicholas Janssens Nicholas Matherne Everett Maus Ezra Miller Denis Peskov Amanda Pollack Nicholas Roberts Kimberly Schwaner Eileen Stevens Carl Stukenborg	Elizabeth Cosgro Brett Diehl Tess Drummond Samantha Lin Riley Williams-Wyckoff Andrew Young	Patrick Crider Jeffrey Diamond Brandon Donahoo Arliss Gearhart Margaret Given Jordan Haws Julia Loman Reid Meador Alex Mosolgo-Clark Aaron Myers Andrew Nafziger Van Nguyen Ciara Pratt Hannah Schiller Margaret Schwenzfeier James Taylor Elias Vidal

In early September approximately one-third of the 50,000 high scorers are notified that they have qualified as Semifinalists. Semifinalists are designated by state, and they are the highest scoring entrants from the state. Semi-finalists for Albemarle County Public Schools are:

<u>Albemarle High School</u>	<u>Monticello High School</u>	<u>Western Albemarle High School</u>
Kelly Barksdale Sachin Doshi Rebecca Fredrick Russell Hillstrom Jaehee Lee Hyun Pyo Michael Trotta Claudia Troyer Alison Yu	Lauren Barrow Dakota Thomsen-Diggs	Davis Blalock Christopher McConnell Linge Sun Hannah White