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# MEMO—OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

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Date: March 4, 2025  
To: Dr. Andy Barrett  
From: Mr. Tom Rogers  
Re: Board Presentation for Tradition of Excellence Award



I want to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to present to the Board of Education students whose accomplishments and contributions to Geneva High School exemplify the Tradition of Excellence Award. On Monday, February 24, 2025, we will present to the Board of Education the following students.

**A. National Merit Finalists:**

**Evelyn Gibbons**  
**Ellie Grantcharov**  
**Nicholas Grimes**  
**Ethan Ryan**  
**Vitaly Starkov**

These students have been identified as being among the top 15,000 highest scorers on the 2023 PSAT/NMSQT test and were named National Merit Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. More than 1.3 million students took the 2023 PSAT.

**B. 2024 Skaldic Literary Magazine – All-American and First Class Award Winner:**

**Danielle Nasra**  
**Claire Totman**  
**Beau Trch**  
**Cameron Winsininski**

The 2024 Skaldic: Odyssey, Geneva High School's Literary magazine, earned an All-American Award from the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) and a First Class award from the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE-REALM). The magazine earned 4 of 5 marks of distinction. The students listed above are the current GHS students on the Skaldic staff. The other 10 staff members graduated in 2024. The Literary Magazine sponsor is GHS English teacher, **Heather Peters**.

**C. Scholastic Art Competition Gold, Silver & Honorable Mention Recipients:**

**Mackenzie Benedek** – Honorable Mention  
**Caitlin Cassidy** – Silver Key  
**Wyatt Curry** – Honorable Mention  
**Ryan Fontana** – Honorable Mention  
**Drew Hosman** – Gold Key and Honorable Mention  
**Willow Houck** – Gold Key

**John Kozlowski** – Honorable Mention

**Von Lautenschlager** – Honorable Mention

**Emma Nolan** – American Vision Award Nomination, Gold Key and Honorable Mention

**Morgan Reid** – Gold Key

**Miles Sheppard** – Silver Key

These students submitted artwork and placed in the annual Scholastic Art Competition held in January. All winners had their work showcased in an exhibition at Downers Grove North High School on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students who received a “Gold Key” will have their artwork move on to national judging. Additionally, for the first time in Geneva High School history, **Emma Nolan** received a nomination for the prestigious “American Vision Award”. The GHS Art educators for these students is GHS Art teacher, **Danica Fahmy and Jon Kristofer**.

Together, these students distinguished themselves, our school, and Geneva School District #304. Thank you for this opportunity.