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NEWS FROM: Pope John Paul II High School  
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## TWO SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

*HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn.*---Pope John Paul II High School seniors Alexandria Ficarro and AnMei Little have been named National Merit Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Program, according to Karen Phillips, Assistant Head of School and Dean of Studies at JPPII.

Alexandria Ficarro, a Davidson Academy alumna and member of Long Hollow Baptist Church, is a basketball cheerleader, Lead Ambassador, and a member of the Teen Read advisory, the JPPII Rock Band, and the Mass choir. She is also a founding member of the Sign Language Club, which she helped start during her sophomore year. Ficarro is currently taking five AP classes and has made the Headmaster's List every quarter during her tenure at JPPII.

AnMei Little, a Merrol Hyde Magnet School alumna and member of Christ Church Cathedral, is President of the National Honor Society, Vice President of the Veritas Council, a Lead Ambassador, Captain of the Knights Girls' Soccer Team, and a member of the National Art Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, the JPPII Math Team, Model UN, the Science Olympiad team, and the Knights Indoor Soccer Team. Outside of JPPII, AnMei is a member of the Tennessee United Soccer Club, attended the Tennessee Governor's School for the Sciences and Engineering and was an Optometry Intern at the Kelly Vision Center. She has been named a JPPII Scholar and has made the Headmaster's List every quarter during her tenure at JPPII.

"These students have shown outstanding aptitude in the classroom since they stepped onto campus," said Phillips. "Their work ethic and skills in the classroom represent the level of talent for which these tests and the National Merit Scholarship Program are searching. We are very proud of them."

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test—which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

Of the 1.6 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest scores qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Of those 50,000, only 15,000 are named National Merit Finalists. These students will now compete to receive the National Merit Scholarship, awarded to only 7,500 students in the program.

Since 2005, over 85 students have received commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Founded in 2002, Pope John Paul II High School is a college preparatory Catholic high school in Hendersonville, Tennessee. The school serves over 560 students across the Middle Tennessee area. For more information, visit [www.jp2hs.org](http://www.jp2hs.org).

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