



## *MEDIA RELEASE*

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### **SMCHS Announces National Merit Honorees**

Fox Cities: The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has announced that senior **Kara Brightwell**, daughter of Jeff Brightwell and Sara Widener-Brightwell of Neenah, has been named as a 2016 National Merit Scholar semifinalist and senior **Kevin Greif**, son of Doug and Anne Greif of Neenah, is a commended scholar.

This rigorous recognition program began in the students' junior year of high school when 1.4 million students take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQRT), which serves as an initial screening. Brightwell and Greif are among the top scoring students in the nation, and Brightwell is among the highest scorers in the state of Wisconsin, numbering among less than one percent (<1%) of all U.S. high school students that take the qualifying test.

For Brightwell to become a finalist, she and St. Mary Catholic High School must submit a detailed application that includes her academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, and honors and awards received. Further requirements include an outstanding academic record throughout high school, being endorsed and recommended by a high school official, writing an essay and earning an SAT scores that confirms the PSAT results. Honorees then further honored as National Merit Scholar Finalists in the spring are eligible for associated scholarships.

"Kara and Kevin are both conscientious and hard-working students with many outside interests and commitments," stated Patrick Batey, SMCHS principal. "They both do an outstanding job of balancing very challenging schedules, and we are excited to see where their bright futures will lead!"

**St. Mary Catholic High School**, a regional Catholic high school, is part of St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS). The system also includes the new St. Mary Catholic Middle School in the Town of Menasha and St. Mary Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha). SMCS is dedicated to the individual development of students in grades Pre3-12 by providing the highest quality education focused on faith, academics and service in a rapidly changing world.

*(photos attached)*

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