

JSHS Presidential Scholar

- Student will have a chance of being one out of 161 Presidential Scholar Award recipients in 2021.
- U.S. Presidential Scholar Award recipients will be invited to attend the National Recognition Program in Washington, D.C.

Award Criteria

- High School Junior – Graduating between January and June 2021
- A STEM-oriented student who has demonstrated significant independent effort, persistence, and accomplishment despite barriers, hurdles to success for limited access to resources.
- Persistence, problem solving, level of effort and leadership characteristics are given higher weight than technical proficiency in STEM competition.

Involvement and Service (in school and community):

- Accomplishments and leadership roles in extracurricular and community activities
- Social concerns and contributions to others
- Awards/other commendations

Leadership and Character:

- Well-rounded
- Initiative
- Character and commitment to high ideals
- Out-of-school responsibilities
- Special talents, skills, interests

Academic Achievement:

- GPA/Rank/Test scores – Minimum overall GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale)
- Advanced or special courses
- Academic awards
- Depth-range-breadth of knowledge/demanding courses

Additional discretionary factors. Applicants must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Extraordinary achievement
- Heavy workload or extensive family responsibilities. Students who have an unusual amount of responsibility such as part-time jobs to help their parents pay bills, caring for other family members, or live in a single-parent household.
- Obstacles to overcome – Academic or personal obstacle
- Diversity¹. Criteria for selecting students who fit the definition of diverse include students who self-identify with two or more of the following criteria:
 - Underrepresented.² Identify as an underrepresented racial or ethnic minority in STEM.
 - Qualify for free and reduced lunch
 - First generation college student
 - Student learning English as a second language

¹ Representative of diverse intellectual, social, ethnic, and economic backgrounds.

² Underrepresented populations include low-income students; students belonging to race and ethnic minorities that are historically underrepresented in STEM (i.e., Alaska Natives, Native Americans, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders); students with disabilities; students with English as a second language; first-generation college students; students in rural, frontier, or other Federal targeted outreach schools; and females in certain STEM fields (e.g., physical science, computer science, mathematics, or engineering).

Student Information Needed:

- E-mail
- Phone number
- Home address
- A description of leadership and character qualities
- Current cumulative GPA
- Classes taken in the following categories: Advanced placement, IB courses, courses offered for college credit, or other high level STEM courses
- Academic awards nominated and/or won
- Comment on the students' depth, range, and breadth of knowledge with respect to his or her demanding courses
- Describe the nominee's academic achievements that make him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship.
- Describe the student's independent scholarship as demonstrated by the conduct of an independent investigation in STEM, level of effort, persistence, and contributions.
- Report on the student's outstanding scholarship as demonstrated by academic pursuits and achievements or awards.
- Describe any special challenges or hurdles this student has overcome while still achieving high academic success