



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Sept. 24, 2019**

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THS produces two National Merit commended students

TEMPLE, Texas, Sept. 24, 2019 — Two Temple High School students were named among the top four percent of students in the nation by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation last week. Temple High School seniors Kahlan Henderson and Jeb Tanaka received letters of commendation for their performances on the 2018 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test.

The PSAT is taken by juniors across the country, and it is the first step in competing for scholarships their senior year. Of the approximately 1.5 million students who take the test, the top 50,000 are recognized.

"I am extremely proud of Kahlan and Jeb for being recognized as Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program for having outstanding potential for academic success," said Dr. Jason Mayo, principal at Temple High School. "Kahlan and Jeb are outstanding students and will do great things for our society."

While at Temple High School, Henderson has been involved in orchestra and the creator's guild. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin to study astronomy with the intent of going to graduate school to pursue a degree in astrophysics.

Tanaka is involved in Mu Alpha Theta and UIL Academics at Temple High School. He plans to attend the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor to study mathematics with the intent of becoming an educator of secondary math.

Both students are in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

Temple ISD offers a wide variety of advanced academic programming including Advanced Placement courses starting in sixth grade, a K-12 International Baccalaureate Programmes, dual credit courses through Temple College and the Middle College program in partnership with the Texas Bioscience Institute.

"These recognitions speak to the strength of our advanced academics programs, the quality of staff involved and the aptitude of our students participating in these programs," said Dr. Bobby Ott, superintendent of the Temple ISD. "I have spoken to many recent graduates in the last few weeks, and I am pleased to hear that our advanced academic programs have prepared them well for college."

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