

**The Colorado Springs School**  
21 Broadmoor Avenue  
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## **NEWS**

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### **SIX STUDENTS FROM THE COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL EARN RECOGNITION FROM THE 2010 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**Colorado Springs, Colo.** – Three high school seniors from The Colorado Springs School (CSS) have earned recognition as Semifinalists in the 2010 National Merit® Scholarship Program based on their PSAT results. Students enter the National Merit Scholarship Competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) and by meeting program requirements. **Monica Finger, daughter of Dr. Reginald and Annette Finger** of Monument, **Evan Lynch, son of Nethery Wylie and Michael Lynch** of Colorado Springs and **Caroline Swinford, daughter of Joni and Rich Swinford of Colorado Springs**, scored in the top percentage of Colorado students on the PSAT administered last year. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists represents less than one percent of high school seniors. Of more than 1.5 million students who took the test in 2008; the distinction was awarded to 16,000 students across the globe for their “exceptional academic promise”.

“To me, this honor means that I have been honored with a rare achievement, something to be proud of,” Monica Finger said. “It also means that I have an opportunity for an exciting scholarship should I become a Finalist.”

In order to become a Finalist, a Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be recommended by their high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm their earlier performance on the PSAT. The student must also submit a scholarship application which contains an essay and information regarding the Semifinalist’s leadership, volunteerism, and academic success. Approximately 15,000 Semifinalists will advance to the Finalist level, and from this group National Merit Scholarship winners will be chosen.

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### **Monica Finger**

Seventeen year old Monica Finger is not only a shining star in the classroom, but also on the basketball court. Balancing varsity basketball with National Honor Society, Nazarene Bible Quizzing, college applications, philosophy club, and Advanced Placement classes may seem overwhelming to an outsider, but Finger looks forward to more responsibilities.

“The Colorado Springs School has taught me to write well, to be prepared, to achieve high levels of academic success, and to make friends even outside my comfort zone. I feel it has helped me develop a healthy work ethic as well,” Finger said.

### **Evan Lynch**

Do you know the first 169 digits of pi? Evan Lynch does, he memorized them for fun.

An active senior at The Colorado Springs School, Lynch is applying to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among other colleges. When not taking part in the Technology Club, Literary Club, Philosophy Club and National Honor Society, Lynch can be found playing the cello for the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony. He also plays piano and composes his own classical pieces.

During his tenure at CSS, Lynch has played for the junior varsity tennis team, won the Highest Academic Achievement award in both the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, and traveled to Cameroon, Africa on an Experience Centered Seminar.

“Certainly going to Cameroon last year broadened my perspective and globalized my view of the world. In my time at CSS, I have developed a more refined perspective on the fundamental truths and ambiguities that form the basis of existence,” Lynch said.

### **Caroline Swinford**

National Merit Semifinalist runs in the Swinford family. Caroline Swinford has just received the same honor that her mother, sister, and twin brother have also earned.

“To me, this award means that I have put a lot of work into my studies at CSS,” Swinford said.

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Swinford can be found at The Colorado Springs School participating in theater productions, the Drama Club, International Club, French Club, and National Honor Society. Outside of CSS, Swinford dons a swim cap for Lewis Palmer High School's Girls' Swim Team. With the LPHS swim team, Swinford has placed in the top sixteen at the Colorado Springs Metro Leagues Championships, as well as traveled to State Championships as an alternate. She is a part of CHSAA's student athlete Academic All-State First Team.

"I want to inspire others; whether through my actions or my writings, I would like to inspire," Swinford said.

Last year, Swinford won the Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key Award for a fiction piece written in her creative writing course.

Currently in the application process to Whitworth University, Seattle Pacific University, Knox College, and St. Olaf's, Swinford also plans to spend time in France after graduation.

Although she has never traveled out of the country, Swinford says that CSS has taught her confidence and helped her to develop a wider world view. "Through the Experience Centered Seminar (ECS) program, I have fostered interests in science in New Mexico and Arizona; in the preparation of and development of food locally in Colorado Springs and Boulder; and in blues and jazz in New Orleans, rural Missouri, Memphis, and Chicago," Swinford said.

### **National Merit Commended Students**

The Colorado Springs School is also proud to announce that **Alexandra "Andie" Anderson, daughter of Mary and Gregory Anderson** of Colorado Springs, **Harry Gilbert, son of Susan Kelly-Gilbert and Robert Gilbert** of Colorado Springs, and **Calum MacKenzie, son of Julie and Ian MacKenzie** of Monument, have been named Commended Students in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2010 competition.

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# NEWS

For more information about the National Merit Scholarship Program, visit [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).

For more information about The Colorado Springs School, visit [www.css.org](http://www.css.org).

## **About the Colorado Springs School (CSS)**

CSS offers an experiential educational curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Through superior academics and mentoring, The Colorado Springs School prepares students to think independently and to meet the needs of a dynamic world with leadership, ingenuity, problem-solving skills, and personal integrity.

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