

# D211 POST: HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211 ANNOUNCES NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS FOR 2018



## **NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

High School District 211 announces that 31 students have been named semifinalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Semifinalists are selected based on scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (P.S.A.T./N.M.S.Q.T.).

William Fremd High School students Abhinav R. Balu, Kevin Chen, Varun Cidambi, Bissmun Gill, Matthew C. Grabianski, Kailey G. Henson, Stephanie X. Hu, Jesse Huang, Kashif Javid, Edward W. Li, Anna J. Miller, Allison M. Nakazawa, Adhith Palla, Nicholas L. Parekh, Elizabeth D. Perez, Andrew L. Ruan, Lauren P. Streitmatter, and Jerry Zheng have been named semifinalists.

Anubhav Agarwal, Adithya S. Chari, Annika K. Lafyatis, Bianca Saputra, Nitinshankar Subramanian, Sarah R. Yamaguchi, and Allison L. Zhang from James B. Conant High School have been named semifinalists.

The semifinalists from Hoffman Estates High School are Ryohei Namiki, Megha Ramanathan, and Shashank Sandu.

Schaumburg High School's semifinalists are Lisa N. Bonatz and Edwin J. Suresh.

Bhargav Yadavalli is the semifinalist from Palatine High School.

For more information, see the [release](#) from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

---

## D211 POST: DISTRICT 211 JOINS SPRINT'S 1MILLION PROJECT



*Joanna Avalos, a senior at Palatine High School, completes a survey before receiving a wireless hotspot from Sprint as part of the 1 Million Project. Township High School District 211 paired with Sprint in the project which provides free wireless internet to high school students.*

Students within Township High School District 211 will have easier access to the internet to complete web-based homework after the District partnered with Sprint in its 1Million Project. The project provides qualifying students a free wireless hotspot from the Sprint Foundation, with an unlimited data package from Sprint, enabling them access they might not otherwise have.

“This generous program will be a game-changer for our students,” said Dr. Daniel Cates, District 211 superintendent. “Since we began the one-to-one program, we have been mindful of students who did not have regular, reliable internet access.”

For some students, it will reduce the number of hours they have to remain after school to work on assignments.

“I will usually stay here until 6:00 p.m.,” said Priyanshu Bahadur, a sophomore at Palatine High School. “If I cannot stay, then I have to come in early the next day to finish.”

With this device, Priyanshu said he would be able to spend more non-school hours at home with family.



*Rusty Cumings, the assistant principal at Shaumburg High School, discusses the wireless hotspot from Sprint to a student.*

For a student at Schaumburg High School it was time away from school that caused trouble in his ability to do homework. He said when his family is on the road, he cannot access the internet to complete larger assignments. With this device, he will be able to stay on top of his assignments.

For Palatine High school senior Honoer Okhave this will improve more than just his academic performance.

“I didn’t have internet at home, so I just wouldn’t do my homework,” said Honoer. “I used to get in trouble a lot.”

Honoer said he was excited when he saw the letter announcing the new program.

“I used to wish the school could find a way to get us Internet outside of here,” he said. “This is like a dream come true.”

Sprint plans to distribute 1million devices to qualifying students during the five-year project. District 211 is one of the first school districts in Chicagoland to participate.



*Joanna Avalos, Priyanshu Bahadur, and Honoer Okhavhe, students at*

*Palatine High School, learn how to use their new wireless hotspot.*

“We are both grateful and excited for our students who will benefit because they now have convenient and reliable access to the same universe of information that others have,” said Dr. Cates.

The District has distributed 225 devices to students. Each device has built-in content filters, similar to filters that are in-place in school networks. Part of the agreement between Sprint and participating schools is that Sprint will handle all technical issues and trouble shooting with the devices.

Students who receive a Sprint device will have access to the service for the duration of their high school career.

Dr. Cates believes this will have a positive impact on students well beyond this school year.

“Once we can draw upon the impact for our first group of students, we hope that no student in the future has to be limited by a lack of internet access,” he said.



*Mr. Mike Alther, an assistant principal at Palatine High School, explains how to use one of the Sprint wireless hotspots.*

---

[PHS, CHS STUDENTS WIN BIG AT](#)

# DISTRICT 211 BUSINESS INCUBATOR PITCH NIGHT



Students in High School District 211's Business Incubator program spent the school year developing business ideas to try to bring them to life with the help of investors.

Six of the best teams from each school's Business Incubator course were selected to compete at the District Pitch Night for real funding this past May. After planning and preparation, each team presented their business idea to a panel of judges in hopes of being awarded \$20,000 in seed money from the District 211 Foundation.

Two teams won this year's seed money: *Green Dirt* from Conant High School and *Snow and Co.* from Palatine High School. Green Dirt also was recently invited to compete at the INCubatoredu National Pitch Competition that will take place at the Loyola Corby Law Center in Chicago this July.

Students enrolled in the Business Incubator class learn what it takes to be an entrepreneur, as well as how to be successful in creating their own product or service. The course covers topics about marketing, human resources, accounting, and the legal aspects of operating a business. When preparing for pitches, students worked not only with their classroom teacher, but also had support from community content experts and mentors. For the teams that did not receive funding, investors encouraged them all to continue pursuing their ideas.

The following teams participated at the District 211 pitch night event:



WINNER: Green Dirt – Conant High School

Students: Akash Moozhayil, Kunal Mahajan, Stoil Ionov, Rohan Antony, Patryk Barszczuk

Mentor: David Wolff of Wolff's Fleamarket



Company overview: *GreenDirt is a startup company that addresses the major problem of food waste. We collect scraps from local restaurants, convert to a premium gardening product, vermicompost, which we then sell to local nurseries and garden centers.*



WINNER: Snow and Co. – Palatine High School

Students: Alex Brztowski, Katherine Perez, Nemecio Luna, Reil Snow

Mentor: CJ Ritterbusch of Concord Marketing Solutions



Company overview: *The Janus Pack is the solution for students who need to charge their electronics while helping students with organizational skills.*



Finalist: KickCarrier – Schaumburg High School

Students: Katherine Edeus, Daniel Galovich, Lisette Hurtado, Vincent Kandefer



Mentor: Jon Zaley of Odem Expo

Company overview: *KickCarrier is a unique platform where sneakerheads can buy, sell, or trade shoes. If it doesn't sell, we will buy it!*



Finalist: ProjectTapp-Tapp Camp – Conant High School

Students: Eliot Chang, Mitesh Patel, Michael Kim

Mentor: Jim Gallo of Specialty Finishing Group



Company overview: *ProjectTapp is a start-up mobile app developer for the private and public sector providing an incubator-type platform that integrates TappCamp, a coding educational and training service. TappCamp educates students in grades 5 – 12 to become app writers and future app developers for ProjectTapp that, in return, adds more innovation and creativity to the mobile app industry.*





Finalist: BlissFoot – Fremd High School

Students: Laura Bienek, Aarsh Desai, Hanna Murakami, Luke Schoffstall, Gianfranco Torres

Mentor: Chris Banakis of Acuity Advisory Partners LLC



Company overview: *BlissFoot provides competitive long distance runners and other endurance athletes with on-the-go protection against friction, and the resulting irritation, in order to reduce discomfort and enhance performance.*



Finalist: InnerMap – Hoffman Estates High School

Students: Chloe Jefferson, Edlawit Zerihun, Errick Delaney

Mentor: Sheila Serafin of RIM Logistics



Company overview: *InnerMap will design and create indoor mapping for large public buildings such as malls, airports, and stadiums. The software and app will provide consumers with step by step directions to where they need to go as well as allow retailers in the buildings to push advertising and promotions to potential customers nearby.*

---

## COUGARS ANNOUNCE NEW HEAD BOYS BASKETBALL COACH

Jim Maley has been named head boys basketball coach at James B. Conant High School, effective with the 2017-2018 season. Maley takes over the program from long-time head coach Tom McCormack, who is retiring after 33 years as head coach, 32 years at Conant High School. McCormack has a 576-342 (.627 winning pct.) all-time record, including 13 seasons with 20-plus wins, and his teams have made two "Elite 8" appearances, and have five Mid-Suburban League titles.



"In looking for a new coach, we knew we had very big shoes to fill," said Conant High School Principal Julie Nowak. "Coach Maley brings a combination of expertise, a proven record of success and most importantly a tremendous sense of passion and dedication to his players and the game. He is a modern, thinking man's coach who is as cerebral as he is athletic. He is exactly what we were looking for to lead our boys basketball program."

Maley, who also will teach physical education at Conant High School, has been the head varsity coach at St. Laurence High School (Burbank, Ill.) for the past three years, posting a 41-49 mark. During that time, his Vikings delivered the school's first winning season in 10 years, and won more games than the team had in the previous six seasons and more Chicago Catholic League games than the previous 10 years combined. Prior to that, Maley spent three years (2011-2014) as head varsity coach at Kenwood Academy, taking the team to contenders in the Chicago Public League Red (top) Division and posting a 46-34 record. More importantly, he put an academic program in place, helping his players increase GPAs while decreasing school absences. Maley also spent two years as a sophomore coach at the school (2009-2011). He began his coaching career at Glenbard West High School (Glen Ellyn, Ill.), serving as freshman coach (2008-2009) and varsity assistant coach (2007-2008).

"Conant High School is very excited to welcome Jim Maley as the new head boys basketball coach," commented CHS Athletic Director John Kane. "Coach Maley is aware of the great basketball tradition that has been built by retiring Hall of Fame Coach Tom McCormack. The Conant High School family will certainly miss Coach McCormack, but we also look forward to a new era of basketball under the guidance of Coach Maley. Jim is known for both his coaching prowess and his ability to use basketball as a tool to make his athletes better students and community members. He has shown the ability to impact very diverse groups of students, and we're excited about the mark he'll make at Conant High School."

Maley played basketball for one season at Northwestern University, starting 11 games as a freshman. He earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, Mass.), and his master's degree in teaching from Concordia University (River Forest, Ill.). In high school, Maley was a three-time all-conference and two-time conference player-of-the-year in the West Suburban Silver, helping his Lyons Township High School (La Grange, Ill.) squad to a state final four finish in 2001 and being named to the all-tournament team.

---

## [WATCH: TOP DISTRICT 211 BAND, ORCHESTRA STUDENTS PERFORM AT HONORS ORCHESTRA CONCERT](#)



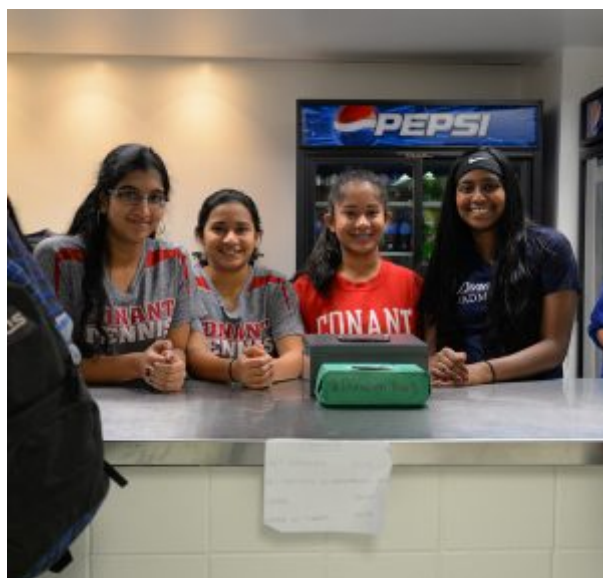
Some of the most advanced District 211 band and

orchestra students showcased their talents during a recent concert in front of

the community. This year's District 211 Honors Orchestra Concert was held at Palatine High School on Feb. 11. Band and orchestra students District-wide were part of the performance. Watch the performance in the videos below:

---

## FOUR CHS STUDENTS SELL COFFEE FOR A CAUSE



*(From left to right) CHS sophomores Aparna Ayyah, Archisha Ghosh, Nikita Basu, and Rithi Bramanathan.*

Sophomores Nikita Basu, Aparna Ayyah, Archisha Ghosh, and Rithi Bramanathan are spending select mornings selling coffee and hot chocolate to students and staff to raise money for individuals affected by Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

“Sadly, people tend to forget about natural disasters within a week or two after they happen,” said Aparna. “For the people who are living through it they suffer the after effects for years. Anything that people can do to help those victims is so appreciated because they need it.”

Although each of the students participate in Service Club, Nikita said the girls were looking for a way to help others and decided to fundraise for victims of Hurricane Matthew on their own.

On the mornings they sell coffee, the students' day starts around 6 a.m. With help

from some of their friends, the students brew the coffee and prepare hot chocolate at the concessions stand near the gym. When they first started, there were several items to work out, such as how much flavoring to use for the coffee and sharing tips on how to prepare coffee. So far they have raised roughly \$200 dollars per sale.

“If you look at other countries that were hit like Haiti, it was really devastating. They have mud shacks and homes that are made out of straw so to be hit by a hurricane really wipes out everything,” Nikita said. “It is devastating. We want to donate money to help them recuperate.”

The students have more coffee and hot chocolate sales coming up at Conant High School and are continuing to raise money for Hurricane Matthew victims.

---

## VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG TO HOST CAREER EXPLORATION AND INTERNSHIP FAIR FOR SHS, CHS, HEHS STUDENTS



### VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG

Will be visiting Schaumburg High School for a  
*Career Exploration and Internship Fair!*

You will have the chance to see all the opportunities that  
exist right in your own community.

*Jobs \* Internships \* Volunteer*

**Thursday, January 26, 2017 Gym Shelf (Periods 4-7)**

*\*Attend a workshop to learn how to fill out applications  
and learn interviewing skills - See Mrs. Severino in  
Student Services - Schoology Course Code FKG9T-  
MB42X*

| *click to enlarge*

District 211 is partnering with the Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates communities to help students within those communities explore career and internship options.

The Village of Schaumburg is hosting a “Career Exploration and Internship Fair” for Conant, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg High School students on Jan. 26 at Schaumburg High School. The fair aims to:

- help create career opportunities for students,
- increase youth awareness of local community and public sector opportunities,
- put public sector agencies in contact with talent,
- educate youth in public sector opportunities.

Representatives from the Village of Schaumburg, Schaumburg Library, Schaumburg Park District, Schaumburg Township, and YMCA will be in attendance. For more information, please contact Schaumburg High School.