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**Benjamin Wood of Whitinsville named National Merit Semifinalist**

*Whitinsville, Massachusetts*—Benjamin Wood, a senior at Whitinsville Christian High School, has been named a Semifinalist in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program, Principal Christopher Vander Baan announced today. He joins a select group of 16,000 students nationwide who continue to the next level of the scholarship competition based upon their 2008 PSAT scores. Semi-finalists are in the top tier of scorers.



A cellist in the high school and chamber orchestras, Ben is active in the Debate Club and as a member of the sound crew for school drama productions. According to Vander Baan, “Ben is known by his peers for his passion for reading and his gifts in writing. He is a top notch student who volunteers in the community, at his church and at WCHS. He is a real encouragement to his peers and was one of the students who dreamed up the Real Life Student Center of Pleasant Street Church which opened to area students in September 2008.”

Ben is the son of Debora Wood and the late Bob Wood of Whitinsville.

Located in the town of Northbridge, Whitinsville Christian School is a private academic institution with 541 students currently enrolled in grades preK-12. Established in 1928, WCS is the oldest accredited Christian school in New England, drawing students from 38 towns and 98 churches in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

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