

September 16, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Carolyn L. Korenic
Director of Alumni and Advancement
(330) 744-4563, ext. 125**

**Two Ursuline High School Seniors Named Semifinalists
in the
2012 National Merit Scholarship Program**

Ursuline High School has two members of the Class of 2012 named semifinalists in the 57th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. They are *Hannah Gerdes* and *Shannon Lytle*. There were 1.5 million entrants and only 16,000 were selected semifinalists because of their qualifying score on the PSAT.

Hannah Gerdes is the daughter of Robert and Tena Gerdes. She is active in the Theater program, the Speech and Debate Team, National Honor Society, the Cross Country Team, Band, Student Ambassadors, Philosophy Club, the Liturgy Committee and Student Council. She is also helps to organize the 30 Hour Famine.

Shannon Lytle is the son of Gary and Noriko Lytle. He has been involved in the Marching and Concert Band, Theater Program, Speech and Debate Team, National Honor Society, the Cross Country team, Student Ambassadors, Spanish Club, Students of Stewardship and Student Council. He is also a violinist.

Students who qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program have the opportunity to compete for some 8,300 Merit Scholarship awards totaling \$33 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements and advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing and approximately half of the finalists will be selected Merit Scholarship winner, earning the Merit Scholar title.

Founded by the Ursuline Sisters, Ursuline High School is a college preparatory high school of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown serving the people of the Mahoning Valley since 1905.