The 2014 McDermott Scholars

The 2014 class of Scholars is made up of 10 women and 15 men. It includes 14 students from Texas and 11 from 10 other states. Collectively, this class has an average two-part SAT score of 1545. 22 of the 25 received recognition from the National Merit Scholarship program, 10 were high school valedictorians, and 5 were Presidential Scholar nominees. Click here to read more about the '14 Scholars.

Hans Ajieren
Hometown: Houston, Texas
High School: Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science
Major: Electrical Engineering

Stephen Badger
Hometown: Ocean Grove, New Jersey
High School: High Technology High School
Major: Electrical Engineering

James Ballard
Hometown: New Port Richey, Florida
High School: River Ridge High School
Major: Software Engineering

Preston Butler
Hometown: Maryville, Tennessee
High School: Maryville High School
Major: Neuroscience

Matara Hitchcock
Hometown: Overland Park, Kansas
High School: Blue Valley Southwest High School
Major: Emerging Media and Communications
Anishka Kappalayil  
**Hometown:** Plano, Texas  
**High School:** Liberty High School  
**Major:** Biology

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Elyse Mack  
**Hometown:** St. Louis, Missouri  
**High School:** Ladue Horton Watkins High School  
**Major:** Art and Performance

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Reilly Martinez  
**Hometown:** Aubrey, Texas  
**High School:** Billy Ryan High School  
**Major:** Electrical Engineering

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Grace McClure  
**Hometown:** Plano, Texas  
**High School:** Coram Deo Academy  
**Major:** Cognitive Science

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Dhruv Narayanan  
**Hometown:** Tyler, Texas  
**High School:** Robert E. Lee High School  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

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Derrick Ngo  
**Hometown:** Austin, Texas  
**High School:** Lake Travis High School  
**Major:** Biomedical Engineering & Molecular Biology

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Ali Peterkort  
**Hometown:** Newberg, Oregon  
**High School:** Saint Mary’s Academy  
**Major:** Psychology & Arts & Performance
Christy Purnadi
Hometown: Coppell, Texas
High School: R.L. Turner High School
Major: Finance & Economics

Raja Reddy
Hometown: Harlingen, Texas
High School: Science Academy of South Texas
Major: Neuroscience

Matthew Salm
Hometown: Grafton, Wisconsin
High School: Grafton Senior High School
Major: Mathematics

Pooshan Shah
Hometown: Austin, Texas
High School: McNeil High School
Major: Computer Science

Sanaa Tejani
Hometown: Plano, Texas
High School: Plano Senior High School
Major: Biology

Rebecca Tjahja
Hometown: Cerritos, California
High School: Gretchen Whitney High School
Major: Finance

Alex Tomkovich
Hometown: Lewisville, Texas
High School: Lewisville High School
Major: Computer Engineering
**Samuel Vallejo**  
**Hometown:** Rancho Cordova, California  
**High School:** Mira Loma High School  
**Major:** Biomedical Engineering

**Sahana Venkatesh**  
**Hometown:** Raleigh, North Carolina  
**High School:** Leesville Road High School  
**Major:** Biology

**Aaron Weittenhiller**  
**Hometown:** Hallsville, Texas  
**High School:** Hallsville High School  
**Major:** Electrical Engineering

**John Will**  
**Hometown:** Virginia Beach, Virginia  
**High School:** Ocean Lakes High School  
**Major:** Biomedical Engineering

**Ximone Willis**  
**Hometown:** Austin, Texas  
**High School:** Liberal Arts and Science Academy  
**Major:** Biomedical Engineering

**Ben Wroblewski**  
**Hometown:** McKinney, Texas  
**High School:** McKinney North High School  
**Major:** Biology