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## RED BANK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### RBR Celebrates its Commended Scholars

**Little Silver:** The Red Bank Regional (RBR) school district recently recognized their Commended Scholars at a Board of Education meeting. Kayla Schneider Smith, Shrewsbury and Ari Beller, Joel Diamond, Charles Fox, all of Little Silver, were honored as National Merit Commended Scholars. Amanda Sachs of Little Silver and Joel Diamond were also recognized as National Hispanic Merit Scholars.

The students were presented to the Board by Dawn Kaszuba, RBR's Director of Student Personnel Services. She informed the Board that commended scholars scored within the top 2.5% of the students that took the PSAT in their junior year of 2010. In addition, both National Hispanic Recognition program students were among the top 2.5% of Hispanic students participating in the PSAT/NMSQT program.

Ari Beller, could not make the Board presentation as he was attending dress rehearsal for his starring role as Puck in the RBR presentation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Ari has maintained an incredibly active high school career in academics and the arts. He is a two-time Academic Varsity Letter recipient and International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate who has also held principal roles in RBR's past musicals and plays. He serves as treasurer of the Red Bank Regional Theatre Company and Vice President of Finance for the schools record label, Swashbuckler Records. He is a member of both the Concert and Chamber Choirs. Ari has held leadership positions in the Model UN serving as both Secretary and then President of RBR's Model UN chapter. He was also chosen to serve on the Historical Security Council Committee at the YMCA Model UN Conference. Ari also serves as president of the National English and the National Latin Honor Societies. He is a member of the National, Math, and Tri-M Musical Honor Societies. He is an Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey Math Contest high scorer. His selection as a NJ Scholar-- one of only 39 students throughout New Jersey-- ranks as one of his most prestigious accolades. The students attended the New Jersey Scholars intensive interdisciplinary five-week academic program this past summer. Ari is considering majoring in either English or philosophy in college next year.

Joel Diamond, an exceptional tennis player and big sports fan would like to study business in college with the goal of becoming a sports agent. Joel had been a USTA Tennis Player for six years



RBR's commended Scholars were recently honored by the Board of Education. Pictured above (left to right) are National Merit Commended Scholars **Kayla Schneider-Smith of Shrewsbury** and Little Silver residents Charles Fox, Joel Diamond and Ari Beller. Amanda Sachs, Little Silver (in a separate photo), along with Joel Diamond, were named National Hispanic Merit Scholars. Amanda is currently studying ballet in a prestigious two-year program in San Francisco.

and participated in dozens of tournaments in Illinois, Wisconsin, New Jersey and New York. He achieved a career high rank of number 15 in the New Jersey Region and 149 for the Eastern Section. He played varsity tennis for RBR throughout his high school career and qualified for the state championship for the past two years. Off the court, he has served as the President of RBR's Future Business Leader of America and has competed in both the regional and state level competitions. He is enrolled in RBR's Academy of Finance and is a Student-to-Student Peer Leader and a member of the Spanish, National, and Math Honor Societies. Joel has worked as a volunteer tennis instructor and as an intern in the auditing department for a local bank.

Charles Fox also excels in many different areas. He is a four-year Varsity Ice Hockey player who was honored as the First Team All Division Goalie for the Shore Conference Ice Hockey. As a travel ice hockey member he participated in the National Championship in Frisco Texas. He serves as Treasurer of the Key Club and Math League and is a member of the Diversity Council, Model UN, and serves as a Student-to-Student Peer Leader and student tutor. Academically, he was a New Jersey Scholars Program Semi finalist, an AP Scholar with Honors, a four time Academic Varsity Letter recipient and a member of the Mathematics, National and Spanish Honor Societies. He serves as treasurer of the latter. Charles is the recipient of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award. He volunteers as an usher for the Count Basie theatre and serves on the Count Basie Theater Junior Board. He worked in Lavallette NJ as a New Logic Educators Marine Science Camp volunteer counselor. Charles has explored various career possibilities in attending several prestigious summertime programs as a medical school research assistant at Columbia University and in Brown University's summer program in comedy writing. While he excels in math and science he is also interested in possibly studying finance and Spanish in college.

Kayla Schneider-Smith is a creative writing major in RBR's Visual and Performing Arts Academy. She won a prestigious Gold Key Award and the Holy Cross Book Prize for her writing skills. She has been a four year Academic Varsity Letter recipient and is a member of both the National and National English Honor Societies. Her extra curricular activities include membership in the Key Club, Concert Band, Diversity Council and as a peer mediator. She has been very active in her temple as a Temple Shalom Library volunteer and Hebrew school tutor. Additionally, she accompanied her Hebrew High School colleagues on their Confirmation trip to Washington D. C. as part of The Religious Action Center's lobbying of Congress for social activism. She has also volunteered in the Monmouth County Library and Relay for Life. She lists among her most memorable activities her choir performance in Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall as well as her attendance at a Diversity Leadership Conference in Kean University. Kayla would like to study spiritual technology in college next year.

Amanda Sachs has been a serious ballet student since the age of eight. She studied locally with the Academy of Dance under Jennifer Church, but every summer attended very prestigious dance academies including The Boston Ballet, the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and even studied in Amsterdam. Last summer she attended the Lines' Contemporary Ballet summer program in San Francisco studying under renowned choreographer and artistic director Alonzo King. Amanda was set to return to RBR for her jam-packed senior year as a Creative Writing Major in the Visual and Performing Arts Academy and a class and Model UN officer, STS leader, and Student Council Member. She then received an amazing offer to train in a San Francisco-based two-year ballet program. Amanda had already fulfilled most of her graduation requirements due to the heavy and accelerated course schedule she maintained at RBR while dancing 16 to 20 hours a week. She is taking an on-line course to complete her graduation requirements and is excited to return to New Jersey in June where she will graduate with her senior class. While she has many options open to her, she feels this ballet program provides her with the unique opportunity to realize her dream to become a professional ballerina.

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