

2020 IJEA Newspaper & Digital Media Contest Results for Division 1 | Enrollment 700 & below

CORE CATEGORIES | *Open to all publications — print only, digital only & hybrid*

NEWS

Best News Story

1st: Ella Beiser, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[To protest, dancers must sit](#)

2nd: Hannah Reichert, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Amber Coon wins battle with sepsis](#)

3rd: Audrey Matzke, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Lab students participate in Global Climate strike in Chicago](#)

HM: Hannah Reichert, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Meridian board makes switch to Latin honors system](#)

Best In-Depth News Story

1st: Peter Pu, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Climate crisis: How teachers plan to address the generation's hottest issue](#)

2nd: Nikhil Patel, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Teachers go 'gradeless'](#)

3rd: Hannah Reichert, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Methodist Church to vote on split](#)

HM: Sara Wangler, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Federal firefighter aids in Australian wildfire crisis](#)

FEATURES

Best Feature Story

1st: Ella Beiser, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Suburban commuters experience positives, negatives](#)

2nd: Robert Tackett, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Meridian loses Klein to retirement](#)

3rd: Delaney Feller, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Go Gold Night](#)

HM: Audrey Matzke, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[TikTok encourages self-expression, community](#)

HM: Damien Ponce, The Phoenix Chronicle, Phoenix Military Academy

[Sanchez to State](#)

Best Personality Profile

1st: Grace Brady, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Senior enjoys creating complex engineering projects](#)

2nd: Clay Brigham, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Senior Jack Martin founds Martin Magic](#)

3rd: Olivia Griffin, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Gigi Reece's percussion passion](#)

HM: Sara Wangler, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Student gets a role in state competition](#)

SPORTS**Best Sports News Story**

1st: Nicky Edwards-Levin, Christian Gluth & Ella Beiser, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Lab H.S.

[Boys soccer team places first at state](#)

2nd: Ella Beiser, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[P.E. department says athletics are not suitable substitute](#)

3rd: Delaney Jones, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Starting strong: Hawks win first season opener since 2005](#)

HM: Anna Cotter & Delanie Fay, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Season of success](#)

HM: Nicholas Rulevish, Launch Pad, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S.

[Rocket Basketball Blasts Off!](#)

Best Sports Feature Story

1st: Christian Gluth, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Esports proves growing and successful industry](#)

2nd: Madeline Welch, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Refereeing done right: Student, teacher collaborate over calling signals](#)

3rd: Haley Sullivan, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Club sports offer many recruiting opportunities](#)

HM: Haley Grimes, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Let them eat cake: Meisenhelter twins spend \\$1,000 on cake](#)

HM: Sara Wangler, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Girls on the gridiron](#)

HM: Luke Whalen, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Kankakee Co-ops: Swimming and golf making waves and strides in K3](#)

Best Sports Commentary

1st: Luke Whalen, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Best of the best: Ranking the Super Bowl halftime shows](#)

2nd: Sotero Rodriguez, The Phoenix Chronicle, Phoenix Military Academy

[Conor McGregor](#)

3rd: Haley Sullivan, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Bat flips — cocky or confident?](#)

HM: Luke Whalen, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Last time of the field](#)

OPINION

Best Staff Editorial

1st: Nicky Edwards-Levin & Madeline Welch, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Identity clubs need our help to thrive](#)

2nd: Staff, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[This is not Meridian](#)

3rd: Ivan Beck, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Teens: count on your peers](#)

HM: Selina Wang, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Long line limits lunch time for students eating in cafeteria](#)

Best Serious Commentary

1st: Audrey Matzke, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Wellness is about more than just academics](#)

2nd: Rheis Wasson, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Beware friendly foes](#)

3rd: Ellie Fitzpatrick, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[American idiots](#)

HM: Kaylyn Bauer, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Show choir gets a new dancer for the day: I am trying out dancing and singing at the same time!](#)

HM: Leland Culver, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Zero-waste should be an affordable lifestyle](#)

Best Humorous Commentary

1st: Rheis Wasson, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Cover up for cold weather](#)

2nd: Rheis Wasson, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Time is running out for Tik-Tok](#)

3rd: Anna Cotter & Delanie Fay, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Battle of the Bars](#)

Best Review

1st: Amanda Cassel, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Memoir explores survivor-attacker narrative](#)

2nd: Olivia Griffin, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[World of Warhol: Art Institute hosts retrospective exhibit](#)

3rd: Karrigan True, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[The chaos of WCKY](#)

HM: Anna Cotter & Delanie Fay, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[O' Christmas Tree](#)

PHOTOS

Best News or Feature Photo

1st: Maria Shaughnessy, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[All in the Air \(student juggling — fifth photo down\)](#)

2nd: Gabby Bingaman, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[MES Walk-a-thon, 2019](#)

3rd: Jordyn Heckert, Launch Pad, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S.

[Assisting a bowler \(first photo in gallery\)](#)

HM: Sara Wangler, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Sophomore Hannah Bolin plays snare drum \(bottom photo\)](#)

HM: Elliot Taylor, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[It's Rocket Science](#)

HM: Madison McClusky, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Drama department production of "Grease"](#)

Best Sports Photo

1st: Maria Shaughnessy, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Tight-Knit Tennis Team](#)

2nd: Robert Le Cates, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[CJ Scott touchdown](#)

3rd: Megan Schleifer, Launch Pad, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S.

[Shot Blocked \(fifth photo\)](#)

HM: Keyanna Cooper, The Phoenix Chronicle, Phoenix Military Academy

[Track Team](#)

HM: Robert Le Cates, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Banner break-thru](#)

HM: Mauria Shaughnessy, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Heads Up](#)

ART & GRAPHICS

Best Editorial Cartoon

1st: Trinity Stoneking, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Meanwhile at HHS ...](#)

2nd: Rachel Myers, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Handing out the scholarships](#)

3rd: Madeleine DeNeal, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[It'll hit before you know it!](#)

Best Illustration

1st: Trinity Stoneking, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Beware of Booger](#)

2nd: Risa Cohen, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Too Hot to Handle](#)

3rd: Arwen Baker, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[What the Flick](#)

HM: Trinity Stoneking, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[VSCO Girl](#)

HM: Risa Cohen, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Racing for the Nomination](#)

Best Infographic

1st: Trinity Stoneking, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Made it from the Heart](#)

2nd: Nicky Edwards-Levin, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Facts on Fire](#)

3rd: Abigail Slimmon & Amanda Cassel, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Vaping Quick Facts](#)

MISCELLANEOUS**Best Alternative Storytelling**

1st: Selina Wang, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[How to Enter the U.S.](#)

2nd: Abigail Slimmon & Nikhil Patel, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Brought to the table: Students experience insensitivity, racist jokes, N-word](#)

3rd: Selina Wang, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Where are the clothes manufactured?](#)

HM: Leland Culver, Christian Gluth, Olivia Griffin & Willow Young, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Take time during break to rest, recharge](#)

HM: Josie Mendel, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Q&A couples: Putting HHS couples to the test](#)

Best Use of Social Media

1st: Abigail Slimmon, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.,

[Instagram @uhighmidway](#)

2nd: Amber Miller, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Facebook @District15News](#)

3rd: Leland Culver, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Facebook @uhighmidway](#)

Best Headline

1st: Audrey Matzke, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[He's a Rocket Man: Senior builds rocket engine independently](#)

2nd: Arwen Baker, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[You won't be 'board' at family game night](#)

3rd: Haley Sullivan & Sara Wangler, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Girls on the gridiron: Team sees larger female presence](#)

Best Advertisement

1st: Breanna Evans, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Brelsfoard Farms](#)

2nd: Selina Wang, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Pampered Paws](#)

3rd: Breanna Evans, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Pixie Vacations](#)

PRINT CATEGORIES | *Open to print-only publications & print versions of hybrid publications*

Best Single-Page Story Package

1st: Ella Beiser, Berk Oto, Julian Ingersoll & Ace Zhang, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Lab H.S.

[A whole new headspace](#)

2nd: Christian Gluth & Nicky Edwards-Levin, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Sports on Screens](#)

3rd: Ava Haase & Harrison Giese, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Happy Halloween](#)

Best Centerspread Story Package

1st: Nikhil Patel, Amanda Cassel, Audrey Matzke, Peter Pu, Maria Shaughnessy, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Swipe and scroll](#)

2nd: Selina Wang, Rheis Watson & Sara Wangler, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Incredible stories of first generation Americans, their families](#)

3rd: Amanda Cassel, Anatheia Carrigan, Nicky Edwards-Levin, Caroline Hohner, Risa Cohen & Berk Oto, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Racing for the Nomination](#)

HM: Selina Wang & Sara Wangler, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Fashion is for more than wearing](#)

Best Photo Story

1st: Odysseas Nikas, Abigail Slimmon & Katerina Lopez, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Lab H.S.

[Get on board with spring](#)

2nd: Mira Costello, Kathy Luan, Maria Shaughnessy & Malcolm Taylor, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Homecoming Week](#)

3rd: Delaney Feller, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Then vs. Now](#)

Best Front-Page Design

1st: Mira Costello, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Front page — Dec. 12, 2019](#)

2nd: Ella Beiser, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Front page — March 12, 2020](#)

3rd: Madison McClusky, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Front page — Dec. 16, 2019](#)

HM: Madison McClusky, The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S.

[Front page — Sept. 30, 2019](#)

Best Overall Design

1st: Staff, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Issue — Jan. 24, 2020](#)

2nd: Staff, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Issue — March 12, 2020](#)

3rd: Lydia Huizenga & Joslyn Galeaz, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Issue — February 2020](#)

DIGITAL CATEGORIES | *Open to digital-only publications & online versions of hybrid publications***Best Photo Gallery or Photo Slideshow**

1st: Robert Le Cates, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Meridian home against ALAH, Dec. 12](#)

2nd: Gabby Bingaman, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[MES Walk-a-thon, 2019](#)

3rd: Nicky Edwards-Levin, Macy Beal, Kathy Luan, Malcolm Taylor & Maria Shaughnessy, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Students embrace Spirit Week with fun outfits](#)

HM: Peter Pu, Maria Shaughnessy & Leland Culver, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Lab H.S.

[Art, music, fun abound at Art in the Dark](#)

Best Video Story

1st: Gabby Bingaman & Delaney Jones, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Mike Taylor visit](#)

2nd: Hannah Reichert, Larou de Jong & Robert Tackett, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Methodist church to vote at assembly](#)

Best Audio Podcast

1st: Arwen Baker, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[What the Flick: Very Superstitious](#)

2nd: Arwen Baker, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Love is in the Air](#)

3rd: Emma Trone & Jacob Posner, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[The Bubble: Religion](#)

HM: Emma Trone & Jacob Posner, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[The Bubble: Race](#)

Best Multimedia Story Package

1st: Peter Pu, Miriam Bloom, Kathy Luan, Maria Shaughnessy & Elliott Taylor & Malcolm Taylor, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Artsfest provides time for creativity, relaxation](#)

2nd: Peter Pu, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Campus sound show provides new art experience](#)

3rd: Hannah Reichert, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Soccer seniors say goodbye to Meridian](#)

HM: Hannah Reichert, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Graduation: Class of 2019](#)

Best Website

1st: Abigail Slimmon, Nikhil Patel & Leland Culver, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Lab H.S.

[U-High Midway website](#)

2nd: Hannah Reichert & Breanna Evans, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Meridian Daily website](#)

3rd: Damien Ponce & Andres Vargas, The Phoenix Chronicle, Phoenix Military Academy

[Phoenix Chronicle website](#)

HM: Nicholas Rulevish, Launch Pad, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S.

[Launch Pad website](#)

SPECIAL CATEGORY | *Open to all publications — results do not count toward Best Publication Awards***Best COVID-19 Coverage**

1st: Madeline Welch, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Coronavirus delays Chinese exchange trip](#)

2nd: Larou de Jong, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Impact of COVID-19 on exchange students](#)

3rd: Abigail Slimmon & Berk Oto, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Beach family repatriated after being stranded in Peru](#)

HM: Hannah Reichert, The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S.

[Senior year messed with by COVID-19](#)

BEST PUBLICATION AWARDS | *Overall results for Division 1*

The results for Best Publication are determined by the number of points accumulated in the categories listed above, except for the one-time category of Best COVID-19 Coverage. For all others:

- 1st = 5 points
- 2nd = 4 points
- 3rd = 3 points
- HM= 1 point

Best Print Publication | *Publication that appears in print only**

1st: The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S., Cathy Wall, adviser
2nd: Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S., Kerri Robinson, adviser

**This includes PDF versions*

Best Digital Publication | *Publication that appears online only*

1st: The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S., Sheila Moore, adviser
2nd: The Phoenix Chronicle, Phoenix Military Academy, Katie Fernandez, adviser
3rd: Launch Pad, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S., Dana Donovan, adviser

Best Hybrid Publication | *Publication that appears in both print and online versions*

1st: U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S., Logan Aimone, adviser

Best Overall Publication | *Most points regardless of publication type*

1st: U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S., Logan Aimone, adviser
2nd: The Meridian Daily, Meridian H.S., Sheila Moore, adviser
3rd: The Purple Clarion, Harrisburg H.S., Cathy Wall, adviser
HM: Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S., Kerri Robinson, adviser