

2021 IJEA Newspaper & Digital Media Contest Results for Division 1 | Enrollment 850 & Fewer

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

NEWS

Best News Story

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

[94 teachers at risk for 2021-22 layoff](#)

2nd: Emma Murphy, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[District plans to adopt new hybrid plan after spring break](#)

3rd: Elyse Clayton, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[NHS to host 'birthday bag' food drive in February](#)

HM: Ally Myer, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Sports return — IHSA says sports are a go](#)

Best In-Depth News Story

1st: Caroline Hohner & An Ngo, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Struggling in Solitude](#)

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

[U-High students overwhelmingly choose Biden](#)

3rd: Elyse Clayton, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Workman pushes forward with BLM protests](#)

HM: Dionsono Delacruz, Bogan Bytes, Bogan Computer Technical H.S.

[Global Leaders: A Threat to Human Rights](#)

FEATURES

Best Feature Story

1st: Adrianna Nehme, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[StreetWise has changed the face of homelessness in Chicago](#)

2nd: Emma Murphy & Addison Vocks, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Social emotional counselor offers new stress relief Google Classroom course for THS](#)

3rd: Cody Lunsford, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[HHS celebrities](#)

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

[We Made It Through First Quarter!](#)

HM: Morgan Hogarth, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Business management takes on new national challenge](#)

Best Personality Profile

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

[Built on a Lab foundation: Alum Paul Sagan employs experiential learning in leadership roles](#)

2nd: Morgan Hogarth, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[THS graduate helps guard presidential inauguration](#)

3rd: Izzy Wendinger, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Getting busy with Izzy: Getting chill with Jill Decman](#)

SPORTS

Best Sports News Story

1st: Emma Murphy, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Cheerleaders, dancers face challenges of performing under pandemic restrictions](#)

2nd: Briley Rhodes, Launch Pad, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S.

[Finally time for some hoops!](#)

3rd: Macie Staley, Launch Pad, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S.

[Girls' Golf Ends Regular Season](#)

HM: Addison Vocks, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Lady Tornadoes, Cherry, Morgan advance to cross-country sectionals](#)

Best Sports Feature Story

1st: Natalie Napolitano, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Youth volleyball gains popularity in Christian County, surrounding towns](#)

2nd: Jade Mellon, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[THS bowlers prepare for next matches](#)

Best Sports Commentary

1st: Elyse Clayton, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Little but Fierce](#)

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

[To fulfill commitment to student athletes, colleges should reallocate funds and not cut teams](#)

3rd: Christian Gluth, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

['Friendly Confines,' not confined to home: It's time for fans to return to stands](#)

HM: Alex Price, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Alex's Alley: NFL's COVID Policy](#)

OPINION

Best Staff Editorial

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

[Lab must approach faculty bias with transparent, fair guidelines](#)

2nd: Lucia Kouri, Ella Beiser & Amanda Cassel, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Teachers should consider cutting curriculum to increase learning](#)

3rd: Elyse Clayton, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Staff Editorial \(on the subject of homework due dates\)](#)

Best Serious Commentary

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

[We all have to do our part in social distancing](#)

2nd: Elyse Clayton, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Little but Fierce](#)

3rd: Alisia Harris, Bogan Bytes, Bogan Computer Technical H.S.

[Do or Die](#)

HM: Téa Tamburo, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Inclusion at Lab must mean more than a single identifier](#)

Best Humorous Commentary

1st: Morgan Hogarth, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[President Trump leaves lasting mark on worldwide memes](#)

2nd: Elyse Clayton, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Journalist infiltrates, studies Flat Earth Society](#)

3rd: Natalie Rink & Harrison Giese, Tiger News today, Herscher H.S.

[Dating rules](#)

HM: Natalie Rink & Harrison Giese, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[True love?](#)

Best Review

1st: Morgan Hogarth, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Moe's Moments \(review of the film "Music"\)](#)

2nd: Gracyn Cordes, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Will the world carry on without the inside look at the Kardashians' lives?](#)

3rd: Carolyn Hohner, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Feminism and Freedom: "What the Constitution Means to Me" entertains with wit, provokes political introspection](#)

PHOTOS

Best News or Feature Photo

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

[Downtown Chicago protest against racial injustice](#)

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

[Protesting parents](#)

3rd: Margaret Boecklen, Launch Pad, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S.

[Science Club trash pick up](#)

HM: Milana Henson, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Faculty members integrating smart board technology](#)

Best Sports Photo

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

[Boys basketball](#)

2nd: Milana Henson, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Girls volleyball](#)

3rd: Chloe Ma, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Golf](#)

ART & GRAPHICS

Best Editorial Cartoon

1st: Leah Voss, Herscher H.S.

[Burning masks](#)

2nd: Milana Henson, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[JB Pritzker](#)

3rd: Leah Voss, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[PDA](#)

HM: Sophie Ward, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[To mask or not to mask](#)

Best Illustration

1st: Natalie Napolitano, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[USS America](#)

2nd: Leah Voss, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Prom](#)

3rd: Jillian Lowry, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Black History Month provides annual reminder of racial suffering](#)

Best Infographic

1st: Elyse Clayton, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Favorite Thanksgiving Activities](#)

2nd: Milana Henson & Addison Vocks, Taylorville H.S.

[Our Christmas Playlist](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Best Headline

1st: Erica Edwards, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Directors of spring musical encounter unexpected problems](#)

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

[Election 2020: Final lap and recap](#)

3rd: Peter Pu & Grace Holleb, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Baking a difference: Student launches online bakery, donates proceeds to charities](#)

Best Alternative Storytelling

1st: An Ngo, Caroline Hohner & Colin Leslie, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Take our social distancing friendly walking tour of Chicago's neighborhoods](#)

2nd: Yabrielle Johnson, Bogan Bytes, Bogan Computer Technical H.S.

[Imagination's Playpen](#)

3rd: Morgan Hogarth, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Stay Safe During the Holidays](#)

Best Use of Social Media

1st: Meena Lee & Berk Oto, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Instagram @uhighmidway](#)

2nd: Berk Oto, Noa Appelbaum, Meena Lee & Téa Tamburo, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Facebook @uhighmidway](#)

3rd: Elyse Clayton, The Zephyr, Taylorville, H.S.

[Instagram @realthsjournalism](#)

Best Advertisement

1st: Elyse Clayton, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Yearbook ad](#)

2nd: Jade Mellon, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Knick Knack Shoppe ad](#)

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

Best Single-Page Story Package

1st: Ella Beiser, Amanda Cassel, Sahana Unni & Nicky Edwards-Levin, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Finally Back: In-person classes begin](#)

Best Centerspread Story Package

1st: Mina Maryland & Yabrielle Johnson, Bogan Bytes, Bogan Computer Technical H.S.

[Music Is the Medicine of the Mind](#)

2nd: Sean Contreras & Staff, Tiger News Today, Herscher H.S.

[Spring Has Sprung](#)

Best Photo Story

1st: Elyse Clayton, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[Hello, THS](#)

2nd: Emma Murphy & Milana Henson, Taylorville H.S.

[2020 Zephyr Awards](#)

Best Front-Page Design

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

[March 9, 2021](#)

2nd: Elyse Clayton & Morgan Hogarth, The Zephyr, Taylorsville H.S.

[Dec. 18, 2020](#)

3rd: Elyse Clayton and Morgan Hogarth, The Zephyr, Taylorsville H.S.

[Sept. 30, 2020](#)

Best Overall Design

1st: Morgan Hogarth, Elyse Clayton & Emma Murphy, Taylorsville H.S.

Dec. 18, 2020: [1-16](#) | [2-15](#) | [3-14](#) | [4-13](#) | [5-12](#) | [6-11](#) | [7-10](#) | [8-9](#)

2nd: Amanda Cassel, Nicky Edwards-Levin, Ella Beiser & Peter Pu, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[March 12, 2021](#)

3rd: Staff, Bogan Bytes, Bogan Computer Technical H.S.

[Dec. 21, 2020](#)

DIGITAL CATEGORIES | *For digital-only publications & online versions of hybrid publications*

Best Audio Journalism

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

[One year of distance](#)

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

[Without volunteers, organizations need extra assistance](#)

Best Multimedia Story Package

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

[Shared spaces: Families come to understand distance learning, work lives](#)

2nd: Clare O'Connor, U-High Midway, University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[Promontory Point provides safe, nostalgic outdoor space to see friends, take part in activities](#)

Best Photo Gallery or Photo Slideshow

1st: Tricia Rennegarbe, Launch Pad, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S.

[Girls' Cross Country Finishes Strong at Regionals](#)

2nd: Elizabeth Frederking, Launch Pad, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S.

[Rocket Golf Season Winds Down](#)

Best Video Story

No entries in this category in Division 1

Best Website

1st: Ella Beiser, Amanda Cassel, Nicky Edwards-Levin & Berk Oto,
University of Chicago Laboratory H.S.

[U-High Midway](#)

2nd: Nicholas Rulevish, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S.

[Launch Pad](#)

SPECIAL CATEGORY | *Open to all publications — digital, print & hybrid*

Best COVID-19 Coverage

1st: Elyse Clayton, The Zephyr, Taylorville H.S.

[District superintendent discusses protests, remote learning, new mentorship program](#)

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

[Chicago's Latinx communities face unique challenges combating pandemic](#)

3rd: Jared Juenger, Launch Pad, Okawville Junior/Senior H.S.

[Basketball started open gym...before shutting down again](#)

HM: Stephen Thomas, Bogan Bytes, Bogan Computer Technical H.S.

[The Successes and Challenges of Online Learning](#)

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 special category of Best COVID-19 Coverage, which is not included in the calculations. For all other categories:

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

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

1st: The Zephyr — Taylorville H.S., Stephen Steele, adviser

2nd: Tiger News Today — Herscher H.S., Kerri Robinson, adviser

**This includes PDF versions*

Best Digital Publication | *Publication that appears online only*

1st: Launch Pad — Okawville Junior/Senior H.S., Dana Donovan, adviser

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

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

2nd: Bogan Bytes — Bogan Computer Technical H.S., Maria Baltsas, adviser

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

1st: The Zephyr — Taylorville H.S., Stephen Steele, adviser

2nd: U-High Midway — University of Chicago Laboratory H.S., Logan Aimone, adviser

3rd: Tiger News Today — Herscher H.S., Kerri Robinson, adviser
