

2021 IJEA Newspaper & Digital Media Contest Results for Division 3 | Enrollment 1,901 to 2,160

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

NEWS

Best News Story

1st: Ellie George, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Local businesses struggle but survive](#)

2nd: Jonah Kramer, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Midwest Food Bank responds to increased need](#)

3rd: Ashley Cline, The Mustang, Mundelein H.S.

[When social media, Wall Street clash](#)

Best In-Depth News Story

1st: Molly Muscato, Lily Hieronymus & Jade Foo, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Justice Blindsided](#)

2nd: Laynee Scheck, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Teen mental health: an epidemic during the pandemic](#)

3rd: Elizabeth Keane, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Landmark election brings political diversity](#)

HM: Andrew Benoit & Dimitrios Mitsopoulos, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[D128 to spend close to \\$1 million—or more—on hybrid learning](#)

FEATURES

Best Feature Story

1st: Charlotte Calmes, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[In It for the Long Run: Freshman Ali Ince leads Lady Iron towards victorious season](#)

2nd: Sara Bogan, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Students Behind the Separation](#)

3rd: Brendan Burke, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Options out of reach](#)

HM: Luka Turanjanin, The Elk Grove Guardian, Elk Grove H.S.

[AP students, teachers balance curriculum with hybrid learning limitations](#)

HM: Rick Lytle, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[The silent pandemic](#)

Best Personality Profile

1st: Elizabeth Keane, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Remembering Sean](#)

2nd: Rachel Zurbuch, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Bolithon leaves art legacy](#)

3rd: The Mustang Newspaper Staff, The Mustang, Mundelein H.S.

[MHS alumna recounts journalism experiences, gives advice to The Mustang newspaper staff](#)

SPORTS

Best Sports News Story

1st: Rick Lytle, The Prospector/ProspectorNow.com, Prospect H.S.

[Friday Night Lights Out](#)

2nd: Anika Raina, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Spring Teams Miss Out on Season](#)

3rd: Andrew Brooks, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[LHS Winter Sports Resume](#)

HM: Sarah Parduhn, The Mustang, Mundelein H.S.

[Boys swim and dive team makes history with sectional win](#)

HM: Hailey Gray, The Elk Grove Guardian, Elk Grove H.S.

[Senior Gaskill savors what he can of shortened senior season](#)

Best Sports Feature Story

1st: Katherine Lytle, Knight TV, Prospect H.S.

[Reflecting on a triumphant cross country season in the perspective of two families](#)

2nd: Cameron Sullivan, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[‘It’s later’: the Alex Palczewski story](#)

3rd: Sarah Wuh, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[The Reality of Virtual Recruiting](#)

HM: Charlotte Calmes, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[In It for the Long Run](#)

Best Sports Commentary

1st: Brendan Burke, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Kaepernick's blackballing unforgivable](#)

2nd: Aidan Murray, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[MLB's season at risk for demise if precautions continue](#)

3rd: Eli Schneider, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson raises XFL from rock bottom](#)

HM: Eli Schneider, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[NHL Abnormal Accolades: 5 key players throughout challenging playoffs](#)

OPINION

Best Staff Editorial

1st: Pavan Acharya, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Hate Has Found A Home At LHS](#)

2nd: Brendan Burke, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[New Machines Raise Discussions](#)

3rd: Elizabeth Keane, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Food Tracking Causes More Harm Than Good](#)

HM: Lillian Williams, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[e-struggle](#)

Best Serious Commentary

1st: Olivia Kim, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[One nation, two realities](#)

2nd: Ellie George & Ella Marsden, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Gender Inequality is Plaguing the Classroom](#)

3rd: Natalia Habas, The Elk Grove Guardian, Elk Grove H.S.

[Students, now more than ever, need better access to mental health resources](#)

HM: Caroline Hussey, The Redbird Word, Alton H.S.

[Historical Hauntings](#)

HM: Fallon Manzella-McReady, The Elk Grove Guardian, Elk Grove H.S.

[What students experience when dealing with grief](#)

Best Humorous Commentary

1st: Kevin Lynch, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Nostalgia ploys not sustainable](#)

2nd: Nina Mendez, The Elk Grove Guardian, Elk Grove Village H.S.

[2020 or 1920? Which year was worse?](#)

Best Review

1st: Ella Mitchell, The Prospector/ProspectorNow.com, Prospect H.S.

[Rules for Being a Girl' is a new kind of YA novel](#)

2nd: Liam Saluski, The Elk Grove Guardian, Elk Grove H.S.

[Liam's Top Winter Reads 2020](#)

3rd: Kelsey Kern, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Netflix's hauntingly good new show: 'Julie and the Phantoms'](#)

PHOTOS

Best News or Feature Photo

1st: Alexis Esparza, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Fight the power](#)

2nd: Amal Hasan, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Student signing wall](#)

3rd: Lily Hieronymus, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Students looking at computer](#)

Best Sports Photo

1st: Abby McKenna, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Swimming](#)

2nd: Abby McKenna, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Diving](#)

ART & GRAPHICS

Best Editorial Cartoon

1st: Sarah Ryan, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Hiding in health](#)

2nd: Ondine Cella, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Fact or fiction](#)

Best Illustration

1st: Mara Nicolaie, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Mouths open, ears closed](#)

2nd: Lily Hieronymus, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Wire people](#)

3rd: Ondine Cella, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[The silent pandemic](#)

HM: Dimitrios Mitsopoulos, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Overwhelmed, multi-armed student](#)

Best Infographic

1st: Delaney Curran, The Daily Bird, Alton H.S.

[Covid Can't Stop Love](#)

2nd: Brendan Burke, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Protection: Discussing ethical, moral solutions](#)

3rd: Olivia Plangger & Staff, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[New Faces of Normal](#)

HM: Olivia Plangger, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Lady Iron basketball upperclassmen](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Best Headline

1st: Brendan Burke, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Options Out of Reach](#)

2nd: Ashley Cline, The Mustang, Mundelein H.S.

[Daylight Savings: Obligatory but Obsolete](#)

3rd: Ameerah Clanton, The Daily Bird, Alton H.S.

[Black History Runs Deep in Alton](#)

HM: Sarah Bogan & Andrew Brooks, Drops of Ink, Libertyville, H.S.

[Breaking the Barriers](#)

HM: Ella Marsden & Maguire Marth, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Fine Tuning Their Passion](#)

Best Alternative Storytelling

1st: Rick Lytle, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Seniors support variety of issues, candidates](#)

2nd: Rick Lytle & Cameron Sullivan, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[New IHSA calendar leads to whirlwind sports year](#)

3rd: Molly Muscato, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Anti-Racism Book List](#)

HM: Jessalyn Baer, Jaxon Creasey & Olivia Plangger, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Crave Chronicles: Episode Two — Wing Stop v. Buffalo Wild Wings](#)

HM: Anika Raina & Katherine Thomey, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[A Winter Spent Outside](#)

Best Use of Social Media

1st: Olivia Plangger, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Twitter @nchsinkspot](#)

2nd: Olivia Plangger, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Instagram @nchsinkspot](#)

3rd: Madeline Handrich & Lily Hieronymus, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Instagram @lhsdoi](#)

HM: Kayla Rochelle, The Daily Bird, Alton H.S.

[Facebook @followthedailybird](#)

Best Advertisement

No entries in this category in Division 3

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

Best Single-Page Story Package

1st: Rick Lytle, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[D214 hands tied by state. county guidelines](#)

2nd: Cameron Sullivan, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[‘It’s Later’: The Alex Palczewski story](#)

3rd: Pavan Acharya & Avery Vang, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Mock Presidential Election](#)

HM: Macy Crane, The Redbird Word, Alton H.S.

[Athletes Prep to Stay in Shape Through Off Season](#)

Best Centerspread Story Package

1st: Brendan Burke, Olivia Kim & Mara Nicolaie, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Lowering the drawbridge](#)

2nd: Alyssa Schulz, Charlie Dahlgren & Kevin Lynch, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Remote for the holidays](#)

3rd: Macy Crane, Kayla Rochelle & Karli Beiser, The Redbird Word, Alton H.S.

[Teachers Modify Techniques for Remote Learning](#)

Best Photo Story

No entries in this category in Division 3

Best Front-Page Design

1st: Dimitrios Mitsopoulos, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Oct. 21, 2020](#)

2nd: Ondine Cella, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Dec. 16, 2020](#)

3rd: Staff, The Redbird Word, Alton High School

[May 7, 2020](#)

HM: Peyton Rodriguez, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Sept. 30, 2020](#)

Best Overall Design

1st: Staff, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

April 3, 2020: [Part 1](#) | [Part 2](#) | [Part 3](#)

2nd: Staff, The Prospector, Prospect H.S.

[Dec. 16, 2020](#)

3rd: Staff, The Redbird Word, Alton H.S.

[May 7, 2020](#)

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

Best Audio Journalism

1st: Jacob Siciliano & Nolan Hamilton, KnightVoices, Prospect H.S.

[Rivals Podcast Special Edition: From Tornadoes to Touchdowns. Featuring Jeff Joniak](#)

2nd: Juliet Aquino, KnightVoices, Prospect H.S.

[Celebrity Fandoms Turned Obsession](#)

3rd: Hallie Gebelein, The Daily Bird, Alton H.S.

[Bergins Podcast: Harry Potter Series Review](#)

Best Multimedia Story Package

1st: Laynee Scheck, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Coping with stress: Self-help strategies to handle stress healthily](#)

2nd: Oliva Plangger & Mantra Dave, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[NCHS March Madness series](#)

3rd: Peyton Rodriguez & Hannah Sachs, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[The Show Must Go On](#)

HM: Ellie George, Lily Hieronymus, Jasmine Lafita & Liam Tucker, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[One Year Later](#)

Best Photo Gallery or Photo Slideshow

1st: Olivia Plangger, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Lady Iron basketball upperclassmen](#)

2nd: Staff, The Mustang, Mundelein H.S.

[Fall athletics adapt to COVID-19 safety regulations](#)

3rd: Abby McKenna & Alexis Esparza, ProspectorNow.com, Prospect H.S.

[Football fall contact days](#)

HM: Abby McKenna, ProspectorNow.com, Prospect H.S.

[Football practice 3/6](#)

Best Video Story

1st: Juliet Aquino, KnightTV, Prospect H.S.

[Alternatives to fast fashion](#)

2nd: Linnea Cheng & Sophie Thongvanh-Schultz, The Burg TV, Schaumburg H.S.

[Bubble Tea in Schaumburg!](#)

3rd: Emma Letzig, KnightTV, Prospect H.S.

[Santa Claus spreads joy throughout the streets of Mount Prospect](#)

HM: Andrew Brooks, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[LHS announces formation of Athletics Hall of Fame](#)

HM: Jessalyn Baer, Jaxon Creasey & Olivia Plangger, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Crave Chronicles. Episode Two — Wing Stop v. Buffalo Wild Wings](#)

Best Website

1st: Rick Lytle, Prospect H.S.

ProspectorNow.com

2nd: Pavan Acharya, Libertyville H.S.

[Drops of Ink](#)

3rd: Olivia Plangger & Charlotte Calmes, Normal Community H.S.

[NCHS Inkspot](#)

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

Best COVID-19 Coverage

1st: Ellie George, Peyton Rodriguez, Dimitrios Mitsopoulos & Jade Foo, Drops of Ink, Libertyville H.S.

[Testing Positive](#)

2nd: Olivia Plangger & Mantra Dave, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[Sewing for safety: Coe family combats coronavirus](#)

3rd: Gil Cano & Melissa Schneider, The Burg News, Schaumburg H.S.

[Mario's Pizza Gets Help from Local Student](#)

HM: Megan Burns, The Mustang, Mundelein H.S.

[Honors ensemble, home education: Mundelein band finds new ways of teaching during pandemic](#)

HM: Myra Saulat & Maggie Stiennen, NCHS Inkspot, Normal Community H.S.

[20th anniversary Madrigals performance goes remote](#)

BEST PUBLICATION AWARDS | *Overall results for Division 3*

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 Digital Publication | *Publication that appears online only*

1st: NCHS Inkspot — Normal Community H.S., Brad Bovenkerk, adviser

2nd: The Elk Grove Guardian — Elk Grove H.S., Kevin Modelski, adviser

3rd: The Burg TV — Schaumburg H.S., Jessica Aulisio, adviser

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

1st: The Prospector/ProspectorNow.com/KnightTV — Prospect H.S., Jason Block, adviser

2nd: Drops of Ink — Libertyville H.S., Michael Gluskin, adviser

3rd: The Redbird Word/The Daily Bird — Alton H.S., April Gray, adviser

HM: The Mustang, Mundelein H.S. — Michelle Didzbalis, adviser

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

1st: The Prospector/ProspectorNow.com/KnightTV — Prospect H.S., Jason Block, adviser

2nd: Drops of Ink — Libertyville H.S., Michael Gluskin, adviser

3rd: NCHS Inkspot — Normal Community H.S., Brad Bovenkerk, adviser
