

**2021 IJEA Newspaper & Digital Media Contest
Results for Division 4 | Enrollment 2,161 to 2,600**

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

NEWS

Best News Story

1st: Kate Gross, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[District 99 finds news ways to distribute food to community](#)

2nd: Emma Snyder, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[MCHS announces, postpones new digital learning model](#)

3rd: Luca Hatzopoulos, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[Change.org Petition to Remove Junior Class President](#)

HM: Mackenzie Sroka, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Hybrid continues strong despite challenges](#)

HM: Marian Steinmann, EHS Tiger Times Online, Edwardsville H.S.

[Seniors Ponder Voting Methods](#)

Best In-Depth News Story

1st: Maariya Quadri, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Students, staff embrace the idea of choice media in the classroom](#)

2nd: Sam Bull & Kate Gross, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Addressing the elephant \(and donkey\) in the room: Capitol insurrection spurs larger discussion over nature of political conversation in school](#)

3rd: Sam Bull, Amelia Carlson & Madeline Schallmoser, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Students involved in racist social media incident](#)

HM: Josie Cable, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Businesses on the brim](#)

FEATURES

Best Feature Story

1st: Sam Bull, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[‘...Overall, it’s fatiguing’: Minority students, teachers open up about constant struggle against discrimination](#)

2nd: Ciara Duncan, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Defending Democracy](#)

3rd: Lily Heddinghaus, EHS Tiger News Online/The Claw, Edwardsville H.S.

[Crew Produces Fall Show Like No Other](#)

HM: Sam Bull, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Undocumented students: finding hope through struggle](#)

HM: Samantha Anderson & Sriya Veeramachaneni, The Howl, Oswego East H.S.

[East seniors adapt to college application process during pandemic](#)

HM: Gloria Kosir, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[West Remembers Hana Djencic](#)

Best Personality Profile

1st: Cassi Reaka, EHS Tiger Times Online/The Claw, Edwardsville H.S.

[Senior Makes New York Fashion Week Debut](#)

2nd: Abi Zajac, EHS Tiger Times Online/The Claw, Edwardsville H.S.

[Senior Uses Poetry to Express Vulnerability](#)

3rd: Amelia Carlson & Gretchen Lucina, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Humans of DGN: sophomore Amneet Kaur’s impact on a global issue](#)

HM: Gretchen Lucina, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Humans of DGN: Maddy Dvorak, small business owner](#)

SPORTS

Best Sports News Story

1st: Madeline Schallmoser, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Girls’ basketball beats Addison Trail in season opener and return to competition](#)

2nd: Kylie Chisamore, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Running out of timeouts](#)

3rd: Ben Galvanoni, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Changes to the Sports Seasons Bring New Obstacles to Tackle for Athletes](#)

Best Sports Feature Story

1st: Tyler Chrenka, EHS Tiger Times Online/The Claw, Edwardsville H.S.

[Weller continues to strive amid pandemic](#)

2nd: Madison Harvey, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Making it big](#)

3rd: Tyler Chrenka, EHS Tiger Times Online/The Claw, Edwardsville H.S.

[Watts continues to power through](#)

HM: Ethan Carey, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[Gary Gustafson: Hall of Fame Baseball Coach](#)

Best Sports Commentary

1st: Madeline Schallmoser, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[How sports saved us](#)

2nd: Amelia Carlson, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[The absurdity of the 'World's Greatest Athlete'](#)

3rd: Madison Harvey, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Keep the universal DH](#)

HM: Charles Jaegle, The Howl, Oswego East H.S.

[It's about time that the NFL address the imbalance of overtime](#)

OPINION

Best Staff Editorial

1st: Alma Duskic & Editors, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[Is Canvas Helping Us Manage Our Learning?](#)

2nd: Staff, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Save our snow days](#)

3rd: Staff, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Black History Month renews our fight to prove that racism is not political](#)

HM: Editorial Board, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[The Capitol riots made America's divisions clear](#)

Best Serious Commentary

1st: Pierce Cousins, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Students experience unforeseen ramifications of remote learning](#)

2nd: Emily Chin, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[Hate the Virus, Not the Asian American Community](#)

3rd: Sriya Veeramachaneni, The Howl, Oswego East H.S.

[Biden sets the tone for a new America, promises unity and compassion](#)

HM: Ciara Duncan, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Don't forget remote students](#)

HM: Ethan Parab, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Forgiveness efforts will not resolve the student debt crisis](#)

Best Humorous Commentary

1st: Alex Prince, The Howl, Oswego East H.S.

[In uncertain times, Tom Hanks continues to deliver talent, hope](#)

2nd: Alli Lipsit, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[What My Rules for Social Media Would Be if I Were a Gen Z Parent](#)

3rd: Aryav Bothra, The Howl, Oswego East H.S.

[Vegetarianism should be celebrated, not mocked](#)

HM: Abi Zajac, EHS Tiger Times Online, Edwardsville H.S.

[A Shakespearean Election](#)

HM: Lily Heddinghaus, EHS Tiger Times Online, Edwardsville H.S.

[Marriage Ceremonies Rooted in Sexism](#)

HM: Ciara Duncan, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[GTA" is here to stay, Marcus C. Evans Jr.](#)

Best Review

1st: William Hohe, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Bisa Butler: Art Institute of Chicago features quilt masterpieces, first solo museum exhibition of renowned Black quilt portrait artist](#)

2nd: Cassi Reaka, EHS Tiger Times Online/The Claw, Edwardsville H.S.

['Promising Young Woman' Breaks Norms](#)

3rd: Elizabeth Dyer, The Howl, Oswego East H.S.

[She never goes out of style — Taylor Swift through the years](#)

PHOTOS

Best News or Feature Photo

1st: Kailey Lopez, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[Morton Grove firefighters extinguish a fire \(third photo in gallery\)](#)

2nd: Olivia Shirk, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Black History Month renews fight to prove that racism is not political](#)

3rd: Elizabeth Dyer, The Howl, Oswego East H.S.

[Ecology Club brings awareness to prominent environmental issues](#)

HM: Olivia Shirk, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Hybrid reveals freshmen's lack of connection to DGN community](#)

Best Sports Photo

1st: Nolen Stevens, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Girls basketball \(team listening to coach\)](#)

2nd: Mackenzie Sroka, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Girls basketball](#)

3rd: Jake Morgan, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Practice problems](#)

ART & GRAPHICS

Best Editorial Cartoon

1st: Eliot Michaels, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Face facts. mask up](#)

2nd: Rachel Kaminski, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Should be fine](#)

3rd: Pierce Cousins, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Student behind bars](#)

Best Illustration

1st: Althea Bibat, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[Autumn Lookbook 2020](#)

2nd: Anna Cruz, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Let's skip standardized tests this year](#)

3rd: Brooke Benson, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[The Ins and Outs of the Emerging COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

HM: Sarah Fidahussain, EHS Tiger Times Online/The Claw, Edwardsville H.S.

[The Pandemic One Year Later](#)

HM: Eliot Michaels, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Addressing the elephant \(and donkey\) in the room](#)

Best Infographic

1st: Maariya Quadri, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Student Series Survey](#)

2nd: Marian Steinmann, EHS Tiger Times Online/The Claw, Edwardsville H.S.

[COVID Timeline](#)

3rd: Olivia Shirk, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Sustainable styles: Taking a stand against fast fashion](#)

H.M.: Olivia Shirk, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Bias Incident Response Plan](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Best Headline

1st: Noah Range, EHS Tiger Times Online, Edwardsville H.S.

[Social Media Sites Perpetuate Cycle of Misinformation](#)

2nd: Holly Williams, EHS Tiger Times Online, Edwardsville H.S.

[Senior Encourages Students to W.i.S.E. Up](#)

3rd: Liam Fitzpatrick, The Howl, Oswego East H.S.

[Slam poetry class allows young poets to be heard even in remote learning](#)

Best Alternative Storytelling

1st: Kennedy Tetour, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Groovy Movies: 12 days of movies](#)

2nd: Madeline Schallmoser, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Red and Blue Make DGN Purple. Ep. 1 – Social Media and Politics with Annie Cash and Reese Isacson](#)

3rd: Ethan Parab, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[West activities, clubs adapt to COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

HM: Olivia Shirk, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[District 99 staff members package saliva testing kits](#)

Best Use of Social Media

1st: Sam Bull, Maeve Dietrich, Madeline Schallmoser & Amelia Carlson, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Twitter @dgnomega](#)

2nd: Michelle Bishka & William Hohe, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Twitter @theglenbard](#)

3rd: Kiera Loewe, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Instagram @mchenrymessengr](#)

Best Advertisement

1st: Sarah Fidahussain, EHS Tiger Times Online/The Claw, Edwardsville H.S.

[Yearbook ad](#)

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

Best Single-Page Story Package

No entries in this category in Division 4

Best Centerspread Story Package

No entries in this category in Division 4

Best Photo Story

No entries in this category in Division 4

Best Front-Page Design

No entries in this category in Division 4

Best Overall Design

No entries in this category in Division 4

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

Best Audio Journalism

1st: Madeline Schallmoser & Emma Cho, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Ross Riot Ep. 10 – Women in Baseball](#)

2nd: Madeline Schallmoser & Emma Cho, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Ross Riot Ep. 7 – Dream Teams](#)

Best Multimedia Story Package

1st: William Hohe, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Jeff Pridgen, Poe the Passenger: Glenbard West Alumnus in L.A. alt-rock band, speaks on success, future goals](#)

2nd: Len Beczko, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[Wigilia: A Polish Tradition](#)

3rd: Madeline Schallmoser, Emma Cho & Eliot Michaels, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Kim Ng is a role model and trailblazer for women in sports](#)

Best Photo Gallery or Photo Slideshow

1st: Olivia Shirk, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Joe Biden Presidential Win in Chicago](#)

2nd: Kennedy Tetour, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Spring musical tech week](#)

3rd: Mackenzie Sroka, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[First football game of the season](#)

HM: William Hohe, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Jeff Pridgen, Poe the Passenger: Glenbard West Alumnus in L.A. alt-rock band, speaks on success, future goals](#)

Best Video Story

1st: Musa Ajmeri, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Glenbard West implements saliva testing for in-person students, staff](#)

2nd: Davis Mati, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[Thanksgiving Burek Recipe](#)

3rd: Amelia Carlson, Madeline Schallmoser, Olivia Shirk & Nolen Stevens, The Omega, Downers Grove North H.S.

[Omega goes to the polls: Election Day 2020](#)

HM: Liam Grimman, The Glen Bard, Glenbard West H.S.

[Proper Plate: The Veganism Life](#)

HM: Tyler Meger, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[The Well Being of Tyler Meger](#)

Best Website

1st: Alma Duskic, Niles West H.S.

[Niles West News](#)

**2nd: Aryav Bothra, Elizabeth Dyer, Alexander Prince & Sriya Veeramachaneni,
Oswego East H.S.**

[The Howl](#)

3rd: Kyla Henige, McHenry H.S.

[The McHenry Messenger](#)

**HM: Sam Bull, Amelia Carlson, Madeline Schallmoser & Staff,
Downers Grove North H.S.**

[The Omega](#)

HM: Michelle Bishka, William Hohe & Olivia Edakkunnathu, Glenbard West H.S.

[The Glen Bard](#)

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

Best COVID-19 Coverage

1st: Emma Snyder, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry H.S.

[Sister parents](#)

**2nd: Holly Williams, Marian Steinmann & Cassi Reaka, EHS Tiger Times Online/The Claw,
Edwardsville H.S.**

[EHS Approaches Its Corona-versary](#)

3rd: Sarah Waters, Niles West News, Niles West H.S.

[With Prom and Graduation Canceled, Seniors Contemplate a Career Without Closure](#)

HM: Deshna Chitrarasu, The Howl, Oswego East H.S.

[East band, choir students pivot with new expectations in remote learning](#)

BEST PUBLICATION AWARDS | Overall results for Division 4

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: The Glen Bard — Glenbard West H.S., Carolyn Fritts, adviser

2nd: Niles West News — Niles West H.S., Lisa Rossa, adviser

3rd: The Howl — Oswego East H.S., Justin Howard Query, adviser

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

1st: The Omega — Downers Grove North H.S., Elizabeth Levin, adviser

2nd: The McHenry Messenger — McHenry H.S., Dane Erbach, adviser

3rd: Tiger Times/The Claw — Edwardsville H.S., Amanda Thrun, adviser

Best Overall Publication | Most points regardless of publication type

1st: The Omega — Downers Grove North H.S., Elizabeth Levin, adviser

2nd: The McHenry Messenger — McHenry H.S., Dane Erbach, adviser

3rd: The Glen Bard — Glenbard West H.S., Carolyn Fritts, adviser
