

2021 IJEA Newspaper & Digital Media Contest Results for Division 5 | Enrollment 2,601 & Over

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

NEWS

Best News Story

1st: Zachary Bahar, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[ETHS announces in-person experiences](#)

2nd: Brianna Fonseca, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[LT students create Diversity Mural](#)

3rd: William Tong, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[After peaceful day protests and night looting, Naperville residents band together to clean up](#)

Best In-Depth News Story

1st: Zachary Bahar, Lauren Dain, Jessica Sehgal, Bridget Baker, Kayla Drajpuch, Meg Houseworth, Stella Israelite & Zoe Kaufman, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Tradeoffs and Triages: Students navigate mental health in e-learning](#)

2nd: Elyssa Reed, Brendan Meyers, Hope Koenig, Anya Ball, Monika Jurevicius, Joseline Nunez, Pavle Markovic, Eli Levsky, Hannah Henrikson, Yilin Li, Isabella Robinson, Steven Keferlis, Emma Langer & Rand Paddack, PHS Cutlass, Palatine H.S.

[How the media covered the 2020 election](#)

3rd: Jacqueline Barba & Alex Miranda, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Black voices for Black Lives Matter: DGS students speak out on racial inequality](#)

HM: William Tong, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[‘Very frustrated’: D203 provides limited options for staff with needs](#)

FEATURES

Best Feature Story

1st: Sophia Schultz, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[Former LT student pursues career in animation](#)

2nd: Jacqueline Barba, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[‘Teaching into the Zoom Void’: Teachers struggle with students’ lack of engagement](#)

3rd: Nora Miller, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Genuine deliverance: Melting down the gender binary at ETHS](#)

HM: Ally Jorgenson, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[Confidence, Talent, and Tunes](#)

HM: Cameron Rozek, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Naperville Central family brings shaved ice business to downtown Naperville](#)

HM: Gabi Karlan, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Combating environmental racism in Evanston](#)

Best Personality Profile

1st: Foster Ellen, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[From one circus family to another](#)

2nd: Ella Mahaney, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[Junior artist to graduate early](#)

3rd: Alex Miranda, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[‘Derek Draws,’ audience awes: Hoffman entertains, inspires with personal YouTube channel](#)

HM: Monica Jurevicius, PHS Cutlass, Palatine H.S.

[PHS grad Coralie Adam reaches for the stars](#)

SPORTS

Best Sports News Story

1st: Eli Cohen, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Boys’ basketball takes first loss following poor shooting night](#)

2nd: Eli Cohen, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Girls’ basketball struggles offensively against top-ranked Simeon in loss](#)

3rd: Andrew Calek, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Covid and fall sports: what testing and procedures look like for DGS student athletes](#)

HM: Abby Panier, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[Orchesis’ “Shift”: an artistic experience](#)

Best Sports Feature Story

1st: Ellie Armstrong, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[5 Second Flight Over The X](#)

2nd: Peter Barbato, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Minor leaguer. ETHS alum. on baseball during pandemic](#)

3rd: Sarah Barber, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Baylor bound: Equestrian Tatum Mitchell commits to Division I university](#)

HM: Ruhi Gulati, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[Swinging Her Way To Success](#)

Best Sports Commentary

1st: Katie Dalton, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[An 'overworked failure'](#)

2nd: Robert Sullivan, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[High school athletes, it's finally time](#)

3rd: Katie Dalton, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Column: Let's talk about athlete branding](#)

HM: Kamau Ransom, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[My journey as a Division I football prospect during COVID-19](#)

OPINION

Best Staff Editorial

1st: Editorial Board, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[ETHS is neglecting student experiences](#)

2nd: Editorial Board, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[District 203 is ready for students to return to learning in our buildings](#)

3rd: Ellie Armstrong & Amelia Pozniak, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[Reconsider hybrid plan](#)

HM: Luc Alvarez, Blueprint, Downers Grown South H.S.

[Gambling with students' lives: Board would set dangerous precedent by raising positivity rate metric](#)

Best Serious Commentary

1st: Nora Miller, The Evanstonian Evanston Township H.S.

[Drawing the home that could be](#)

2nd: Holly Urbanczyk, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[1. Reduce. 2. Reuse. 3. Recycle](#)

3rd: Jacqueline Barba, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Healthcare for the few: Do I deserve to die because I can't afford my medication?](#)

HM: Emmerson McLean, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[The anxiety of being Asian American](#)

HM: Amisha Sethi, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Opinion: Learning to be queer in a heteronormative world](#)

Best Humorous Commentary

1st: Braden Hajer, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Dear God, calm down about your grades](#)

2nd: Braden Hajer, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Kan-pensation](#)

3rd: Zachary Bahar, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[All the faces that I know: The Office, the Evanstonian](#)

HM: Anika Radhakrishnan, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[How breakout rooms are the blind dates of e-learning](#)

HM: Emma Meier, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[Fake vs. real Christmas tree](#)

Best Review

1st: Quinn Hughes, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Vetements and capitalistic abstraction](#)

2nd: Jacqueline Barba, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[‘Red, White and Royal Blue’ is the romance read you’ve been searching for](#)

3rd: Morgan Fry, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[The Elm restaurant review](#)

HM: Braden Hajer, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[2020’s five best albums](#)

PHOTOS

Best News or Feature Photo

1st: Maggie Dalton, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Protest rally in Naperville’s Cantore Park \(main photo at top of page\)](#)

2nd: Enzo Rovito, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Protesters march the streets of Chicago for justice for George Floyd](#)

3rd: Amisha Sethi, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Protester asks everyone to take a knee \(first photo in gallery at bottom of page\)](#)

HM: Syed Hashmi, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[Grant Hochmuth portrait](#)

Best Sports Photo

1st: Braeden Schmidt, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Football practice](#)

2nd: Ellie Armstrong, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[Horse jumping over obstacle](#)

3rd: Jeremy Zhao, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Football field](#)

ART & GRAPHICS

Best Editorial Cartoon

1st: Sabrina Barnes, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Lame-duck Trump](#)

2nd: Kassidy Wiskari, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Asynchronous Mondays](#)

3rd: Alexis Pragides, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Waste of Paper](#)

Best Illustration

1st: Sabrina Barnes, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[The fight for the seat: RBG's passing and legacy](#)

2nd: Isabella Robinson, PHS Cutlass, Palatine H.S.

[The impact of Covid-19 on mental health](#)

3rd: Danielle Pritchard, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Students now expected to have cameras on during instruction](#)

HM: Alexis Pragides, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Paper vs. Pixels: It's all about preference](#)

Best Infographic

1st: Yilin Li, Cutlass, Palatine H.S.

[The Proper Way: Cleaning a Desk](#)

2nd: Luc Alvarez, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Face shield project](#)

3rd: Zachary Bahar, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Summer of Activism timeline](#)

HM: Nora Miller, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[The Four Agreements & the Six Conditions](#)

HM: Emma Langer & Hannah Henrikson, PHS Cutlass, Palatine H.S.

[Once a Pirate. Always a Pirate](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Best Headline

1st: Ruhi Gulati, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[Swinging her way to success: The classic tale of the underdog](#)

2nd: Jojo Wertheimer, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Political figures finesse with fashion](#)

3rd: Braden Hajer, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Dear God, calm down about your grades](#)

Best Alternative Storytelling

1st: William Tong, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[D203 school board candidate overviews](#)

2nd: Zachary Bahar & Sari Oppenheimer, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[ETHS Mock Election results](#)

3rd: Paige Darling & Grace Moore, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[Best of everything fashion](#)

HM: Elyssa Reed, PHS Cutlass, Palatine H.S.

[Palatine High School senior acts in Showtime series, The Chi](#)

Best Use of Social Media

1st: Maggie Kirwin, Arianna Joob, Molly Baker, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[Twitter @HuntleyVoice](#)

2nd: Eli Cohen, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Twitter @TheEvanstonian](#)

3rd: William Tong, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Twitter @centraltimes](#)

HM: Mimi Akintunde-Nieves, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Instagram @downerssouthblueprint](#)

Best Advertisement

1st: Alex Hartleb, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[Huntington Learning ad](#)

2nd: Gabrielle Terez, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[American Pinball ad](#)

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

Best Single-Page Story Package

1st: Claire Williams, Emmerson McLean & Abraham Morales, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[Student Activism](#)

2nd: Lizzie Patel & Collette Doyle, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[Student Athletes Winter Signing Day](#)

3rd: Ali Cutter, Lila Portis & Nora Miller, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Students. staff honor Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#)

HM: Ali Cutter, Lila Portis, Jojo Wertheimer & Nora Miller, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Music that encapsulates this year](#)

Best Centerspread Story Package

1st: Zachary Bahar & Ellie Lind, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

["My crown, my sword:" Life as a hijabi at ETHS](#)

2nd: Danielle Pritchard & Amisha Sethi, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[What does Black History Month mean to you?](#)

3rd: Adriana Serrano-Matsumoto, Kaitlyn Joyner, Sophia Schultz & Charlotte McLaughlin, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[A nation divided](#)

Best Photo Story

No entries in this category in Division 5

Best Front-Page Design

1st: Quinn Riordan, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[March 2021](#)

2nd: Cameron Rozek, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Feb. 23, 2021](#)

3rd: Sydney Laput, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[February 2021](#)

HM: Nora Miller, Zachary Bahar, Eli Cohen, Eden Drajpuch & Lauren Dain, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Dec. 14, 2020](#)

Best Overall Design

1st: Nora Miller, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Feb. 22, 2021](#)

2nd: Cameron Rozek & Staff, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Feb. 23, 2021](#)

3rd: Editorial Board, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[February 2021](#)

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

Best Audio Journalism

1st: Gwendolynne Royle, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Women in rap: Empowering or extreme](#)

2nd: Nora Miller & Zachary Bahar, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Kit Chat, Episode 8: Evanston's next four years \(and beyond\)](#)

3rd: Janessa Mosqueda & Abraham Morales, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[The Achievement Gap at LTHS, Episode 2](#)

HM: Lily Myszak, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Women in the workplace](#)

HM: Morgan Fry & Ella Mahaney, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[Wellness Check, Episode 2](#)

HM: Nora Miller & Zachary Bahar, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[Kit Chat, Episode 3: Student Political Engagement and Climate Activism](#)

Best Multimedia Story Package

1st: Janessa Mosqueda & Grace Moore, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[Van Gogh exhibit review](#)

2nd: Anya Ball, PHS Cutlass, Palatine H.S.

[Dominik Ball and his freshman athletic experience during COVID](#)

3rd: Janessa Mosqueda & Paige Darling, Lion, Lyons Township, H.S.

[Womanish museum review](#)

HM: Amisha Sethi, Maggie Dalton & Katie Dalton, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Peaceful Naperville rally continues to Aurora police station, turns violent](#)

Best Photo Gallery or Photo Slideshow

1st: Ariel Oh, Mimi Akintunde-Nieves, Annie Le, Teagan Smith, Greyson Martinescu, Anika Brown, Lexie Lukacik, Alexis Pragides, Luc Alvarez, Gwendolynne Royle, Alex Miranda, Drey McGrew, Lauren Wilmore, Andrew Calek, Kassem Ossman & Jacqueline Barba, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[How has the last year changed you?](#)

2nd: Alex Miranda, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Community under quarantine: Downers Grove adapts in wake of COVID-19](#)

3rd: Katie Dalton & Braeden Schmidt, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Message with momentum: Black Lives Matter protest in downtown Naperville draws crowd](#)

HM: Matt Stepp, Monika Jurevicius, Nicole Canfield, Ruth Hall, Sofia Klein, Steven Keferlis & Sophia Davidson, PHS Cutlass, Palatine H.S.

[Happy Halloween from the Cutlass Staff!](#)

Best Video Story

1st: Katie Dalton, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Message with momentum: Black Lives Matter Protest in downtown Naperville draws crowd](#)

2nd: Alex Miranda & Ariel Oh, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[DGS varsity dance team entertains with recorded performances](#)

3rd: Alex Miranda & Ariel Oh, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Students and staff reflect on updated IHSA sport guidelines](#)

Best Website

1st: Alex Miranda, Luc Alvarez, Jacqueline Barba, Lauren Wilmore, Greyson Martinescu, Gwendolynne Royle, Ariel Oh, Andrew Calek, Drey McGrew, Michael Nelli, Teagan Smith, Anika Brown & Kassem Ossman, Downers Grove South H.S.

[Blueprint](#)

2nd: Eden Drajpuch, Evanston Township H.S.

[The Evanstonian](#)

3rd: Monika Jurevicius, Elyssa Reed, Guntaas Kaur, Jane Spencer & Steven Keferlis, Palatine H.S.

[PHS Cutlass](#)

HM: Ellie Armstrong, Amelia Pozniak, Nikki Darnall & Kate Alvarado, Huntley H.S.

[The Voice](#)

HM: John Hepp & Kate Ferrell, Lyons Township H.S.

[Lion](#)

HM: William Tong & Amisha Sethi, Naperville Central H.S.

[Central Times](#)

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

Best COVID-19 Coverage

1st: Amisha Sethi & Cameron Rozek, Central Times, Naperville Central H.S.

[Community members rally to demand reinstatement of in-person learning](#)

2nd: Bridget Baker, Jessica Sehgal, Lauren Dain, Meg Houseworth, Sofia Williams, Stella Israelite & Zachary Bahar, The Evanstonian, Evanston Township H.S.

[The Issue of E-Learning](#)

3rd: Claire Williams, Lion, Lyons Township H.S.

[LT graduate dies of COVID-19](#)

HM: Alex Miranda, Jackie Barba & Luc Alvarez, Blueprint, Downers Grove South H.S.

[DGS building repurposed to help community during COVID-19; MFP work continues while students are away](#)

HM: Lauren Schmidt, The Voice, Huntley H.S.

[Music department on mute](#)

BEST PUBLICATION AWARDS | Overall results for Division 5

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: Blueprint — Downers Grove South H.S., Mary Long, adviser

2nd: PHS Cutlass — Palatine H.S., Sean Berleman, adviser

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

1st: The Evanstonian — Evanston Township H.S., John Phillips, adviser

2nd: Central Times — Naperville Central H.S., Keith Carlson, adviser

3rd: The Voice — Huntley H.S., Dennis Brown, adviser

HM: Lion — Lyons Township H.S., Jason Scales, adviser

Best Overall Publication | Most points regardless of publication type

1st: The Evanstonian — Evanston Township H.S., John Phillips, adviser

2nd: Central Times — Naperville Central H.S., Keith Carlson, adviser

3rd: Blueprint — Downers Grove South H.S., Mary Long, adviser
