

## 2023 IJEa Newspaper & Digital New Media Contest

### Individual Winners | Division 1 | Enrollment up to 999

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#### BEST ADVERTISEMENT

##### First Place

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Egyptian Health Department
- Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
- Judge Comment: Very nice hierarchy of information. Also, good copy.

##### Second Place

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
  - Entry Title: Burger King
  - Entry Credit: Bailee Clifton
  - Judge Comment: Don't tell Burger King, like your hamburger better
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#### BEST ALTERNATIVE STORYTELLING

##### First Place

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Rising Stars
- Entry Credit: Amon Gray, Chloe Alexander, Audrey Matei, Victoria Washington, Ainsley Williams, Katie Sasamoto-Kurisu, Téa Tamburo
- Judge Comment: This is great content. "Girls basketball" (second word uncapped) compared to "Boys Basketball" is glaring though, as are the positions and years lacking capitalization on the first word. AP style says you needn't capitalize after a colon if it's not a complete sentence, but in a heading, you are supposed to capitalize the first word after a colon even if it's not a complete sentence

##### Second Place

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Interview a Vet
- Entry Credit: Riley Mize
- Judge Comment: This took a lot of work and you can tell. The infographic to the right though would benefit from aligning left and a consistent body font size. You could put the "source" line where the infographic credits are too to avoid clutter on the actual png. Overall though, very well done. Style tip: replace the last said in your short stories with "concluded" to give the reader a sense of finality. Stick to "said" otherwise.

### Third Place

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: Herscher's new friend
- Entry Credit: Carter Puracchio, Jackson Fritz
- Judge Comment: I love the personality. I would have cut the first three lines of the conversation to give more space to Jackson's byline and mug in that column

### Honorable Mention

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Light up the season with city's holiday activities (bottom of page)
- Entry Credit: Téa Tamburo
- Judge Comment: I would have put the Starbucks paragraph first. I would turn off hyphenation for short lists like this too. If that makes one of the paragraphs too long, you can always cut. I would have edited each subhead to also only take up one line, rather than the occasional two-liner to increase uniformity. Regardless, those are small and subjective critiques -- this is really well done!

### Honorable Mention

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Top 5 Haunted Houses Near You
- Entry Credit: Sarah Girtman
- Judge Comment: This was a fun little list. I would encourage you to think about downloading Illustrator and using the trace function on iconic images, maps or landmarks and see what you can come up with for additional art. Then you can list a few facts about each and really make a piece that can stand on its own

### Competition Comment

These were great submissions and show a lot of promise. The deciding factor usually resolved with the degree to which a given submission stood on its own while also putting a premium on journalistic effort. This isn't the infographic category, Alternative Story Formats stand apart with greater emphasis on text and engagement. Magazines use ASFs religiously, especially in the front of the book section. Which in the older style magazines, can run really heavy on text, but still run the reader around a gambit of stories and make them feel wordly -- like they read 2x more than they actually did. The style has crept into newsletter and digital-first formats like Axios, and also defunct formats like Quartz' chatbot stories and Vox card stacks. These didn't fail because ASF is dying, rather ASF is becoming ubiquitous with the wider newsroom. Hone this craft and you'll go far

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## BEST AUDIO JOURNALISM

### First Place

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School

- Entry Title: Audio: The beat boys — Club provides opportunity for music exploration, socialization
- Entry Credit: Téa Tamburo, Sahana Unni
- Judge Comment: Rare among entries in this category, this one exemplifies reporting—letting the subject tell their own stories, free of extraneous and unsupported opinion.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Audio: How we treat women in power — it's not just Taylor Swift who faces sexism
- Entry Credit: Krishita Dutta, Clare McRoberts
- Judge Comment: Some solid reporting here, but undercut by—and buried beneath—extraneous opinions unsupported by facts.

### **Competition Comment**

Promising work by those responsible for both entries in this category. But students should be advised to separate opinion from reporting—and back up any opinion with facts supporting that position.

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## **BEST CENTERSPREAD STORY PACKAGE**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Falling into the Manosphere Pipeline, Feb. 23, 2023
- Entry Credit: Clare O'Connor
- Judge Comment: None

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Can they play?, April 14, 2022
- Entry Credit: Lucia Kouri
- Judge Comment: None

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: A Bloody Good Time
- Entry Credit: Addison Vocks, Emma Murphy
- Judge Comment: None

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: Love is in the Air

- Entry Credit: Milana Henson, Klaira Pelichoff
- Judge Comment: None

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
  - Entry Title: Puppy Love
  - Entry Credit: Kelee Mills, Riley Mize, Ellie Rann, Bailee Clifton, Francesca Messerschmidt
  - Judge Comment: None
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## **BEST EDITORIAL CARTOON**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: New auditorium name at odds with values
- Entry Credit: Dalin Dohrn
- Judge Comment: Like the accompanying editorial, the image challenges authority and addresses a serious school-related issue. It calls out injustice and pulls no punch in questioning the role of money at the school.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: Khaki Komic
- Entry Credit: Paige Natindim
- Judge Comment: This cartoon stands well on its own, making a serious point with humor. The hyperbole of the final panel is sublime in calling out authoritarian overkill.

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: It's time to establish boundaries for AI use
- Entry Credit: Dalin Dohrn
- Judge Comment: The clever image makes its point with humor that has some bite. The contrasting images show the issue of the human condition, reminding readers the school must cope with another technological challenge.

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Backyard breeding often hides ugly truths behind fences
- Entry Credit: Bailee Clifton
- Judge Comment: The clear, simple images pack an emotional wallop that reminds readers of the cruelty at the heart of this issue. Any reader with a heart will feel the tug.

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: Editorial Cartoon
- Entry Credit: Lauren Metcalf
- Judge Comment: Readers should identify with the image and feel the same pain. The hope is that the news section covered the ongoing debate about this annual inconvenience.

### **Competition Comment**

Editorial cartoons at their best should challenge authority and address issues that relate to the school. Think of them as combining critical thinking with artistic talent. Making a strong point in the public interest is a good use of artistic talent. The tenets of the Hutchins Commission should guide the cartoonist in the same way they should guide editorial writers.

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## **BEST FEATURE STORY**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Role-playing game builds community through stories
- Entry Credit: Amy Ren
- Judge Comment: The perfect feature story! One of the best stories in this category. Good lead, great quotes.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: New STEM classes encourage creativity and cleverness
- Entry Credit: Hannah Hoog
- Judge Comment: Clever, catchy lead! Though not sure why second teacher is not identified by a first name?

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
  - Entry Title: Many off-campus opportunities for students at THS
  - Entry Credit: Klaira Pelichoff
  - Judge Comment: A solid story.
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## **BEST FRONT-PAGE DESIGN**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Vol. 98, Issue 13, Sept. 29, 2022
- Entry Credit: Louis Auxenfans

- Judge Comment: None

**Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Vol. 98, Issue 16, Dec. 8, 2022
- Entry Credit: Louis Auxenfans
- Judge Comment: None

**Third Place**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: Procuring a plant-based palate
- Entry Credit: Jack Krowczyk
- Judge Comment: None

**Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: February TNT
- Entry Credit: Chloe Whalen, Logan Schejbal
- Judge Comment: None

**Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
  - Entry Title: Intramurals initiate school pride
  - Entry Credit: Jos Mendez
  - Judge Comment: None
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**BEST HEADLINE****First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: The ABCs of CBD
- Entry Credit: Katie Sasamoto-Kurisu
- Judge Comment: Good, solid headline that clearly lets readers know the story will explain more about CBD. Nice visuals.

**Second Place**

- Contestant Name: Illini Bluffs High School
- Entry Title: My Chemical Romance: The Science Behind Love
- Entry Credit: Lauren Bailey
- Judge Comment: Good use of a popular band to lead the headline.

**Third Place**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School

- Entry Title: Mulletts receive mulligan thanks to rising popularity
- Entry Credit: Grace Kelly
- Judge Comment: Humorous headline. Nice alliteration.

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: Baby, it's controversial outside
- Entry Credit: Clare McDonough
- Judge Comment: Solid headline. Good use of using the lyrics to lead into the debate about the song.

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: Rihanna shines bright at Super Bowl LVII halftime show
- Entry Credit: Addison Vocks
- Judge Comment: Nice job using Rihanna lyrics to lead the review of her performance.

### **Competition Comment**

Some nice headlines here - and good visuals. Nice job using the space available.

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## **BEST HUMOROUS COMMENTARY**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: Nevin ruins everything
- Entry Credit: Nevin Hurst
- Judge Comment: Here's an intentionally over-the-top repudiation of the concept of "luck."

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: The Lauren Lifestyle
- Entry Credit: Lauren Uftring
- Judge Comment: This amusing piece shows a contrarian's look at Valentine's Day. Refreshingly cranky.

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
  - Entry Title: Valentine's Day Do's and Don'ts
  - Entry Credit: Addison Vocks
  - Judge Comment: This amusing entry offers friendly advice on how to engineer a successful Valentine's Day.
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## **BEST ILLUSTRATION**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Rethinking Therapy
- Entry Credit: Dalin Dohrn
- Judge Comment: Excellent drawing depicting a student in therapy -- with all the various stress-inducing elements of life swirling around between the student and the therapist. Good job characterizing the stressful items sparsely, without complications. Good work overall.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Costume controversy grows each year
- Entry Credit: Bailee Clifton
- Judge Comment: Good thought behind this small drawing that depicts three inappropriate costumes -- Native American in headdress, inmate in stripes and serape- and sombrero-wearing man. Unfortunately, its placement beneath other artwork diminishes its effectiveness in relation to the story. Well-drawn art.

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: Black Friday
- Entry Credit: Apollo Strange
- Judge Comment: The artist provides some well-drawn faces featuring highly interesting expressions. It's not completely clear, however, that the folks are shopping on Black Friday. Maybe add some "Black Friday sale" signs?

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: Just sit back, relax, and 'Don't Worry Darling'
- Entry Credit: Emma Roberts
- Judge Comment: Well-drawn family portrait-type depiction of stars in the film reviewed -- nice lines, excellent use of color. The style is very retro -- Peter Max-ish.

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: Fashion Trends: 80s, 90s, Y2K, Today
- Entry Credit: Paige Natindim
- Judge Comment: Nice drawing accompanying article on fashion trends. Although the drawings themselves are accurate depictions of the trends described, the artist might want to add some labels, either on the clothes themselves or elsewhere in the drawings, to confirm which era is which. Good selection of pretty obvious style favorites.



### **Competition Comment**

The drawings themselves here are all good quality. The challenge, it appears, is aligning the drawings with the stories they're intended to illustrate. Make certain that artists are in touch with the writers AND the designers, to assure that good work gets the sort of display it should get. And keep in mind that IJEA's guidelines for this category say that the illustration is to be the "dominant art" accompanying a story -- and if the story and/or page isn't submitted with the illustration, a judge has no way of determining whether that is the case.

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## **BEST IN-DEPTH NEW STORY**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: Lions aim to refurbish den
- Entry Credit: Anthony Pretto
- Judge Comment: Nice job explaining capital campaign and why its needed. Inclusion of history and cross section of sources is good.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Leaving Lab: Black students say school environment is unwelcoming
- Entry Credit: Audrey Park
- Judge Comment: Nice job covering sensitive topic. Student comments reinforce issue. More comments from school officials would help.

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Safety and security: Half of surveyed worry about safety on campus
- Entry Credit: Clare McRoberts
- Judge Comment: Good analysis of survey and how students feel about it. A great cross section of sources would help.

### **Competition Comment**

In-depth stories need to really delve into a topic or issue. Stories should examine all sides and should be supported by attribution or multitude of sources.

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## **BEST INFOGRAPHIC**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Falling into the Manosphere (Who's Who)
- Entry Credit: Clare O'Connor

- Judge Comment: Wonderful illustrations! Neatly organized presentation of the facts and figures in the sidebar. Overall, the spread is well designed!

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Christmas season keeps creeping closer (snowflake graphic)
- Entry Credit: Téa Tamburo, Ethan Swinger
- Judge Comment: Clever and interesting idea! Love how the snowflakes look almost like they are falling from the sky! Missing some words though (for example, where it says "4% Americans celebrate Kwanzaa," it should say "4% of Americans celebrate Kwanzaa" or "4% Americans who celebrate Kwanzaa")

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
  - Entry Title: Top Ten Banned Books of 2021
  - Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
  - Judge Comment: Nice graphic! Colorful and inviting, but I wish the choice of illustration would enhance the concept of books being banned rather than showing books on a shelf (and presumably not banned).
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## **BEST MULTIMEDIA STORY PACKAGE**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Stitched together: New elective blends artistic creativity, fashion through experimental approach
- Entry Credit: Amy Ren, Zara Siddique
- Judge Comment: The story itself is fantastic, especially the lede. I could hear the clicking in my head of the sewing machine. The visuals just help it pop off the webpage.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Video: Volunteers decorate South Side to spread holiday spirit
- Entry Credit: Matt Petres, Patrice Graham
- Judge Comment: Fantastic photos and visuals to accompany a well written story

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
  - Entry Title: Bulldogs win Homecoming game
  - Entry Credit: Riley Mize
  - Judge Comment: Great photo gallery!
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## BEST NEWS OR FEATURE PHOTO

### First Place

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Historic campus experiences unexpected fire alarm (main photo)
- Entry Credit: Malcolm Taylor
- Judge Comment: Great action shot with interesting composition and good energy. Does a nice job illustrating the story.

### Second Place

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Photos: ArtsFest 2023 (Photo 5 Chicago Boyz acrobats)
- Entry Credit: Kaden Moubayed
- Judge Comment: Nice close shot with good composition.

### Third Place

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Juniors Mackenzie Partain and Mackenzie Boyd observe E. coli bacteria glowing under a black light. Biology teacher Tina Mondino's Biology 2 class worked on a lab this week about how bacteria reacts with DNA and the way bacteria grows.
- Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
- Judge Comment: Super interesting use of light. Good tight shot.

### Honorable Mention

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Seniors Sidney Neal and Alaina Stone and juniors Kameron Adams and Laynie Kleinfelt practice with the sewing machines during Eliza Arnold's sewing class.
- Entry Credit: Ayden Price
- Judge Comment: Nice point of view from above.

### Honorable Mention

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
  - Entry Title: It's time to BeReal
  - Entry Credit: Jos Mendez
  - Judge Comment: Interesting image to use for the story. I like the color and anonymity reflected in the picture.
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## BEST NEWS STORY

### First Place

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Our Sasquatch returns
- Entry Credit: Ellie Rann

- Judge Comment: This simple, straightforward story was extremely well done. The writer captured the personality of the event and it was a joy to read.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Identity groups demand community address hate speech
- Entry Credit: Téa Tamburo
- Judge Comment: This is a hard story to report well and the reporters did a great job. I would have like to read more specifics about the groups wanted. It wasn't clear to me how FERPA was actually at risk here.

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
  - Entry Title: With powerful testimonials of discrimination, groups call for action
  - Entry Credit: Taariq Ahmed, Mia Lipson, Téa Tamburo
  - Judge Comment: This was an important piece to write and the reporters did it well. Next time, work on crafting a lead that is more concise and doesn't make the reader work hard to keep track of what is happening. Not sure what the Q&A adds at the end. This would have been a good opportunity to incorporate audio or video (for the Q&A and in the piece generally).
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## **BEST OVERALL DESIGN**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Volume 98, Issue 18, Feb. 23, 2023
- Entry Credit: Staff Staff
- Judge Comment: Body copy is neat and tidy, with virtually no widows, orphans or bad text breaks. Clearly defined callouts. Balanced use of screens: enough to be eye-catching but not overbearing. Nice use of student artwork on pp. 3, 6 and 7. Inventive layout for In-Depth spread on pp. 8-9. Visual hierarchy achieved on all pages with respect to artwork, headlines and subheads.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Volume 96, Edition 3 Feb. 14, 2023
- Entry Credit: Kelee Mills, Francesca Messerschmidt, Ellie Rann, Sarah Girtman, Bailee Clifton, Riley Mize, Ayden Price
- Judge Comment: Modular design achieved on all pages. Clearly defined section heads and folios. Ample white space achieved on all pages. Body copy is clean and easy to read. No widows, orphans or bad text breaks. Fun wordplay with headlines on pp. 1 and 2.

### Third Place

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
  - Entry Title: January
  - Entry Credit: Emma Murphy
  - Judge Comment: Paper packs plenty into the cover without being too busy. Body copy is generally clean, with few widows, orphans or bad text breaks. Liberal use of hairlines. Clearly defined folios and section heads.
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## BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE

### First Place

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Accessibility advocate: Student reflects on fight for disability rights in published book
- Entry Credit: Louis Auxenfans
- Judge Comment: This excellent story is persuasive and powerful from its opening scene.

### Second Place

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Bel Canto singer finds his voice in song
- Entry Credit: Clare McRoberts
- Judge Comment: This is an excellent story with a triumphant opening. The first half of the story is amusing, passionate, wry, and beautifully written. As the story progresses, the great scenes and details fall off in number and quality. For instance, what part of "Oh Holy Night" matters to him, and for what reason? Could he sing it for the reporter to demonstrate? Etc. But this is a subtle critique of an overall wonderful profile.

### Third Place

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: Herscher's new friend
- Entry Credit: Carter Puracchio, Jackson Fritz
- Judge Comment: Clever with great quotes. The interviewer did a good job of asking surprising, open-ended questions that generated strong and interesting and revealing answers. This could use a better lead. An anecdote would draw readers in. The current lead is much less interesting than the rest of the piece. Great job!

### Honorable Mention

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: Senior FFA student turns 'passion into profit' with baking business
- Entry Credit: Madelyn Lamb
- Judge Comment: his is a strong story. A few scenes of DeClerck cooking or stories about a particular sale could add a lot. Could the opening tell of a specific instance of begging and baking? That specificity could help this already strong story to come to life.

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: Hohenstein performs lead role in various productions
- Entry Credit: Madison King
- Judge Comment: Nicely done, this story includes some revealing quotes, especially from the mother. This story could use a better lead and more scenes and storytelling. But it is very good.

### **Competition Comment**

Thank you for the honor of judging these wonderful profiles.

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## **BEST PHOTO GALLERY/SLIDESHOW**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Photo gallery: Focused Faces
- Entry Credit: Andrew Burke-Stevenson, Carter Chang, Patrice Graham, Gabriel Issa, Matthew McGehee, Chloe Ma, Matt Petres, Amy Ren, Elliott Taylor, Malcolm Taylor
- Judge Comment: Love the concept behind this gallery! The danger was that this would become monotonous, but the variety of compositional choices, not to mention the different sports and surroundings, made this a lively entry. Excellent work!

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Photos: ArtsFest 2023
- Entry Credit: Victoria Washington, Audrey Matei, Kaden Moubayed, Henry Benton, Patrice Graham, Matthew McGehee, Ishani Hariprasad, Sarah Abdelsalam
- Judge Comment: Another example of strong compositional choices. The text and images work seamlessly together to tell the story of ArtsFest in memorable fashion.

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Band wins first place at Popcorn Days
- Entry Credit: Riley Mize, Abi Bragdon, Savannah Milligan
- Judge Comment: Love the photos! They really pop off the page — and I wasn't trying to make a pun! I really like the low angles and the variety of compositional choices. Really strong work here as an example of visual storytelling.

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Lady Dogs come out victorious in the game against Bearcats
- Entry Credit: Riley Mize

- Judge Comment: This is another strong entry. Excellent storytelling combining words and images. But this is a good example of how more can be less and vice versa. The 17 photos in the "Popcorn Day" gallery had much more impact on me than the 40 photos here. Probably 10-15 of these photos could have been deleted, and doing so would have made the gallery stronger. Still, this is a solid job of visual storytelling. Volleyball is a difficult sport to photograph, and this gallery has some exceptionally good action shots. I have two pieces of technical advice: (1) Try taking volleyball photos while standing behind the opposing team. Don't worry about the net getting in the way of your team's players. You can get some great facial expressions this way. (2) Definitely use Photoshop or the equivalent to get rid of some of the darkness in these photos. High school gyms don't always have the best lighting, so go big on using whatever photo editing software you have. Again, nice job!

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Okawville Jr/Sr High School
- Entry Title: Lady Rockets Bring Home State Championship Trophy
- Entry Credit: Kylie Buehler, Alessandra Velazquez Reyes, Samantha Friess, Jared Juenger
- Judge Comment: This entry was heavy on text, but the photos were excellent. Nice variety of angles and composition. This entry probably would have placed higher if it had been an actual gallery -- i.e., if the photos were enlargeable and navigable in slideshow form. Still, very nice job by the photographer. Congrats on the state title!

### **Competition Comment**

All of the competitors in Division 1 understood how to do visual storytelling. It was a delight to judge this division!

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## **BEST PHOTO STORY**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Sports: Focused Faces
- Entry Credit: Andrew Burke-Stevenson, Carter Chang, Gabriel Issa, Patrice Graham, Meena Lee, Matthew McGehee, Chloe Ma, Matt Petres, Amy Ren, Elliott Taylor, Malcolm Taylor
- Judge Comment: Great group of sports photos. Nicely composed and capturing the action effectively.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: First month madness
- Entry Credit: Bennett Crane
- Judge Comment: Nice tight group of portraits.

**Third Place**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: Can I have another cup of Burks Place?
- Entry Credit: Jos Mendez, Isabella Matuk, Nixon Kollias
- Judge Comment: Pictures describe the space well. Might have benefited from fewer images and a portrait or two.

**Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
  - Entry Title: Scares from the past
  - Entry Credit: Emma Powers
  - Judge Comment: Fun portraits!
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**BEST REVIEW****First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: "M3GAN" combines humor and horror to tell relevant, engaging story
- Entry Credit: Amon Gray
- Judge Comment: This review perfectly captures the unusually compelling tone of "M3gan," and why it is so much fun to see with an engaged crowd.

**Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Video game 'Elden Ring' provides challenging gameplay, beautiful graphics
- Entry Credit: Erich Raumann
- Judge Comment: Opening with a great, attention-grabbing hook, this review got me interested in the game despite its various complications.

**Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: Swift's 'Midnights' album showcases timeless lyricism
- Entry Credit: Addison Vocks
- A very strong analysis of how Taylor Swift's songs have an achingly personal texture.

**Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: All Grinch movies are not created equal
- Entry Credit: Milana Henson
- Judge Comment: A highly enjoyable look at three screen adaptations of "The Grinch" that makes a persuasive case for why the 1966 classic remains the best.



### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: 'MEGAN' hits theaters with bang
- Entry Credit: Bailee Clifton
- Judge Comment: Though this is more of an article about "M3gan" rather than a review, it is an exceedingly well-written description of why the film became a hit.

### **Competition Comment**

Once again, I am impressed with the specificity and maturity that is found in many of the submissions.

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## **BEST SERIOUS COMMENTARY**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: New auditorium name at odds with values
- Entry Credit: Sahana Unni
- Judge Comment: Very well written, factual, thoroughly researched, workable answer to the problem

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: Not fiction, not fair
- Entry Credit: Clare McDonough
- Judge Comment: succinct, direct and persuasive!

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: Emma's Dilemmas
- Entry Credit: Emma Murphy
- Judge Comment: timely topic, pertinent quotes, well written

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: Milana's Message
- Entry Credit: Milana Henson
- Judge Comment: interesting topic that is well researched

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: U-High must shine a light on Asian American struggles
- Entry Credit: Amy Ren
- Judge Comment: Valid points using relevant examples

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## BEST SINGLE-PAGE STORY PACKAGE

### First Place

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: City Life, Feb. 23, 2023
- Entry Credit: Peter Cox
- Judge Comment: Excellent writing and reporting, great packaging with mini-profiles of candidates. Nice use of color. Thanks for choosing and using a dominant visual (photo).

### Second Place

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Health & Wellness, Feb. 23, 2023
- Entry Credit: Clare McRoberts
- Judge Comment: Nice sized dominant visual. Great balance and use of color. Shows how a long story can still be readable with the right design.

### Third Place

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
  - Entry Title: Giving Thanks
  - Entry Credit: Ella Gessner, Jaden Jaime, AJ Cotter, Apollo Strange, Chloe Whalen, Logan Schejbal
  - Judge Comment: Great cartoon art. Good variety of content, page identification. Rethink how you do bylines - take too much space.
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## BEST SPORTS COMMENTARY

### First Place

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: Celebrity self-righteousness conceals moral hypocrisy
- Entry Credit: Anthony Pretto
- Judge Comment: An excellent opinion piece with positions bolstered by facts.

### Second Place

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: Cinderella teams losing their magic
- Entry Credit: Jace Holt
- Judge Comment: A fine piece using basic data to reenforce his opinion.

### Third Place

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: FIFA World Cup (Chapter 2): Qatar sparks controversy as World Cup host

- Entry Credit: Zara Siddique
- Judge Comment: Citing facts make this a strong opinion piece.

#### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: Roughing the passer
- Entry Credit: Tad Martinson
- Judge Comment: A nice opinion piece about the lack of consistent rules enforcement.

#### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
  - Entry Title: Keep no-cut: Everyone plays their part
  - Entry Credit: William Tan
  - Judge Comment: A nicely argued opinion piece.
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### **BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY**

#### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Pressure to perform: Students say managing workload, sports comes with cost
- Entry Credit: William Tan
- Judge Comment: None

#### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: Various THS performers to compete in Dupree Dance Convention, Competition
- Entry Credit: Emma Murphy
- Judge Comment: None

#### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Fehrenbacher to join EHT tradition
- Entry Credit: Ellie Rann
- Judge Comment: None

#### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: AI doomsday irreversibly changes traditional athletics
- Entry Credit: Anthony Pretto
- Judge Comment: None

### **Competition Comment**

Overall a strong division. The winners were comprehensive and provided the background necessary to understand the story's relevance.

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## **BEST SPORTS NEWS STORY**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: Okawville Jr/Sr High School
- Entry Title: Lady Rockets Defeat Galena to Face Christopher in State Championship
- Entry Credit: Jared Juenger
- Judge Comment: An informative, descriptive, smooth-flowing piece that had a little bit of everything. Only thing I'd change – and this is incredibly minor – but I'd remove the last sentence to keep the piece somewhat neutral despite the article being about the school's basketball team. Still, a very engaging read.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: Okawville Jr/Sr High School
- Entry Title: Lady Rockets Bring Home State Championship Trophy
- Entry Credit: Adysen Harre
- Judge Comment: Some player quotes about how the game played out from their perspective would've added another layer to the story. Really detailed analysis highlighting key players who contributed to the win.

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: St. Viator High School
- Entry Title: Wrestling 'reversal' flips declining growth pattern
- Entry Credit: Eliot Heckard
- Judge Comment: A little bit of background about how a wrestling match is scored could help add context since the piece focuses on some athletes joining the team for the first time. Nice job showing some of the challenges of wrestling while also highlighting the benefits such as training that helps athletes prepare for other sports.

### **Competition Comment**

A variety of different stories that took a look at multiple sports from unique perspectives. There was a lot of strong imagery throughout most submitted pieces beyond those who placed in the top three.

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## **BEST SPORTS PHOTO**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School

- Entry Title: Congratulations to Tony Keene for a sixth place finish at the IHSA State Wrestling match this weekend
- Entry Credit: Riley Mize
- Judge Comment: Excellent wrestling shot! Great close up of the action.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Photo gallery: Focused Faces (main photo)
- Entry Credit: Patrice Graham
- Judge Comment: Really great image. Good work capturing the expression and the action.

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Vote for senior Jack Winters as 618's Athlete of the Week.
- Entry Credit: Ayden Price
- Judge Comment: Nice tight shot. Good work capturing the action and play.

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Nesbitt named ISL Player of the Year; others receive all-conference honors
- Entry Credit: Ellis Calleri
- Judge Comment: Good work freezing the moment and capturing the play. (Framing could have been a bit tighter to increase the intensity.)

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: A new season kicks off
- Entry Credit: Zoey Fleischauer, Lindsay Curtis
- Judge Comment: Not sure which photo was to be judged, but many of them are very good!

## **BEST STAFF EDITORIAL**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Administrators: Denounce and address hateful actions
- Entry Credit: Clare O'Connor
- Judge Comment: Great job at calling out an issue on your campus and calling on administrators to step up. That isn't always easy, but this editorial does it well and is very well written.

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Step up to support peers' mental health
- Entry Credit: Sahana Unni
- Judge Comment: This is a really important topic for students today. This editorial surpasses others I've seen on this topic because of how well-written it is, in addition to giving specific examples of steps the school can take about mental health. Wonderful work!

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: Students' struggles
- Entry Credit: Chloe Whalen, Logan Schejbal
- Judge Comment: Great work on this! Very important topic for students today and I think this editorial handled it really well. Adding more details and suggested steps that your school can take would be a good way to improve this. Overall, great work!

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Herscher High School
- Entry Title: Cost of college
- Entry Credit: Chloe Whalen, Logan Schejbal
- Judge Comment: Very good job with this on an important topic! Don't be afraid to add in more details about your own opinions in the future to avoid generalities.

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Taylorville High School
- Entry Title: Staff Ed
- Entry Credit: Emma Murphy
- Judge Comment: Nice job calling out an issue on your campus! In the future, don't be afraid to go a little longer and add in more details. It'll help build the story around why this is an issue and how it impacts students.

### **Competition Comment**

Such a strong group! I'm very impressed with the writing here and glad to see many of them are calling out specific issues at their schools.

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## **BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Instagram @uhighmidway
- Entry Credit: Audrey Park, Erich Raumann, Zara Siddique, Victoria Washington
- Judge Comment: None

**Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Facebook /uhighmidway
- Entry Credit: Audrey Park, Erich Raumann, Zara Siddique, Victoria Washington
- Judge Comment: None

**Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: Instagram @hhspurpleclarion
- Entry Credit: Staff
- Judge Comment: None

**Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Illini Bluffs High School
- Entry Title: Instagram @ibhs\_tiger\_times
- Entry Credit: Katie Russell, Kristina Petrey
- Judge Comment: None

**Honorable Mention**

- Contestant Name: Okawville Jr/Sr High School
- Entry Title: Facebook for OJSHS Launch Pad
- Entry Credit: Jared Juenger, Briley Rhodes
- Judge Comment: None

**BEST VIDEO STORY****First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Weighed down: Are packs harming our backs?
- Entry Credit: Clare O'Connor
- Judge Comment: Good opening video, good vo, needed to change up open video as it was too long on the same shot; great to have scale to weigh the backpacks--drove the point home. Good interviews. Would have tightened up the pack some--more participants/interviews don't necessarily make it better--as they all were saying about the same. I did like the variety of interviews. Overall excellent researched news pack.

**Second Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: Video: Behind the scenes, 'Seussical' set crew is foundation of theater
- Entry Credit: Colin Leslie
- Judge Comment: good opening video and nat sound, don't speed up the video; needed interviews from other than just one person--he's not the only set crew member--needed other voices as well; needed to edit tighter--an interview with teacher would have been

good. Was waiting for a finished shot of the set--to see the "masterpiece" all put together--a couple of shots from the show during a rehearsal would have been great. missed opportunity

### **Competition Comment**

Good stories relevant to students. Needed to edit tighter. good cutaway footage and VO. Entries were fun to view. Keep up the good work. Watch professionals and critique evening news to help hone your craft.

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## **BEST WEBSITE**

### **First Place**

- Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
- Entry Title: uhighmidway.com
- Entry Credit: Clare O'Connor, Téa Tamburo, William Tan, Audrey Park, Erich Raumann
- Judge Comment: Your website looks very professional and clean. I LOVE the submit a letter function at the top. I didn't see those available online (maybe I missed them), but I would suggest publishing those online too. All of the photos on stories are super high quality and add a lot to the story. I love the multimedia content you guys have available (also very well done), but I would suggest sprinkling it in with the other categories too, so it's not all just in the "multimedia" tab. But other than that, great work!!

### **Second Place**

- Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
- Entry Title: The Purple Clarion
- Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt, Kelee Mills, Ellie Rann, Ayden Price, Bailee Clifton, Riley Mize, Sarah Girtman
- Judge Comment: The content on the website looks very organized, and the site is super easy to navigate. I also love the flipbook on the home page! I would suggest adding more multimedia content if possible, like a weekly school news podcast or coverage of sports games for people who missed them. I think that would add more depth to the site and broaden the variety of content available too. But other than that, great work!

### **Third Place**

- Contestant Name: Okawville Jr/Sr High School
  - Entry Title: Launch Pad
  - Entry Credit: Jared Juenger, Briley Rhodes
  - Judge Comment: I really like the latest stories feature on the front page, that's usually a great way to display new content available to frequent users of the site. One thing I would suggest is adding more multimedia content to the site, such as uploading a photo with every article (even if it's just a stock image). That just helps to add more depth to the content and makes people more likely to click on things. Other than that, great work!
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