



Winners Circle

2021-22

GEORGIA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL EXCELLENCE COMPETITIONS

2021 GSPA Summer Individual Contest Winners

Categories (in order of appearance)

Literary Magazine:

Poem
Short Story
Artwork
Photograph
Cover Design
Spread Design

Yearbook:

Social Justice Reporting
COVID-19 Reporting
Yearbook Story
Special Interest Story
News Photography

Yearbook (continued):

Feature Photography
Sports Photography
Portrait Photography
Photo Essay
Information Graphic
Photo Illustration
Spread Design
Cover Design
Theme Development
Social Media Storytelling
Social Media Promotion
Emerging Media

2021-22 GSPA Spring Individual Contest Winners

Categories (in order of appearance)

Broadcast:

News Package
In-Depth News/Documentary
Feature Package
Production
Sports Package
Podcast

Newspaper/News magazine/News Website:

News Story
In-Depth News Story
Feature Story
Feature Profile
Column Writing
Opposing Viewpoints
House Editorials
Commentary
Critical Review
Sports News Story
Sports Game Coverage

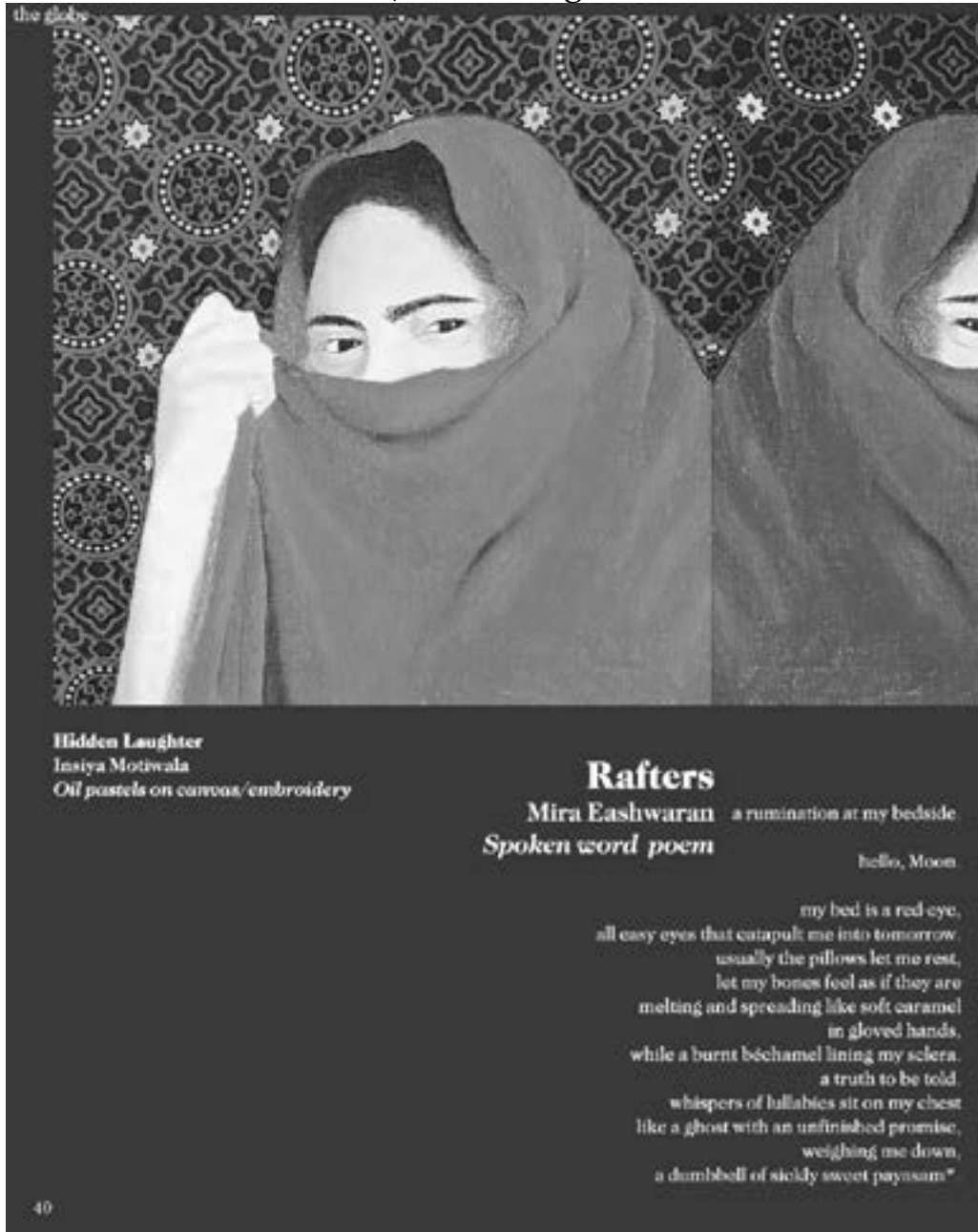
Sports Feature Story
Sports Column
Headline Writing
Caption Writing
Editorial Cartoon
Sports Photograph
News Photograph
Feature/Entertainment Photograph
Photo Essay
Information Graphic
Illustration
Photo Illustration
Double-truck layout/design
Advertising Design
Social Media Storytelling
Social Media Breaking News
Social Media Promotion
Emerging Media
Social Justice Reporting
COVID-19 Reporting

Poem

“Rafters”

Mira Eashwaren

The Globe, Milton High School



Judge's Comments:

“The poem draws the reader into the experience of this insomnia, where the mind wanders and stresses. The language vividly describes it in unique and colorful ways. As a spoken word piece, the rhythm set up and interrupted adds to the anxiety.”

Short Story

“Lay Your Ghosts to Rest”

Maret McWhoreter
The Globe, Milton High School

Lay Your Ghosts to Rest
Maret McWhorter
Creative writing

If she wasn't familiar with the crash-site, she doubts she would ever have been able to find it.

Completely concealed by the brush, she has to push all of her weight against the sealed door to heave it open again. The light falls across the tiled floor and insulation, faded from a brilliant white to a dull gray by the years. Immediately, it's obvious floors didn't have nearly as much trouble permeating the hull, decorating the walls and falling from the domed ceiling in long tendrils. It takes a moment for her eyes to adjust to the half-darkness, crouching in the doorway to listen out.

Swiftly, a robot comes shambling around the corner, mechanics crying in protest and dulled with a heavy rust. It was one of the last designs for her fleet, she remembers bitterly. The newest, shiniest thing on the market.

She stares at it, preparing for an attack, but the robot nods at her, clicking politely at her. Polite, it's been a long time since she's deemed any of their machinations as polite.

It leads her further into an open room, with a massive center console already flickering to life. A familiar character lights up the screen as it registers her presence and already she has to force down the churning of her stomach at the sight.

"Commander, you're still alive!" it chimes happily. "Al- Li, Li, Li-" The program lapses and stalls as it circles itself into a loop. She waits impatiently, her hand tightening on the scabbard at her side. Finally, it seems to sort itself out. "-live!"

"Yes," she says tiredly. It's somehow worse than she imagined, being back. She wishes she could have stomached it sooner, to return and slash the solar panels to pieces. Erase this single tie to someone she had long left behind, a planet she had long left behind. She shakes off the thought, nodding to the robot at its side. "Have you been the one... scaring? Off the villagers?"

"The locals of this planet?" it asks lightly. "Why, yes, I've been sending our sentries out to run reconnaissance!"

The Automations, the locals have named them, entirely too out of place on this world. "Yes."

"Of course!" the hologram smiles, swimming across the dim glow of the console. "Only to defend the ship while I awaited your return! Now we need only to recuperate power and collect the necessary parts to achieve lift-off. I've tracked the greatest energy sources planetside, if we could approximate the location here-"

She tunes it out for a second, blinking up at the screen. The map that beams down on her is only in pieces, loose landmarks of the countryside she has come to know and love. The villages aren't marked, certainly not any people either. She thinks of the shepherd's family on the mountainside there, the home of the sweetest roast she's ever had the pleasure of trying. The property is marked in a burning red 'X,' the artificial light searing through her corneas.

"You'll have to harvest ore through there. I imagine the local species will be... averse to the action, but it's necessary. Oh, and we'll have to print you a new uniform," it gestures at her. She sweeps her hands over her heavy cloak, aged and well-loved. "What you're wearing... functions as is. But you need something more practical."

She forces herself to look away. "Is the main interface still operational?"

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Judge's Comments:

"The story presents an interesting arc around the protagonist's former life. The dialogue helps develop both characters vividly. Pacing in the narration captures the tension and builds suspense."

Artwork

“Tension”

Nicole Croom
Echo, North Springs High School



Photograph

“Sea Nettle”

Amanda Ocheing
iliad, Clarke Central High School



Judge's Comments:

“The photograph is visually interesting and emphasizes the vibrant color of the subject in order to draw the viewers attention. Strong informal balance and use of the tentacles as leading lines also draw the eyes and adds interest.”

Cover Design

“Okeanos”

iliad, Clarke Central High School



Judge's Comments:

“The cover is minimal in design but still has all the necessary elements and introduces the theme. The artwork chosen for the cover visually complements the theme.”

Spread Design

“*Black-Eyed Susans*”

Natalie Ripps and Lucy Hines
iliad, Clarke Central High School

THE SUN, WATER, AND EARTH

haiku compilation
Luna Reichert | 11

I was a mere seed,
You brought me to the sunlight,
Nourishing and warm.

You fed me water,
But you were the red clay pot,
That became too small.

My roots found the Earth,
And my stem began to grow,
Blossoming alone.

BLACK-EYED SUSANS

paint pen
Ethan Caspary-Poucher | 10



Judge's Comments:

“The spread balances the written and visual artwork so that both work together yet each retains its value and draws its own attention. The graphic treatment (pink wave) also separates the visual piece and draws the reader's eyes around the spread.”

Social Justice Reporting

“I Would Walk 500 Miles”

Isabella Hughes
Saga, Druid Hills High School

I Would Walk 500 Miles... Black Lives Matter

B
L
M



High Five (Left) The Black Panther's Revolutionary Atlanta Chapter stood proudly as they held up their fist high in solidarity to the black community and those who have unfortunately lost their lives due to racism. The Black Panthers spoke on how the most important thing people need to do is to spread the love they have in their hearts into others, no matter what race they are. The group then interacted with the crowd chanting "Say his name" and the crowd responding with "George Floyd". Following the chant was an 8 minute 44 second moment of silence to acknowledge how long George Floyd was pinned to the ground in May 2020 while a police officer pushed his knee against Floyd's neck, causing him an inability to breathe and to later lose his life. The police officers are awaiting trial in Minnesota.

Teaming in Peace (Right) Long time friends, Justus Kuykendall (12) and Ezra Adams (12) attended a protest together as a pair and this only made them feel more passionate about their presence at the peaceful protest. Being a part of a racial relationship, whether it be romantic, professional, or a friendship, takes having an open mind and being open to learning from their black counterpart as well as uplifting them to amplify their voice during the Black Lives Matter movement. Adams reflected, "Obviously, I have not experienced the hardships like Justus has had to go through, but I understand that he, and black people as a whole, have dealt with discrimination as a whole, [and] have dealt with discrimination constantly, which is why I was out there beside him." Kuykendall brought a different perspective to the duo. He said, "I was pretty angry going into the protest, as I was thinking about all the injustices that have been taking place in the world. It was great to see my friend (who is what I have a similar passion as I do) and wanted to stand with the and not be silent. By doing that Ezra solidified the respect I already had for him."

March as One

Protests took place all across our diverse city, ranging from the City of Atlanta in front of the CNN Center, to Decatur Square, to Ponce City Market, to your local neighborhood. People joined together to spread love and acceptance for black lives. March Lehen (12) protest safely in many Atlanta locations. She said, "There was power in moving as one body on major Atlanta roads and stopping traffic. I think we forced people to look up and realize a movement that is greater than all of us." Having protests all throughout our community proves the unity we have as a city. We all have similar crossroads that allow us to come together and exchange ideas and passions that will allow our community to grow and thrive in a safe space for all.



In Your Presence On the corner of North Decatur Road and Haygood Drive stood members of Emory Presbyterian Church (right next door to the school) who advocated for racial justice by holding handmade signs. They collected waves and cheers from passing cars. The Reverend of the church, Andy Acton, commented, "As a church we need to send a message that racism is not okay and that Black lives do matter. There needs to be equity and equality throughout our community."



10/18/20 - 10/24/20

Judge's Comments:

“This story localizes a national movement and shares it through the eyes of students. The photography selected accents the story beautifully.”

Yearbook Story

“Framing Our Inspirations”

Mackenzie Simon
The Legend, McIntosh High School



Judge's Comments:

“The connection to those who inspire us is what makes this story stand out. It is a smart way to highlight that inspirational figures come from many places.”

Special Interest Story

“Lessons Learned”

Anna Evans
The Crest, The King’s Academy

Lessons Learned

With her students listening and learning from the other side of the world, Courtney Osborn teaches young Chinese children the English language basics through an online education company called VIPKid. Osborn initially heard about the opportunity from a close family friend who was also a teacher for VIPKid. She praised to God, asking Him if teaching these young kids was the plan that He had for her. VIPKid offers complete customization to all the teacher's classes to accommodate their schedules. Because of the significant time difference between the United States and China, Osborn realized that applying for this job would perfectly fit her life. "I am an early morning person, so it just fit well into my lifestyle. I didn't want a job where it was going to take time away from my kids when they are home," Osborn said. During her sessions, she has to incorporate multiple props because of the language barrier. For her young students to fully understand what she was teaching them, she had to be very visual and repetitive until her students relayed the information back to her. "The students have what is called TPR, Total Physical Response, so I have to do a lot of acting to try to be as physical and concrete to them as possible," Osborn said.

What was your most difficult class in high school?

HISTORY	14%
MATH	43%
CHEMISTRY	11%
LITERATURE	18%
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	14%

Veteran assistant, Hope Thompson dresses as a nurse for Madeline Monday to match one of the four total themes during homecoming week. Thompson previously borrowed scrubs from the school nurse to go all out. "The scrubs were very comfortable. Every day was easy to dress up for. The themes were broad, and I felt that anybody could find something that would fit in with the themes," Thompson said.

While referencing Hebrews 5:12-14, Angela Floyd teaches her junior Bible class while leading each of them a jar of baby food. Floyd wanted to show how sometimes it would be if Christians ate like newborns every day without any advancement to solid food. She explained how God wanted us about falling away and not growing deeper in our faith. "I hope they left my class with a memorable impression to move deeper into God's word," Floyd said.

Judge’s Comments:

“The photos that show people in different elements helped this story stand out. I felt like I learned many unique qualities and experiences from these subjects.”

News Photography

“Splash Lab”

Jayli Waznik
The Crest, The King’s Academy



Judge’s Comments:

“This photo shows action, reaction, and interaction. It does it all with great color and detail.”

Feature Photography

“Victoria Allen”

Yasmine Leonard
The Olympian, Marietta High School



Judge's Comments:

“A successful photo transports you to time and place. The color and focus of this photo makes me feel as if I am at the pool observing this lifeguard.”

COVID-19 Reporting

“Mask me Anything”

all in a day's work

After almost ten years of being a literature teacher, Mrs. Edwards learns to teach in a new way. Edwards' spleen was removed when she was 19 years old. Because of this, her immune system became compromised. The pandemic caused her to be extra cautious. "There is an aspect of missing people's smiles and a disconnect there, but I don't feel like it has impacted my connection with students," Edwards said.



For the second year, Carter McCamy (10) enjoys being a part of the swim team. McCamy and the team had to consider swim meet regulations before competing. "The rules differ from location to location, but no one really cares if you wear a mask or not. It's a personal preference thing," McCamy said.



Face masks have become a new item to collect for Macy Scherpel (11). Scherpel's face-covering collection consisted of all types of masks that caught her eye, and she acquired over fifty different masks. In the beginning, Scherpel was concerned because so many places were out of masks. "When the pandemic started, it was really hard to get any, so when the lockdown ended, I thought some fabric scraps to make my own," Scherpel said.

MASK ME *anything*



As school starts face to face, students find a new normal with new guidelines to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Staff and students were required to wear masks in the halls between classes and while in common areas. Although the masks could be removed during class, some students continued to wear their face coverings for the entire school day. Lillian Beckham (11) wasn't so sure of the new guidelines when she first heard about it. "At first, I thought wearing a mask was strange, but I got used to it. I sometimes don't even realize that it is there," Beckham said.



Judge's Comments:

“This reporting recaps what students have gone through on a daily basis, but also offers how they have overcome the challenges and still created connection with each other.”

Sports Photography

“Varsity Basketball”

Holden Looper
The Crest, The King’s Academy



Judge’s Comments:

“The focus on the ball-handler’s face and the movement in his hair shows a captured active moment. The color pops and the player is perfectly in focus.”

Portrait Photography

“If you Mask Me”

Dolly Thomas
The Legend, McIntosh High School



Judge's Comments:

“The lighting in this photo is flawless. The focus detail on the subject's hair, eyes, and mask are outstanding.”

Photo Essay

“Life is a Highway...Meet My Car ”

Tiffany Robertson
The Crest, The King’s Academy

LIFE IS A HIGHWAY...

meet my car



HELLO
TWO LETTERS IS
Eddie

In March of 2020, Miles Kringsbaum (10) received a 1994 Jeep Wrangler. Although the car was a gift, Kringsbaum was required to pay for any updates and vehicle changes. He updated his new ride by having it painted black with a dark green wrap. Wanting to name it, Kringsbaum decided upon the name Eddie because he liked the sound of it for a Jeep. Kringsbaum always kept Eddie clean and washed it all the time. Kringsbaum enjoys driving in the morning and listening to country music while driving. “My favorite memory of driving Eddie so far was learning to drive with my dad because the Jeep is a manual,” Kringsbaum said.



HELLO
TWO LETTERS IS
Houston

In June, Jocie Shope (12) received a 2005 Dodge truck from her grandma as a birthday gift. Even though the pickup was a gift, Shope had to put a decent amount of money into it herself. After finding an old Whitney Houston cassette tape in the car, Shope decided to name her car Houston after the iconic singer. Shope’s favorite aspect of her truck was how big and cool the inside of it was. The best memory she has with Houston is jamming out to her favorite songs with the windows down. Shope’s favorite song to play in the car is “Heart’s Content” by Brandy Carlile. Shope depended on Houston for practical reasons, such as getting to work, school, and volleyball. “The bed of the truck is really useful because my dad and I like to take our laptops to the lake,” Shope said.



HELLO
TWO LETTERS IS
Charlotte

In July of 2019, Maddox Beavers (11) received Charlotte as a gift. The white 2018 Chevy Equinox has been a reliable ride and kept Beavers out of harm’s way from car accidents. Beavers’ trunk was full of all the things that she needed for riding horses. Beavers kept pens, supplies, water, a first aid kit, jumper cables, and a rain jacket in Charlotte, you name it, she probably had it. Although she was not an expert on cars, Beavers could jump off her vehicle when the battery died and change a tire with her dad. “My favorite time to drive is super early in the morning between 6-7 am. I always do that a lot for horses,” Beavers said.

DID YOU PASS YOUR TEST ON THE FIRST TRY?

DRIVER’S PERMIT

yes:	70%
no:	30%



“When I realized we got to decorate our cars, I was so excited I was excited to make my car a little more colorful and write all fancy for my senior year.”



Judge’s Comments:

“A photo essay should show off different spaces. This one does that by putting people in and around their cars. It is a fun way to show personality and connection.”

Information Graphic

“The Race to 270”

Charley Roness and Gavin Lucas
The Crest, The King’s Academy

*changing the world
one vote at a time*

Exercising their right to vote in a historic U.S. presidential election between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, several seniors go to the polls for the first time. Many described the election as being scary, surprising, chaotic, and even crazy. One student noted that it was an election between two completely different Americas. The election sparked intelligent conversations between friends about their views on politics. “It feels strange being of the age where I can vote. Growing up, voting was always something my parents did, so thinking that I can vote now seems surreal,” Emma Pitts (12) said. Most new voters were excited to exercise their new right. “I went at fun on the opening day of early voting,” Sangreem James (12) said.

riots & rallies

On January 6, 2021, large crowds gathered to hear President Trump speak at his “Save America” rally. However, after the speech, the rally turned into a riot. A large group marched from the site of the rally to the U.S. Capitol Building, and hundreds of people broke into the secure building, hoping to “stop the steal.” At the same time, Congress members were in the process of certifying the electoral votes that would officially make Biden the new president. “No matter what side you’re on, or if you think the election was rigged or not, breaking into the Capitol was not acceptable,” Gavin Lucas (12) said. Many high-ranking government officials’ offices, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s, were raided. In the end, five people were killed, and 130 were arrested. “I am a supporter of peaceful protest. This was tragic, but I’m glad more people weren’t killed or injured,” Lucas said.

Do you keep up with politics?

60% Yes
40% No

Los Angeles Times
THE AP (4/27/21) BY KEVIN C. MAZUR
STUDENTS LAUGHTER

The Washington Post
Trump imperiled again

If I was the President...

Lucas
“I would first try to make the country more stable by making it more safe and calming everything down. I would create a plan to make things peaceful.”

James
“The first thing I would do if I were President of the United States would probably be to change the education system.”

Pitts
“The first thing I would do is make the legal driving age 17 because teenagers aren’t the best drivers and can make stupid mistakes.”

OPPOSING

Believing it is time for a change in our country, Margaret Milcoff (12) looks forward to a new administration. Milcoff watched the election results with her mom throughout the week. “The first thing that came to mind was satisfaction when the results came in, I was not surprised by the outcome. I mean Rome wasn’t built in a day, so it will take time. My hope for the future is that we can sustain ourselves better than past generations and grow and spread God’s glory. I’m excited about our future,” Milcoff said. Milcoff also learned something new about people who preferred a different outcome. “They are very dedicated to their cause and believe it full heartedly. I believe everyone can have their own opinion, and politics should never get in the way of relationships,” Milcoff said.

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BIDEN HARRIS

Judge’s Comments:

“The variety of graphics used in this storytelling is impressive. It is not overdone or overwhelming. The color scheme matches the topic.”

Photo Illustration

“Kamari Miller”

Sydney Robinson
The Olympian, Marietta High School



Judge's Comments:

“The minor details of this illustration are what make it work so well. The black and white background makes the colors pop. The headline matches the artwork.”

Spread Design

“Table of Contents”

Jessie Overstreet

The Bulldog, Forsyth Central High School

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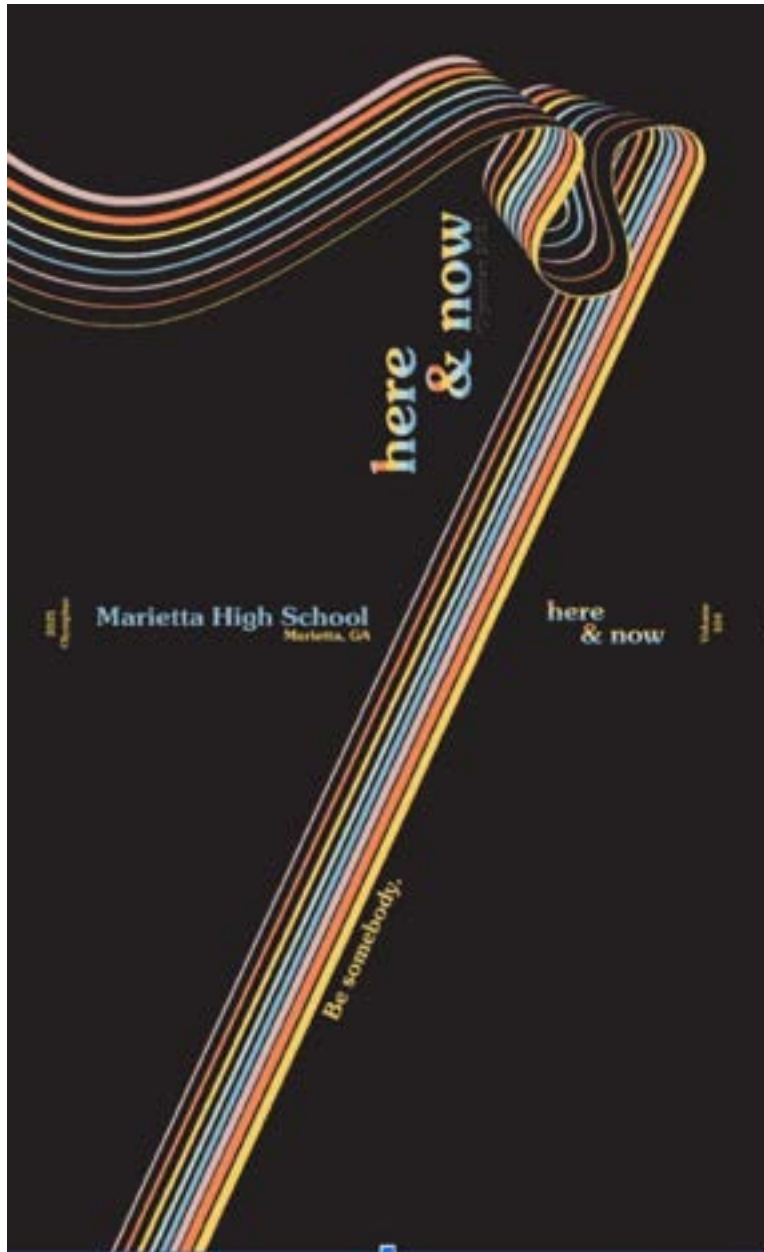
Judge's Comments:

“The table of contents is often an afterthought. This one is highlighted with visually stimulating graphics and fonts that catch the eye.”

Cover Design

“Here and Now”

Sydney Robinson
The Olympian, Marietta High School



Judge's Comments:

“The interwoven tapestry that binds us together is a beautiful illustration of understanding the ‘Here & Now.’ The graphics are visually appealing and still subtle.”

Theme Development

“Here and Now”

Sydney Robinson
The Olympian, Marietta High School



COVER

ENDSHEET



TITLE PAGE

OPENING



SAMPLE DIVIDER

CLOSING

Judge's Comments:

“Incorporating the rainbow tapestry throughout the book created nice cohesion. It provides the sense of everything comprised in this publication being connected.”

Social Media Storytelling

“In A Cowboy Hat”

Amanda Ochieng
iliad, Clarke Central High School



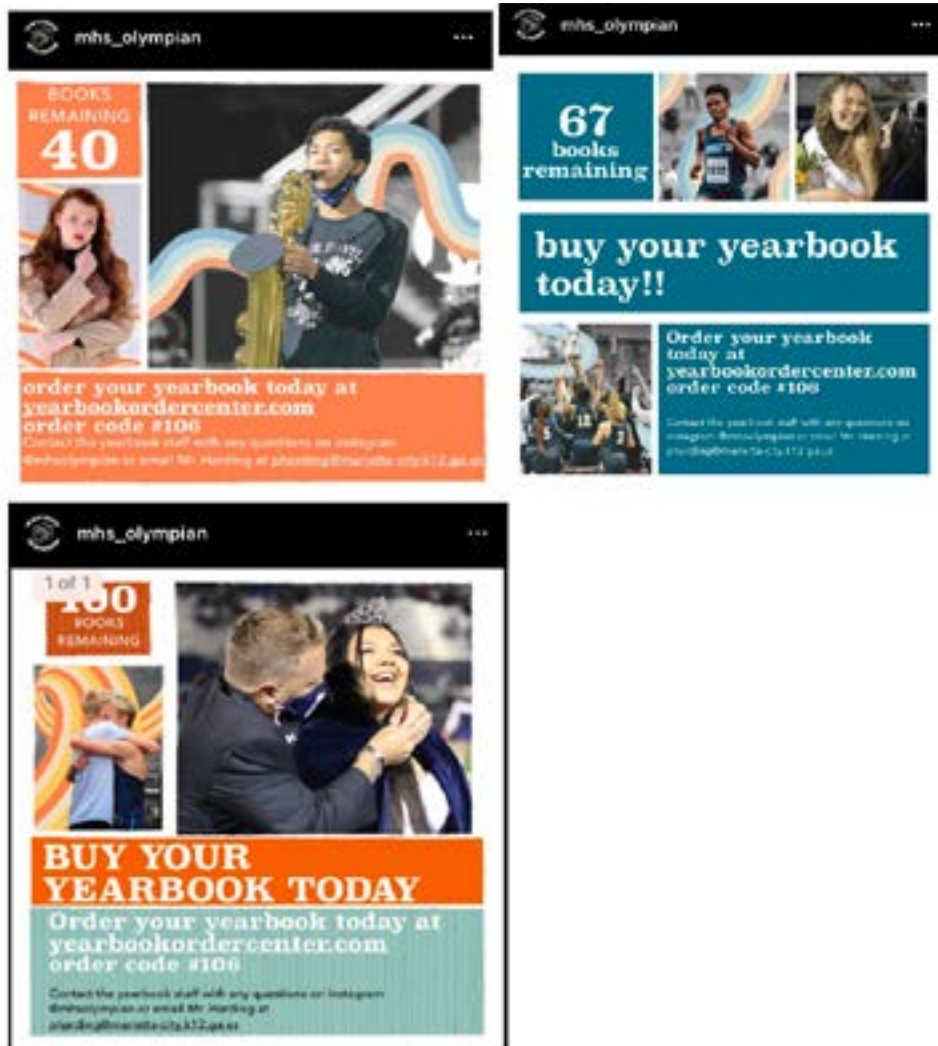
Judge's Comments:

“Art is always great. Getting to understand an artist’s process is even better. This is a smart way to go “behind the scenes” of what something is and why it matters.”

Social Media Promotion

“Olympian Instagram”

Amani Tillman
The Olympian, Marietta High School



Judge's Comments:

“It is brilliant marketing to routinely update the number of books remaining. That prompts a level of urgency to the audience. The graphics are clean, informative, and show faces.”

Emerging Media

“What’s your sign (Virtual Art Show)”

Stella Roden
Echo, North Springs High School



Judge’s Comments:

“The lack of gatherings must never prevent art from being shared. This is a fun way to share spirit and creativity during the pandemic.”

Broadcast News Package

“Football Production Team”

Abbey Duke

Live @ 1575 , Greater Atlanta Christian School



Judge's Comments:

“Natural sound and interactions were the two main areas where this package stood out among the entries in the group. The production took some risks, but succeeded in producing a dynamic, behind-the-scenes look at how the football production takes plac.”

In-Depth News/Documentary

“Sonnt Melton’s Story”

Kara Newstreet
Live@1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School



Judge’s Comments:

“The execution of this story has some technical flaws, but it is all overcome by the emotion of the interview. A compelling human story always draws in a viewer more than a technically perfect story. Great interviews.”

Feature Package

“30x30: restoring green spaces to Athens

”

Violet Calkin

WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School



Judge's Comments:

“The story goes to where the action is and keeps the central figures in that environment. It gives me access to a world where I otherwise would not have been. The lighting was fantastic and the thought leadership was impressive from the main interview.”

Production

“Sports and Arts Segment”

Alex Marler and Faye Li
Live@1575, Greater Atlanta Christian



Judge's Comments:

“The video effects used on this are professional caliber. Thousands of organizations would pay top dollar to employee professionals to create something like this. Well done!”

Sports Package

“Preparations underway for baseball season”

Alexander Holland
WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School



Podcast

“This I Believe: Antonio Starks”

Antonio Starks
ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School



Judge's Comments:

“This is a very honest and candid essay produced in a very clean way. It very much reflects the NPR style that is models”

News Story

“Local educators protest anti-critical race theory resolution”

Savannah Duncan-Barnett
Cedar BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



SIGNS FOR SUPPORT: Participants at the Pledge To Teach The Truth Rally display encouraging phrases to show support for teachers speaking out against the critical race theory ban in schools. “We want you to know we appreciate you,” said Linnentown descendant and activist Hattie Whitehead Thomas to teachers. Photo by Savannah Duncan-Barnett

Judge’s Comments:

“To be honest, this was one of the most intense categories to judge. However, Savannah’s news article on Critical Race Theory took courage and a whole lot of research to pull it off. CRT is a hotly debated subject and one that Savannah did well.”

In- Depth News Story

“CCSD bus drivers cooperate and sacrifice to transport students”

Jackie Wright
Cedar BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



TWO DECADES DRIVING: Sondra Riden waits for students to board her bus. She started driving for the district in 2001 and she says respect is essential to a positive experience on a bus and in life. “I’ve learned that if you show respect you earn respect, even in a bad situation. Always give your kids respect and they will respect you,” Riden said. Photo by Jackie Wright.

Judge’s Comments:

“Thorough coverage of a very timely, important, frustrating topic for many school systems. Great job getting out there and interviewing a variety of stakeholders. Well-researched and written.”

Feature Story

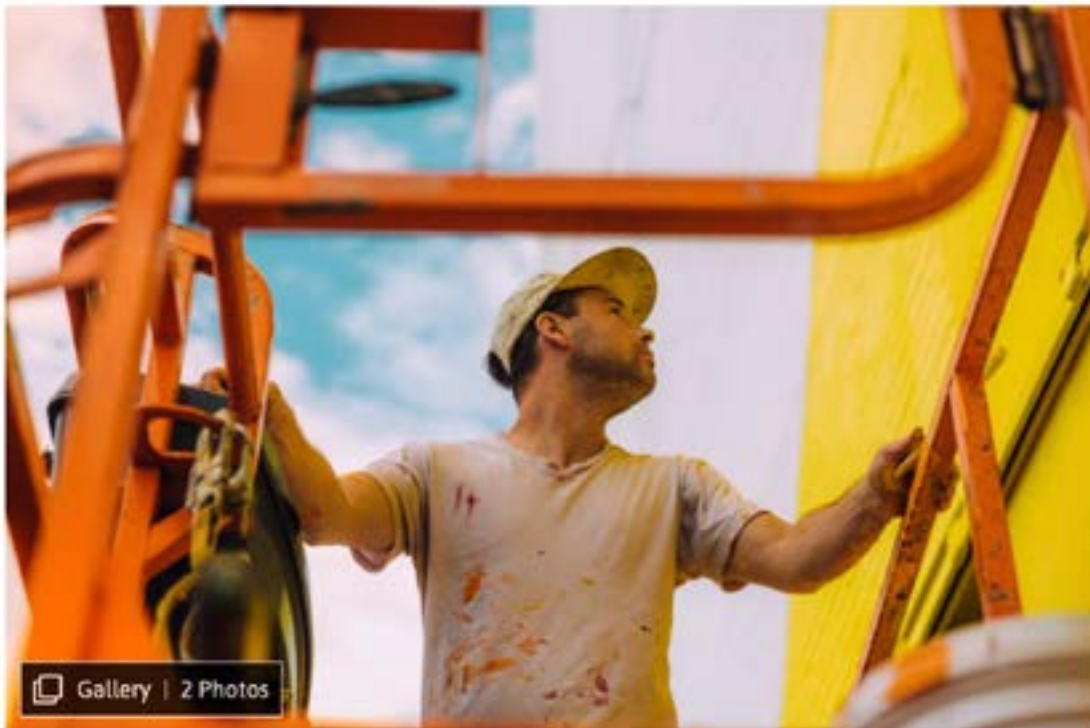
“Alum makes artistic comeback to new library,”

Lindsay Ruhl
The Southerner, Midtown High School

Alum makes artistic comeback to new library

Lindsay Ruhl

September 17, 2021



Courtesy of Alex Brewer

Global artist and Grady Alum Alex Brewer found a way to leave his artistic mark on the school he left for tagging.

Judge's Comments:

“This story has a compelling main figure and local tie to draw in the audience. I feel like I know the artist after reading this story. I can give no greater compliment than that.”

Feature Profile

“Alum Forman portrays father in ‘Son of the South’ ”

A&E

Front Slideshow

Alum Forman portrays father in ‘Son of the South’

Sayan Sonnad-Joshi

March 26, 2021

Chaka Forman, Class of 1987, stars in the new Spike Lee film “Son of the South.” The film portrays the grandson of a Klansman who eventually joins the Civil Rights Movement. This is the latest in a long list of films and TV shows Forman has acted in, ranging from Hyperion Bay to Harsh Times.”

Forman portrayed a familiar face, his father James Forman, Sr., a prominent civil rights activist who worked with the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Filming, which started in April of 2019, consisted of Forman shooting in many of the places his father worked.

Complex roles that aligned with Forman’s passions drew him in and are reflected in the projects he has chosen to pursue. He portrayed a jealous gang leader in the 2002 film Local Boys.” He also played Tyrus, a college student turned cocaine mule, in the 2003 short film, Swallow.”



Courtesy of Chaka Forman

Class of 1987 alumnus Chaka Forman portrays his father, James Forman Sr., in Son of the South

Judge’s Comments:

“Excellent transitions that carried the reader throughout the story. Interviewed multiple key sources to propel the story in a thorough yet nuanced way. Great job keeping readers’ attention and highlighting an alum from your school.”

Column Writing

“Letter from the Editor”

Audrey Enghauser

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

CCSD community members should direct their efforts to overcome the bus driver shortage to district leaders instead of targeting the drivers.



BY AUDREY ENGHAUSER
Clarke Central High School

"Parents, please do not make students absent, we have a few buses coming in late today," Clarke Central High School Bus Office secretary Linda Glenn announced over the intercom at the beginning of first period.

These bus delays will have caused a significant amount of instructional time when they finally arrive at school due to the shortage of bus drivers in the district.

According to an August 2021 National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) survey, 78% of respondents reported that the national bus driver shortage is getting "much worse" or "a little worse," and 71% further reported a "severe" or "disruptive" shortage. Of surveyed Southwestern, 65% reported altered bus services due to COVID-19.

In the Clarke County School District, students are missing instructional time and having to stay at school later due to the number of bus drivers available to work.

"In the mornings, we've had a couple buses continue to be late because of the shortage," CCSD Assistant Principal Shannon Smith said. "Then in the afternoon, we have one bus that definitely leaves and comes back to do a double route, and then other buses are full. And then we also have a lot of bus changes, given (drivers) being out."

In the CCSD, this shortage of bus drivers has forced drivers to work longer hours when picking up students. A typical work week for CCSD bus drivers is 20 hours, but as employees of the district under certain overtime restrictions, they won't receive additional compensation.

"The time and a half laws are that you have to work 40 hours, not 20 hours to even though their position was a 20-hour-work position, if they worked 21 hours, that didn't count as overtime," District 4 CCSD Board of

Education Member Dr. Patricia Yager said.

Considering that drivers overtime pay is restricted, according to Yager, the CCSD Human Resources department has employed a retention bonus for this school year, raising drivers' current pay from \$16.26 to \$17.00 per hour, and will offer a raise their salary at the beginning of next year.

According to CCSD Chief Academic Officer Shannon Gaskins, the district is looking to employ drivers in another capacity.

While this is an reasonable solution to compensate drivers, the district has yet to address the conditions that they will continue to evaluate until these ideas are put into full effect.

For now, buses remain severely overcrowded, bus drivers are still taking on multiple routes, and the pressure put on drivers is high.

"We deal with a lot. A lot of the schools show us support with conduct and bus issues. Bus drivers' appreciation is taken very light at some schools."

Everyone is burned out," a CCSD bus driver, who wished to remain anonymous, said.

Parents are often at the receiving end of these issues, as well, if drivers are unable to cover all of their routes. While it may

While it may be frustrating for a parent for their child's bus to skip their stop, parents should consider how the shortage is affecting the drivers themselves.

"Our district is really working hard to recruit more bus drivers so bus drivers don't have double routes," Gaskins said. "We are looking at providing additional buses for our existing bus drivers to work at our schools - to work as Full Members, to work as Lunch Members, to work as substitute teachers."

be frustrating for a parent for their child's bus to skip their stop, parents should consider how the shortage is affecting the drivers themselves.

There is no doubt that this shortage is impacting students greatly, but if CCSD parents wish to create change and improve the condition of school buses, they should hold the CCSD leaders accountable for

the lack of support they've given to drivers to improve the accessibility and conditions of school buses.

"We have no support from the board. Some kids like me are out there alone sometimes. They keep coming every day it gets better. Nope, it's getting worse," the bus driver said.

Instead of seeing themselves in opposition to bus drivers, parents should support community efforts coming from bus drivers that target CCSD transportation cabinet members in order to fill the bus driver shortage and equity gaps, which will ultimately benefit both students and drivers. 

As Clarke County School District bus drivers agreed to overtime on the basis of availability due to the scarcity of the bus.



Image: An Assistant Clarke County School District bus driver spoke with a reporter from the ODYSSEY Media Group about the bus driver shortage in Clarke County. The image is a cartoon illustration of a yellow school bus with 'G C S D' on top. A person is standing outside the bus saying 'You're late.'

Judge's Comments:

“It’s a clean sweep for the reporters of Clarke Central. All three of the editorials here could’ve placed as the All-Georgia recipient, but what Audrey’s story does is hit on a subject that reached both local and national airwaves.”

Opposing Viewpoints

“Should Buckhead become its own city?”

Katie Sigal and Aran Sonnad-Joshi
The Southerner, Midtown High School



Wikimedia Commons

Buckhead citizens are currently pushing for the deannexation of their neighborhood from the City of Atlanta.

Judge’s Comments:

“I’ll be honest, there were some strong columns in this category. What separated this opposing viewpoint from the others was the subject matter. This isn’t an easy subject for students to debate. They both did an admirable job worthy of this prize.”

House Editorials

“Our Take”

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

OUR TAKE

After over a year of adverse effects on education due to the pandemic, the academic success of K-12 students should be at the forefront of concern for American schools.

Since March 2020, students across the nation have endured severe disruption in their educational development and mental well-being due to COVID-19. Nationwide, 55 million children were out of the classroom once the pandemic hit, according to the World Economic Forum.

Pre-COVID educational and institutional issues within the U.S. education system were ever-present, such as opportunity and achievement gaps.

These inequities have been prevalent locally in the Clarke County School District. In 2019, “Achievement Gap,” a district-wide testing analysis, found that Black students in the district are, on average, 5.4 grade levels behind their White counterparts.

In terms of the pandemic, a report published by the Economic Policy Institute predicts that year-long virtual schooling, which Clarke Central High School students participated in, will further amplify institutional issues such as the achievement gap.

Moving forward into the next school year, those who work in education in the U.S. should be aware and prepared for the social and educational impacts

2020 has had on students in K-12.

Along with a change in environment to virtual schooling, many students have also experienced larger conflicts due to external effects of COVID-19. Consequences such as increased unemployment, increased homelessness and in some cases loss of family members have undoubtedly impacted students across the nation and here in the CCSD.

To combat these current and future issues in education, educational administrations nationwide should make a collective effort to give support to teachers and students in the following years.

While many local and national researchers are still trying to define exactly how COVID-19 has impacted K-12 education, the Economic Policy Institute published a report on Sept. 30, 2020, highlighting some of the possible consequences of virtual learning.

As the report states, impacts of the pandemic

that can already be noted represent new changes that came with COVID-19, such as the lack of access to laptops and WiFi for lower income students. The study also predicts that standardized testing data will be inaccurate as the limitations of these tests such as access to tutoring and coverage of a narrow skill set have been amplified due to the pandemic.

Currently, the U.S. Department of Education, along with the Biden administration, has made efforts to collect data about the impact COVID-19 has had on K-12 schools across the country, according to an article published by PBS.

Yet, even without the new set of data, COVID-19 has certainly exposed the inequalities within the education system, calling for an absolute need of reform.

To combat these current and future issues in education, school administrators nationwide should make a collective effort to give support to teachers and students in the following years.

While the exact impacts of this year are still statistically uncertain, public school systems should place great importance on combating the widening achievement gap in education. ☺



Viewpoints

April 2021 | 7

Judge's Comments:

“House editorials are tough to write. Usually, it begins with several group discussions and ends with one writer and several editors and copy editors fine tuning the strongly worded letter. These editorials engage the reader and present strong arguments.”

Commentary

“The World is Crumbling: Why Even Apply?”

Violet Calkin

Cedar BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



Violet Calkin
Co-Editor-in-Chief

What has an inbox filled to the brim with promotional emails, six different Google Docs with half-drafted essays open and very little work-life balance?

A stressed high school senior attached to college applications, of course.

High achieving students experience a culture of both external and internal pressure to beat impossible admissions statistics for elite schools. In recent months I've learned not doing something productive and unique with my summer when I was 14 or not studying just a little harder for AP tests I've already failed over. I spent hours crafting the exact wording to explain my extracurriculars. My SAT score, which I should have been proud of, was just one more thing that made me a merely average applicant for competitive schools. Writing my Common Application

essay was a dramatic affair that yielded a vast display of emotions: pride, dismay, exhaustion, angst.

The price of my education, too, has been a point of concern. Earning income for the first time this summer awaits and criticized me to the debt I will likely accrue from college. Cumulatively, people in the U.S. who took out student loans are \$1.75 trillion in debt from their education — a number that grows six times faster annually than the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). On average public university undergraduates leave college indebted approximately \$30,000. Nonprofit and for-profit private school students borrow an average of \$3,900 and \$40,900 respectively for their bachelor's degree alone. In a summer blogged and local newspaper intern, so these numbers are insane to me. I could pick up all the weekend babysitting jobs in the world and still not be ready to face the cost of a college education.

As uncertainties around my future have resonated throughout the last year, the world feels like it's crumbling around me. There's the climate crisis, COVID-19 and all of its variants. Deep, dark political divisions. Ongoing and brutal discrimination against people of color. I question if the world I know will even exist when I leave college.

Not to mention, there are fundamental and insolvable problems with college admissions itself. Even with the Common Application, admissions are largely unstandardized and dozens of differing requirements for schools leave 60% of students applying to college stressed some or all of the time, according to a survey conducted by Challenge Success. In a different Challenge Success survey, 59% of students reported that their college admissions stress has increased from the pandemic. Lower and middle class students are behind before the race even begins. Danny Kademian, US News, reported that half of low income students who go to college undermatch into schools less competitive than merited by their academic records.

Emphasis on standardized testing can be discriminatory. The SAT and ACT yield gaps between the scores of white students and students of color, and the costs of test prep and tutoring services exclude low income students. Prestige is held above all else. “Elite colleges have become a status symbol with the legitimacy of meritocracy attached to them, because getting in sanctifies you as meritorious,” Jerome Karabel, sociologist at the University of California, Berkeley, and college admissions historian, told the New York Times.



Graphics by Abigail Price



cedarblueprints.com | 4

Judge's Comments:

“A perfect topic for stressed-out high school students, especially with added stress of COVID-19. Excellent writer's voice and thoughtful message.”

Critical Review

“Easy On Me”

Isabella Westrich

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Review: “Easy On Me” by Adele

October 22, 2021



Adele sings during a live tour in 2016. Her newest song, “Easy On Me”, was released on Oct. 14 and has since broken Spotify’s record for most streamed song in a single day. Photo fair use of Wikimedia Commons

Judge’s Comments:

“So, to me, the mark of a strong review story starts with the lead and hooks me on the take right from the start. It’s clear the Isabella knows how to hook the reads with the intent of keeping them engaged on the reader from first word to last.”

Sports News Story

“Slow decline of football at Midtown”

Cole Parker and Duncan Tanner
The Southerner, Midtown High School

Slow decline of football at Midtown

Lack of participation leads to cancellation of varsity football season

Cole Parker and Duncan Tanner | October 13, 2021



Judge's Comments:

“This quotes-driven, informative story contains multiple elements of sports newsworthiness, including timeliness, proximity, importance. Losing a varsity sport is a delicate and rare topic for schools, but the writers handled it fairly and without bias.”

Sports Game Coverage

“Blue Devils crush McEachern High in rival game,”

Ella Chesney
The Prowler, Starr’s Mill High School

Blue Devils crush McEachern High in rival game

Ella Chesney
Section Editor

Outside of Northcut Stadium, children play on the lawn while their parents chat. A bus filled with donations for Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta sits in the street. Students from both high schools filter through the rock arch of the stadium in spirited outfits. McEachern dons came, Marietta western wear. The sun’s still up as the Marietta High and McEachern High football teams run through their respective banners. The crowd roars.

McEachern High kicks off. Devin Clark (11) downs the ball at the 22 yard line. Tyler Hughes first makes an incomplete pass to Milton Jones (12). The ball is then handed to Jones, who carries it to the line of scrimmage. Tyler Hughes runs right, throws to Karmyn Perry (12) under pressure. Perry makes the catch before being pushed out of bounds. The home stands erupt in cheers.

“During such a high stakes game, any seemingly small win felt huge,” Kierle Gilreath (12) said.

The ball is again handed to Jones, who runs for 18 yards. During the next snap, Christian Mathis (11) receives the ball at the 20 but is carried back to the 16. The Blue Devils feign a handoff to Jones, and Hughes throws to Camden Overton (12), who is downed at the five. Once again Jones is handed the ball, he breaks right and travels two yards before being downed by Drake Hatcher. McEachern High switches their defensive lineup before the ball is run in for a touchdown. Marietta High is on the board just three minutes into the game. Ben Parrot (11) attempts the extra point from the 10, but a false start is called against Marietta with a penalty of five yards, which are quickly gained back because of a penalty against McEachern. The extra point is good.

Continue to pg. 11 for “Football”



Quarterback Tyler Hughes breaks through McEachern’s defense to score a touchdown in the second quarter. Hughes also had 350 total passing yards. Photo by Ella Chesney

Judge’s Comments:

“Wow, what a great game play-by-play! Fantastic attention to detail. As a journalist AND student it’s hard to separate the two at times, but be careful not to show bias in headlines (“crushed”). Otherwise, very well written!”

Sports Feature Story

“Slamming the Standard”

Megan Wise

Cedar BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Slamming the standard

By Megan Wise

Cedar Shoals has not had a female wrestler since 2010, but this year junior Samantha Mifflin is breaking that streak.

“It was just something that I thought would be interesting,” Mifflin said. “It feels pretty good being a female wrestler, you set an example and you’re well known.”

Daniel Culliver has been head coach since 2013 and was assistant coach for the 2011-12 season. In that time he has not seen any female stick with the team after initial interest.

“They tried out and wrestled in maybe one or two matches but didn’t go through with it,”

Culliver said. “Having Samantha this year is great.

She’s really into wrestling, she’s doing a good job, she’s always at practice. I think that it’s a perfect situation where she’s taking wrestling very seriously, and she’s gotten some other girls to try out as well.”

When she started, Mifflin wondered how the other wrestlers would react to her.

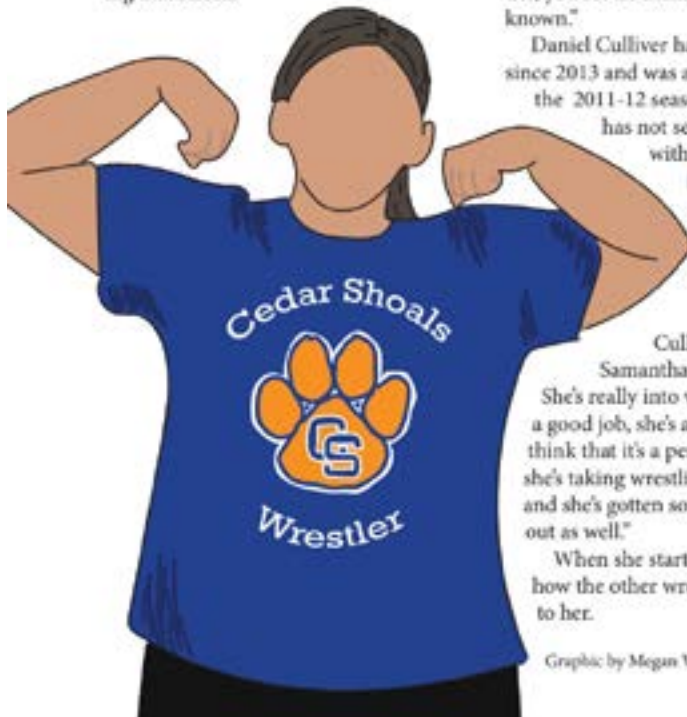
“I wasn’t really sure how the guys would act when I wrestled them. I thought they would be a little weirded out like, ‘Why is this girl wrestling me?’ I thought they would go easy on me,” Mifflin said.

Culliver works to make sure everyone feels welcome in the wrestling room.

“The kind of team atmosphere we have set is that this is our family. Whoever comes through those doors are family,” Culliver said. “Samantha’s teammates have really embraced her and it’s easy to embrace Samantha because she is enthusiastic, a good teammate, she tries hard, she goes all out and she definitely wears her emotions on her sleeve.”

In 2008, then sophomore Farrah Johnson wanted to try out for the wrestling team. She says she was rejected by the coach at the time because she was female, so she tried out the next year when a different coach took over.

“A couple of girls joined in the 2009-10 season and our team was really close. Our coach was very inclusive and treated everyone the same. It was weird when



Graphic by Megan Wise

Sports Column

“At long last, Dawgs on top”

Jacob Weiszer
Cedar BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



BULLDOG VICTORY: University of Georgia football player Nakobe Dean pumps his fist in the air during the celebration parade on Jan. 15. Photo by Patrick Redmond.

Viewpoints

At long last, Dawgs on top

January 16, 2022 • Jacob Weiszer • Georgia Bulldogs, Georgia football, UGA

Scenes of fans scaling light poles and making trampolines of porta-potties flickered across the television screen as fireworks rang into the cold January night. To some, it looked like pure chaos. To Georgia football fans, it was a celebration 41 years in the making.

Judge's Comments:

“This story gives a unique perspective to an event that is easily recognizable to the state.”

Headline Writing

*“Can’t repeat the past?
Why of course you can!”*

Joslyn Webb
The Prowler, Starr’s Mill High School

Can’t repeat the past? Why of course you
can!

Starr’s Mill drama department wins region, advances to state for
first time in four years

Joslyn Weber, Editor | October 26, 2021



Courtesy of Jeanne Little

Starr’s Mill drama department celebrates their first place win after performing “The Great Gatsby” in the CMSA One-Act region competition. “[Winning region] means the absolute world to me because I just love this cast and I really wanted this for them... and my fellow seniors,” senior Olivia Price, who played Jordan Baker, said.

Judge’s Comments:

“The challenge of writing a good headline is to make it interesting enough to catch a reader’s attention while making sure it matches the tone of the article and follows basic headline writing rules. Good job in achieving this task consistently.”

Caption Writing

“14th Annual Warrior Way 5k ignites autumn”

Jenny Loveland and Elijah Pacis
The Chant, North Cobb High School



Jenny Loveland

After the run in the morning, runners earned recognition no matter their age. Race organizers handed out medals to the fastest runners from male and female brackets across twelve different age groups. “The Warrior Way is always a great community event. This year it was even more special after having to be virtual last year. So many North Cobb alumni showed up to run. It was great to see so many old friends,” cross country head coach John Huff.

Judge’s Comments:

“Captions are great entry points for readers scanning a page and deciding whether or not to read a story. Headlines and photographs, too! Good job providing interesting details that are not obvious in the picture. Well written.”

Editorial Cartoon

“The Poland-Belarus Border Match”

Zoe Marsh

The BirdFeed, South Forsyth High School



Judge's Comments:

“Powerful illustration. Clear statement, good planning, quality drawing!”

Sports Photograph

“Destiny has arrived”

Annika Pepepr
The Prowler, Starr’s Mill High School



Annika Pepper

Seniors Ryder Wagenknecht (left) and Chay Yeager (right) celebrate atop a dogpile at the end of the AAAAA state championship game against the Loganville Red Devils. Against a Loganville team vying for their fourth consecutive state title, the Panthers outplayed the Red Devils in two tight games to sweep Loganville 1-0 and 4-2 to win the state championship. This win was the first time Starr's Mill has ever won the state championship. "It's been a long time since I've been wanting one of these," Yeager said. "We've earned it." Next year, Wagenknecht will play at Flagler College and Yeager will play at Wofford College.

Judge's Comments:

“This image shows pure joy - a season’s worth of hard work has paid off and Annika Pepper was ready to document it. Strong moment, lots of faces to study and a controlled background make this work well. The other Superiors all had good moments that were tight and clean, as well.”

News Photograph

“Getting Vaccinated”

Melanie Frick
Cedar BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



GETTING VACCINATED: Junior Megan Wise gets her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from nurse Marty Woods at the Cedar Shoals vaccination drive on October 20. Photo by Melanie Frick.

Judge’s Comments:

“The winning entry was a clean composition, well controlled and it has a moment to it. Entrants in this category struggled with defining what was a news photograph, we think. There were almost no true moments, very few interactions and there wasn’t a sense of storytelling here. We recommend students study news images from the wire.”

Feature/Entertainment Photograph

“Black History”

Zaria Byers
The Pitchfork, Marietta High School



Judge's Comments:

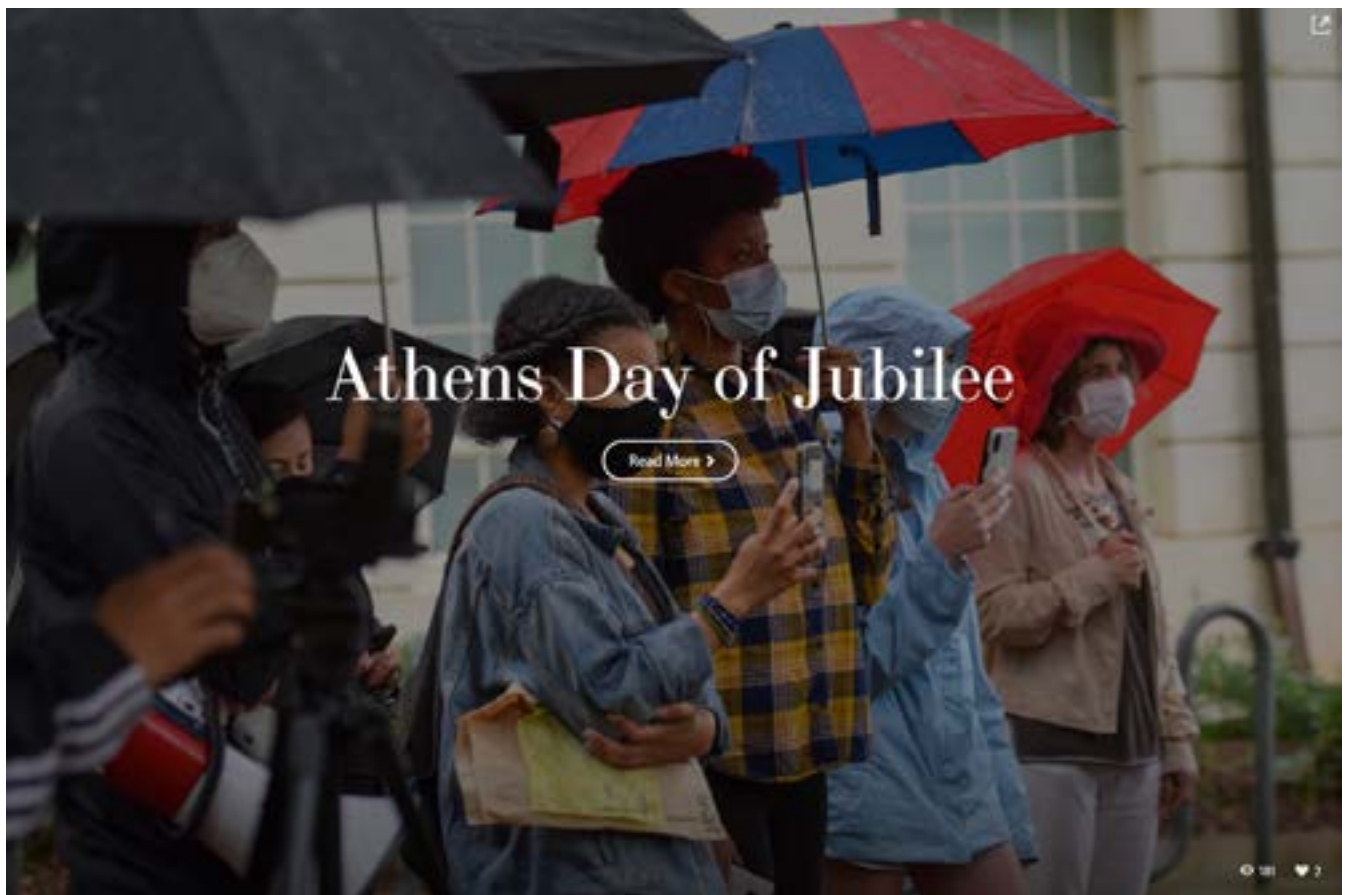
“Zaria Byers’ image stood out because of the genuine emotion and natural layering it showed. There was a clear center of interest in the dancers up front and the engaged crowd behind them gave a strong sense of place. The other winning entries also displayed a strong visual hierarchy, a key to successful photographs.”

Photo Essay

“Athens Day of Jubilee”

Luna Reichert,
Audrey Enghauser,
Nico Willman and
Jaydon Dennis

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School



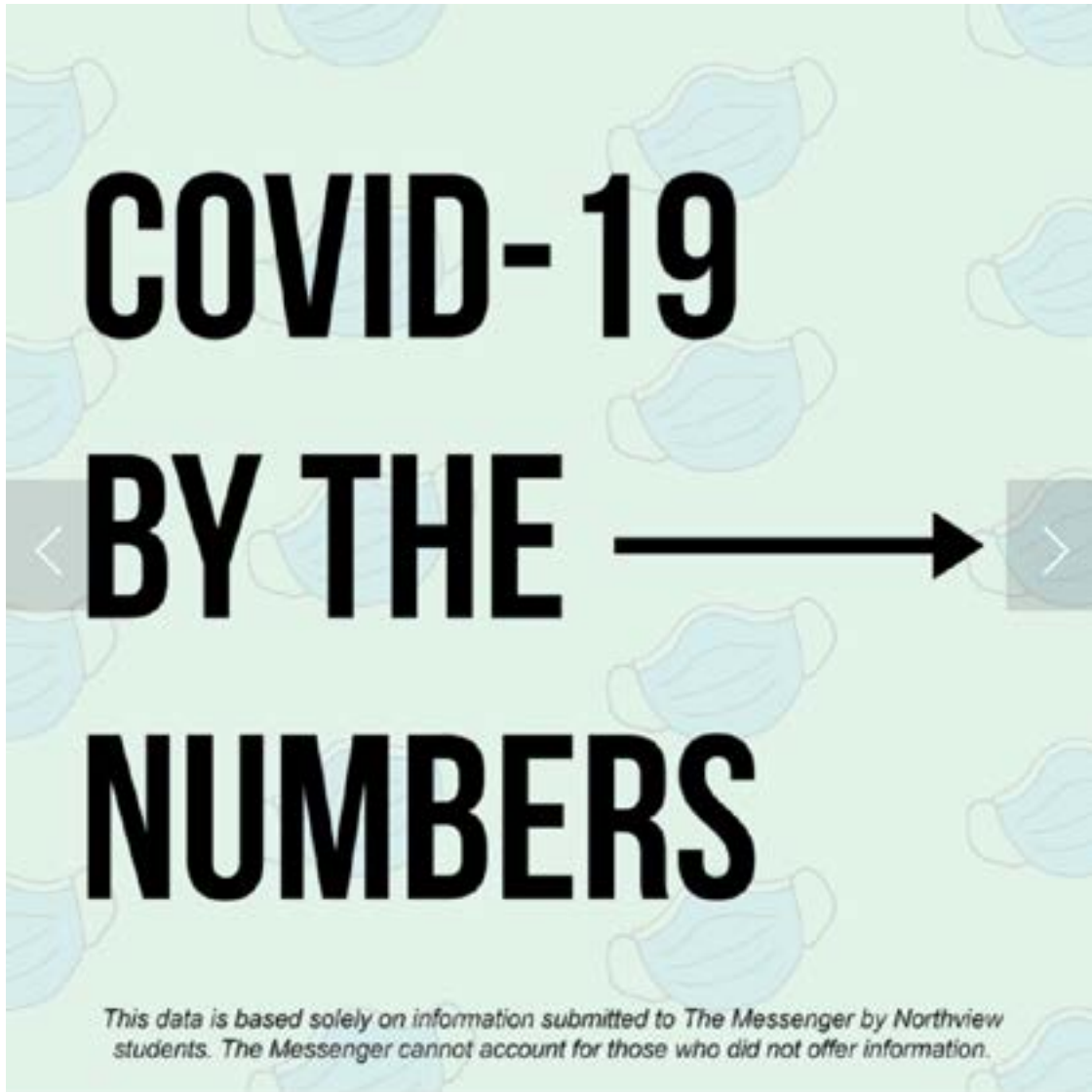
Judge's Comments:

“The winner was a set of well composed, well controlled images that covered the breadth of this event. Compositions were clean and varied, moving the viewer around the place so they would have a deeper understanding of the day. Each image was well controlled with a clear center of interest. The Superior entry showed strong consistency.”

Information Graphic

“Return to Remote Learning”

Disha Kumar
The Messenger, Northview High School



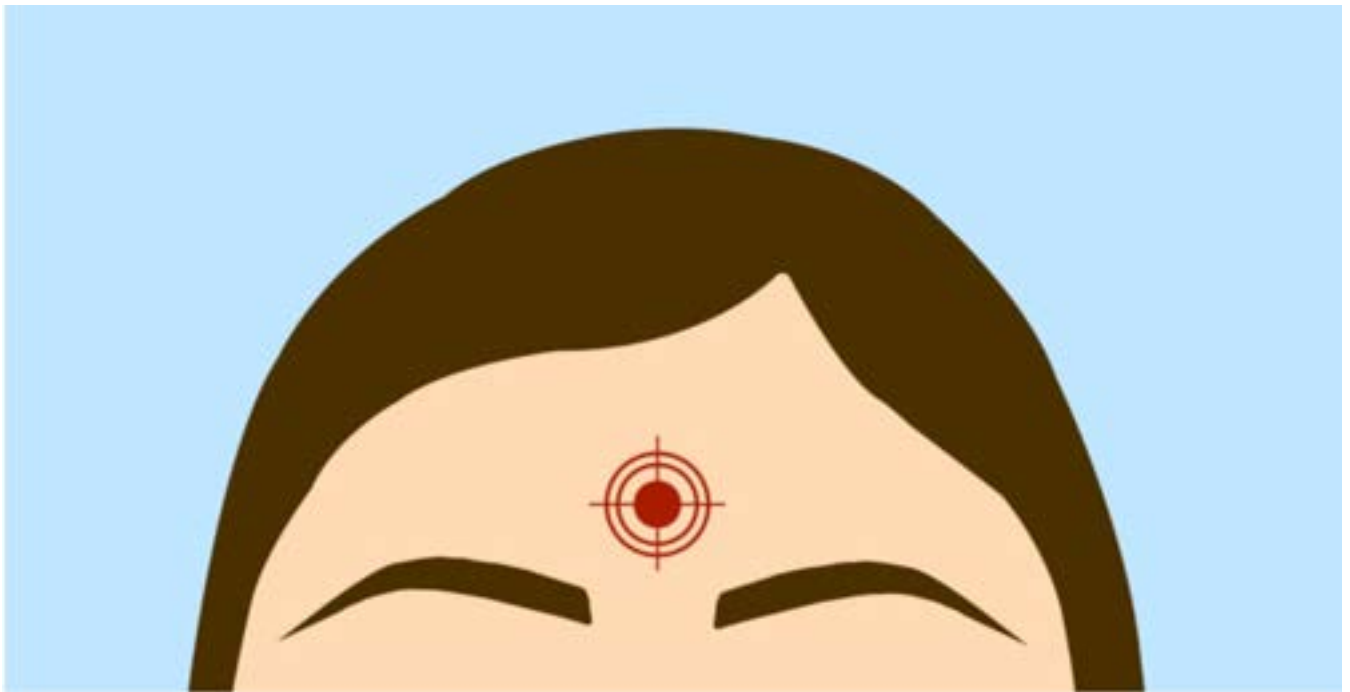
Judge's Comments:

“In depth look at all circumstances surrounding the Covid situation. Student stats included as well.”

Illustration

“Red Dot”

Disha Kumar
The Messenger, Northview High School



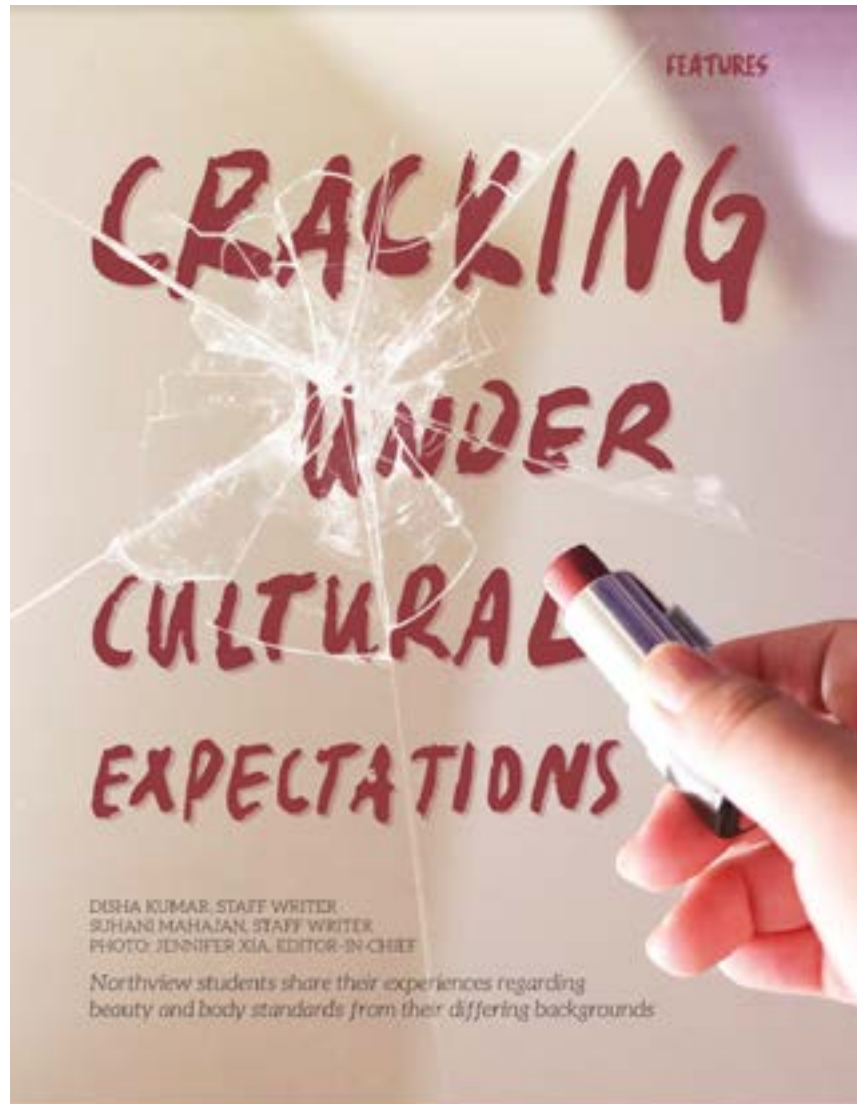
Judge's Comments:

“Powerful illustration that perfectly reflects the article. Well done!!”

Photo Illustration

“Cracking Under Cultural Expectations”

Melissa Liu and Jennifer Xia
The Messenger, Northview High School



Judge's Comments:

“The consistent use of color in this illustration stood out quickly. It was polished, clean and not overthought – sometimes, a minimalist approach is best and this is a good example of that. A good illustration needs to communicate quickly and efficiently, it should answer more questions than it asks and this does just that.”

Double-Truck Layout/Design

“Carrying the Community”

Naomi Henderson

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

By Naomi Henderson
March 12, 2020

COVID-19 has impacted different Athens communities and sectors in different ways, and a network of support from the ACC government, community members, businesses and other organizations has offered assistance.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Athens landscape and many industries, as well as historically marginalized communities, have struggled to make ends meet due to lost income and decreased engagement in the economy.

In March 2020, the Atlanta-based ACC government passed a resolution that recognized the profound economic threat facing the Athens region for several months and offered funds to most businesses in the city. In the past year, the loss of income for many businesses and the impact on their employees has led to the community not being able to return to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity. Businesses have lost a lot of money and are in a dire financial state, and a new reality is being created.

“From March 12, 2020, the economy of Athens has been in a state of economic crisis through a lot of different means, people and services,” Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Heather Smith said. “Businesses are not only struggling with cash flow, but they’re also struggling with the loss of customers, employees, and the ability to pay their bills. The economy is in a state of crisis, and it’s not just the businesses that are struggling, it’s the people who work for them, too.”

In April 2020, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp passed a state-wide emergency law that allowed all businesses to receive financial assistance. However, only businesses with an annual revenue of less than \$1 million were eligible to receive the assistance. This meant that many small businesses, which are the backbone of the local economy, were not eligible for the assistance. The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce has been working to help these businesses and their employees in a variety of ways, including providing financial assistance, offering legal advice, and providing other resources. The chamber has also been working to help businesses and their employees understand the state’s emergency law and how to apply for assistance. The chamber has also been working to help businesses and their employees understand the state’s emergency law and how to apply for assistance.



Judge's Comments:

“A clean and effective doubletruck highlighted by the use of a solid, street-level view of East Clayton Street. The page has solid page construction and the use of cutouts (while not perfect) lead to another visual moment on the pages.”

Advertising Design

“Promotional Posters”

Eva Orbock

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Poster designs for the

ODYSSEY MEDIA GROUP



These posters were designed for as promotional materials for the ODYSSEY Media Group. The ODYSSEY is a student-produced newsmagazine and online publication, published with the intent to inform, entertain and give voice to the Clarke Central High School community, as well as to educate student journalists.

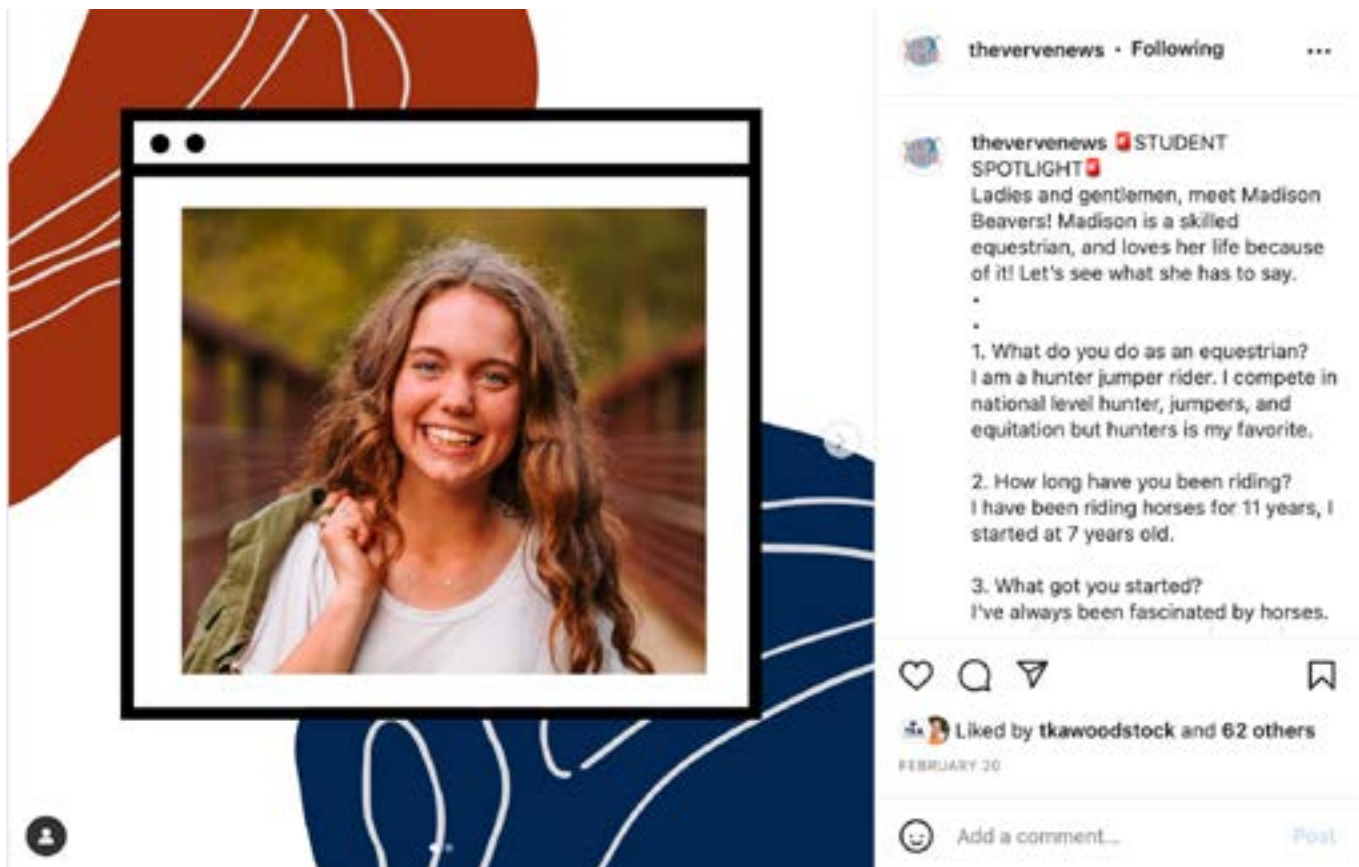
Judge's Comments:

“Colorful, vibrant and matches the theme established by the Odyssey Media Group. The posters have strong photography, clean headlines that do not distract the reader and are on point with the overall message.”

Social Media Storytelling

“Madison Beavers Student Spotlight”

Claire Shirley
The Verve, The King’s Academy



Judge’s Comments:

“Focused, comprehensive story told through strong interviewing.”

Social Media Breaking News

“COVID-19”

Melissa Liu

The Messenger, Northview High School

COVID-19 Updates on Instagram and Facebook Stories

M

COVID-19

There are currently 4 confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Northview, said Principal Brian Downey. An estimated 150 other individuals have been in direct contact with COVID-19 positive individuals via classes, buses, and athletic teams.

M

COVID-19

Masks will be optional at Northview starting Wednesday, Oct. 27 based on Johns Creek's rate of infection dropping below 100 per 100,000 residents in two consecutive epidemiology reports.

Mask wearing will still be required on buses.

M

COVID-19

[FULTONSCHOOLS.AZ1QUALTRICS.COM](https://www.fultonschools.org/az1qualtrics.com)

Parents should submit a COVID-19 report using the link above if their student meets one or more of the following criteria:

- a) Has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 15 days.*
- b) Has been in close contact (within 6 ft for at least 15 min) in the past 15 days with a COVID-19 positive individual from outside of school.*
- c) Currently waiting for the results of a test for COVID-19 and/or reporting a pending test result.*

M

COVID-19

On Monday Jan. 10, FCS will return to face-to-face instruction.

Masks will be required indoors through Jan. 21.

Anyone who tests positive must isolate at home for 5 days. After the 5-day isolation period, asymptomatic students can return to school as long as they continue to wear a mask for 5 additional days. Anyone exhibiting symptoms, even beyond the 5-day isolation period, must remain home.

You do not need to wait for the Response Team or a School Nurse to contact you to return to school after completing the isolation period.

Judge's Comments:

“Timely posts with information pertinent to ALL students.”

Social Media Promotion

“Black History Month Promotion”

Zaria Byers
The Pitchfork, Marietta High School



Judge's Comments:

“Comprehensive & thorough coverage of Black history month. The variety of content was refreshing.”

Emerging Media

“Nik Bruckman: Future Gamer”

Maddie Shaw
The Southerner, Midtown High School

Nik Bruckman: Future Gamer



Maddie Shaw

September 29, 2021

Junior Nik Bruckman hopes to become a professional gamer. Having already broken many records, Bruckman has established himself in the gaming field. Under his gaming organization, G-Haven, Bruckman has gained new followers and skills.

Judge's Comments:

“Quality interviewing and inclusion of multiple sources that provide a full picture to the audience. Well-crafted transitions by reporter to help propel the story.”

Social Justice Reporting

“Dress code movement pushes for reform”

Caroline Hubbard
The Prowler, Starr’s Mill High School

Dress code movement pushes for reform

Caroline Hubbard, Editor-in-Chief | October 20, 2021



Photo via Instagram (@chngethedresscode)

Fayette County students protest the dress code in front of the October 18 Fayette County Board of Education meeting. During the public comment portion of the meeting, students from four of five county high schools spoke regarding how the dress code sexualizes women and encourages rape culture.

Judge’s Comments:

“This story gives a good summation about what is going on right now and what next action steps can take place.”

COVID-19 Reporting

“Distrust causes low vaccination rates”

Lilly McGreevy
BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



DECISIONS, DECISIONS: The decision to get the COVID-19 vaccine is unfortunately complicated. Distrust in government and misinformation can influence people to not get the vaccine. Perla Garfias-Solorzano explains that past events make her and some of her peers weary of the vaccine. "I feel like many people of a minority don't really trust the government because of the past and how poorly they were treated. Like lynching, random acts of violence towards them, they would be arrested for no reason, just because of ethnicity, race, all of that," Garfias-Solorzano said. Artwork by Ava Maddox.

Features

Distrust causes low vaccination rates

Judge's Comments:

“Good reporting captures multiple perspectives and regularly asks how somebody arrived at that viewpoint. This story does that multiple times in a way that helps the reader understand a complex issue.”

2021 Summer Award Winners

LITERARY MAGAZINE

Poem

All-Georgia: Mira Eashwaren, "Rafters",
The Globe, Milton High School
Superiors: Salai Diekumpuna,
"What Do You Go By", iIiad,
Clarke Central High School
Aanika Eragam, "Ghost Girl",
The Globe, Milton High School

Short Story

All-Georgia: Maret McWhorter, "Lay your Ghosts to
Rest", The Globe, Milton High School
Superiors: Mai Pamor, "A Soulmate that wasn't meant
to be", Musings, Starrs Mill High School,
Natalie Schliekelman, "The Library", iIiad,
Clarke Central High School

Artwork

All-Georgia: Nicole Croom, "Tension", Echo,
North Springs High School
Superiors: Jerian Brown, "Static", iIiad,
Clarke Central High School,
Zoe Atlow, "Blinded by Truth", The Globe,
Milton High School

Photograph

All-Georgia: Amanda Ochieng,
"Sea Nettle", iIiad, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: Maddie Loud, "Rainy Amusement", The Valiant,
Saint Francis High School, Ori Gal, "Landscape(Lake Clara
Meer)", Echo, North Springs High School

Cover Design

All-Georgia: Lillian Sams, "Okeanos",
iIiad, Clarke Central High School

Spread Design

All-Georgia: Natalie Ripps and Lucy Hines, "Black Eyed Su-
sans", iIiad, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: Natalie Ripps and Lucy Hines, "Hypnosis",
iIiad, Clarke Central High School, Aanika Eragam, "Spread
Design", The Globe, Milton High School

Summer 2021 General Excellence

LITERARY MAGAZINE

Excellent

Chrysalis, Chattahoochee High School
VOX, Roswell High School
The Globe, Milton High School
Towodi, Mill Creek High School

Superior

Inkslinger, Darlington School
iIiad, Clarke Central High School
Musings, Starr's Mill High School

All-Georgia

Inkslinger, Darlington School and
iIiad, Clarke Central High School

YEARBOOK

Excellent

LMS Yearbook, Loganville Middle School
The Crest, The King's Acaemy
Tiger, Dawson County High School
Archive, Thompson High School

YEARBOOK (continued)

Excellent

Orator, Midtown High School
The Bulldog, Forsyth Central High School

Superior

The Indian, Towns County High School
Legend, Tallulah Falls School
Jabberwokk, Darlington School
The Guidon, Marist School
Argus, Lumpkin County High School
Lacedaemon, South Paulding High School
SAGA, Druid Hills High School
Golden Memories, Fayette County High School
Olympian, Greater Atlanta Christian School
The Legend, McIntosh High School
High Tide, Glynn Academy
The Lynx, Westminster Schools
Panorama, Winder-Barrow High School
Cutlass, Habersham Central High School
Olympian, Marietta High School
The Legend, Walton High School
Accipitier, Mill Creek High School

YEARBOOK OVERALL

Middle School Winner

LMS Yearbook,
Loganville Middle School

Small School Winner

Legend,
Tallulah Falls School

Medium School

The Legend,
McIntosh High School

Large School

Cutlass,
Habersham Central High School

All-Georgia

Cutlass,
Habersham Central High School

2021 Summer Award Winners

YEARBOOK

Social Justice Reporting

All-Georgia: Isabella Hughes, “I Would Walk 500 Miles”, Saga, Druid Hills High School
Superiors: London Whilby, “Restless Until Results”, The Legend, McIntosh High School
Natalie Spellman, Summer McDow, Grant White “It’s Never Too Late To Change”, The Legend, McIntosh High School

COVID-19 Reporting

All-Georgia: Ivey Smathers and Anna Evans, “Mask me Anything”, The Crest, The King’s Academy
Superiors: Mackenzie Simon, “Covid Vaccine”, The Legend, McIntosh High School; Staff, “Dear Covid”, The Crest, The King’s Academy

Yearbook Story

All-Georgia: Mackenzie Simon, “Framing Our Inspirations”, The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superiors: Gavin Lucas, “Just Dance”, The Crest, The King’s Academy
Emma Bellantoni, “One Step Forward Two Back”, The Legend, McIntosh High School

Special Interest Story

All-Georgia: Anna Evans, “Lessons Learned”, The Crest, The King’s Academy
Superiors: Annabel Le, “Profile on Samira Butts”, The Olympian, Marietta High School;
Mackenzie Simon, “Here Today Gone Tomorrow”, The Legend, McIntosh High School

News Photography

All-Georgia: Jayli Waznik, “Splash Lab”, The Crest, The King’s Academy
Superiors: Meg Robinson, “DeUna Ellis Speaks at Winter Graduation”, The Olympian, Marietta High School;
Grant White, “It’s Never Too Late To Change”, The Legend, McIntosh High School

Feature Photography

All-Georgia: Yasmine Leonard, “Victoria Allen”, The Olympian, Marietta High School
Superiors: Zoe Singleton and Ethan Fossan, “CTAE Spread”, The Tiger, Dawson County High School
Maya Yim, “Social Influence”, The Crest, The King’s Academy

Sports Photography

All-Georgia: Holden Looper, “Varsity Basketball”, The Crest, The King’s Academy
Superiors: Meg Robinson, “McKaela Walker”, The Olympian, Marietta High School;
Emma Bellantoni, “Slam Down”, The Legend, McIntosh High School

Portrait Photography

All-Georgia: Dolly Thomas, “If you Mask Me”, The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superiors: Rebekah Bushmire, “From Here It’s Possible”, The Legend, McIntosh High School;
London Whilby, “Swim in the Fast Lane”, The Legend, McIntosh High School

Photo Essay

All-Georgia: Tiffany Robertson, “Life is a Highway...Meet My Car”, The Crest, The King’s Academy
Superiors: Mabry Looper, “Battle of the Houses”, The Crest, The King’s Academy
Amani Tillman, “Anonymous Play”, The Olympian, Marietta High School

Information Graphic

All-Georgia: Charley Roness and Gavin Lucas, “The Race to 270”, The Crest, The King’s Academy
Superiors: Rylie Livingston and True Youngblood, “Fine Arts”, The Indian, Towns County High School;
Carmella Niedzwiecki, “Fast Facts about the Vaccines”, The Legend, McIntosh High School

Photo Illustration

All-Georgia: Sydney Robinson, “Kamari Miller”, The Olympian, Marietta High School
Superior: Jessie Overstreet, “Spring Division”, The Bulldog, Forsyth Central High School

Spread Design

All-Georgia: Jessie Overstreet, “Table of Contents”, The Bulldog, Forsyth Central High School
Superiors: Yasmine Leonard, “JV and Freshman Cheer: Scream and Shout”, The Olympian, Marietta High School;
Mai Lim, “Our Memorable Moments”, The Indian, Towns County High School;
Kinsey Kunkel, “Two Truths and a Lie”, The Crest, The King’s Academy

Cover Design

All-Georgia: Sydney Robinson, “Here and Now”, The Olympian, Marietta High School
Superiors: Staff, “Saga”, Saga, Druid Hills High School;
Cory Clowe-Hinton, “Behind The Mask”, Phalanx, North Springs High School

Theme Development

All-Georgia: Sydney Robinson, “Here and Now”, The Olympian, Marietta High School
Superiors: Staff, “Shine Your Light”, The Indian, Towns County High School;
Staff, “Imprint”, The Crest, The King’s Academy

Social Media Storytelling

All-Georgia: Amanda Ochieng, “In a Cowboy Hat”, Iliad, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: Staff, “Info Meeting Story”, The Crest, The King’s Academy
Salai Diekumpuna, “What Do You Go By”, Iliad, Clarke Central High School

Social Media Promotion

All-Georgia: Amani Tillman, “Olympian Instagram”, The Olympian, Marietta High School
Superiors: Veronica Kogan, “Join Echo”, Echo, North Springs High School
Maya Yim, “Distribution News”, The Crest, The King’s Academy

Emerging Media

All-Georgia: Stella Roden, “What’s your sign (Virtual Art Show)”, Echo Literary Magazine, North Springs High School
Superior: “A Short Melody (Sheet Music)”, Sola Ishibashi, Iliad, Clarke Central High School

2021-22 Spring Award Winners

BROADCAST

News Package

All-Georgia: "Football Production Team," Abbey Duke, Live @ 1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School

Superiors: "Counseling office opens new clothes closet," Ruby Calkin and Aissatou Sarr, WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School; "GAC Theatre Presents "Anastasia," Faye Li, Khariss Bender, Alex Marler, Live @ 1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School

In-depth News Story

All-Georgia "Sonny Melton's Story," Kara Newstreet, Live @ 1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School

Superiors: "USPS: The Ever Changing Dynamics," Rohan Movva, The Golden Lion, East Homestead Academy; "Legacy of the Atlanta Braves," Daisy Strine, Andrew Hathaway Live @ 1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School

Feature Package

All-Georgia: "30x30: restoring green spaces to Athens," Violet Calkin, WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School
Superiors: "Long Beach Expressions," Evan Dewey and ENN S9 Staff, Eagle News Network, Riverside Military Academy; "Think Before You Move," Melanie Frick and Lilly McGreevy, WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School

Production

All-Georgia: "Sports and Arts Segment Openers," Alex Marler and Faye Li, Live @ 1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School

Superiors: "Commercial: Chess Club," ENN S7 Staff, Eagle News Network, Riverside Military Academy; "Black and White: Sunken Galleon Reveal," Morgan Gosdin, The Verve, The King's Academy

Sports Package

All-Georgia: "Preparations underway for baseball season," Alexander Holland, WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School

Superiors: "Girls' Basketball Season Preview," Timika Scarlett, Live @ 1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School; "RMA Athletics S9 E1," Savon Astrel and Armand La Douceur, Eagle News Network, Riverside Military Academy

Podcast

All-Georgia: "This I Believe: Antonio Starks," Antonio Starks, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Superiors: "Beyond the Curtain: The Future of the US Economy and who Assassinated it?," Rohan Movva, The Golden Lion, East Homestead Academy; "News Flash: Homecoming Titans," Grace Yang and Orelia Thottam, The Messenger, Northview High School

NEWSMAGAZINE, NEWSPAPER, NEWS WEBSITE

News Story

All-Georgia: "Local educators protest anti-critical race theory resolution," Savannah Duncan-Barnett, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Superiors: "Right to pads" Ikeoluwa Ojo, Blue Prints, Cedar Shoals High School; "Sixteen Families Sue FCS Over Mask Mandate" Suhani Mahajan, The Messenger, Northview High School; "Devious Licks Tik Tok Challenge Hits NSHS "Emily Papeaux, Mairén Brown, Roman Morris, Christopher Alvear Ochoa, The Oracle, North Springs High School

In-Depth News Story

All-Georgia: "CCSD bus drivers cooperate and sacrifice to transport students," Jackie Wright, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Superiors: "Behavioral screener raises concerns" Ava Smith, The Southerner, Midtown High School; "Neutral Necessities," Sofia Balsamo, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Growing Gifted: CCSD Program Evolves to Become More Inclusive," Melanie Frick, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Feature Story

All-Georgia: "Alum makes artistic comeback to new library," Lindsay Ruhl, The Southerner, Midtown High School

Superiors: "The Dead Rise in Athens," Ava Maddox, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; "Senior Heisler connects with half-siblings," Stella Mackler, The Southerner, Midtown High School; "No Escape: Arezoo Wakili on Her Life in Afghanistan," Jordyn Mobley, The Trail, McIntosh High School;

"Senior Stroppel excels on big stage, small screen," Alannah Edwards, The Southerner, Midtown High School

Feature Profile

All-Georgia: "Alum Forman portrays father in 'Son of the South'," Sayan Sonnad-Joshi, The Southerner, Midtown High School

Superiors: "Hustling Heredia," Kira Law, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; "Thomas Barbershop's Tremendous Tale," "Odhiambo's Odyssey," Isabella Morgan, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; "Freedom in Creation," Natalie Schliekelman, ODYSSEY, Clarke Central High School

Column Writing

All-Georgia: "Letter from the Editor," Audrey Enghausser, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: "Boiling Point," Chloe Sears, ODYSSEY Media Group Clarke Central High School; "Letter from the Editor," Naomi Hendershot, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Opposing Viewpoints Column

All-Georgia: "Should Buckhead become its own city?," Katie Sigal and Aran Sonnad-Joshi, The Southerner, Midtown High School

Superiors: "Head to Head: Valentine's Day," Lilli Sams and Owen Donnelly, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Cancel Culture: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly," Courtney Suber and Veronica Kogan, The Oracle, North Springs High School

House Editorials

All-Georgia "Our Take," Staff, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Superiors: "More out-of-zone students should be allowed to attend Midtown," Marcus Johnson, The Southerner, Midtown High School; "Staff Editorial: Texas Senate Bill 8" Staff, The Messenger, Northview High School

Commentary

All-Georgia: "The World is Crumbling: Why Even Apply?," Violet Calkin, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School
Superiors: "The Ramirez Resolu-

tion,” Isaac Ramirez, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; “My Dark Truth: Navigating a Color-Struck World,” Ikeoluwa Ojo, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; “Forsyth County’s Book Banning: A Momentous Step in the Wrong Direction?,” Shruti Nemala, The Speculator, Chattahoochee High School

Critical Review

All-Georgia: “Easy on Me,” Isabella Westrich, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Superiors: “How to ruin a series in one prequel or less,” Mary Davis, The Prowler, Starr’s Mill High School “Look on the BRIGHTSIDE,” Wyatt Meyer, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School “Food Review: Gao Fresh Noodle,” Disha Kumar, The Messenger, Northview High School

Sports News Story

All-Georgia: “Slow decline of football at Midtown” Cole Parker and Duncan Tanner, The Southerner, Midtown High School

Superiors: “Pre-Season Madness,” Lucas Donnelly, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; “Injuries hamper Lady Jags softball season,” Gabriel Holcomb, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; “TKA hires new Assistant Athletic Director,” Matthew Iredale, The Verve, The King’s Academy

Sports Game Coverage

All-Georgia: “Blue Devils crush McEachern High in rival game,” Ella Chesney, The Pitchfork, Marietta High School

Superiors: “Jags clinch playoff spot in 27-20 win over Chestatee,” Gabriel Holcomb, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School, “Cedar Shoals drop third consecutive Classic City Championship 42-21” Jacob Weiszer, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Sports Feature Story

All-Georgia: “Slamming the Standard,” Megan Wise, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School *Superiors:* From Whit to Wofford,” Jacob Weiszer, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; “School record holder Brown returns

as assistant coach,” Archer Strelman, The Southerner, Midtown High School

Sports Column

All-Georgia: “At long last, Dawgs on top,” Jacob Weiszer, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Superiors: “Prioritizing New Players,” Isabella Baker-Johnson, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; “Reclaiming Power,” Gretchen Hinger, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Headline Writing

All-Georgia: “Can’t repeat the past? Why of course you can!” Joslyn Webb, The Prowler Starr’s Mill High School *Superiors:* “Cracking Under Cultural Expectations,” Suhani Mahajan The Messenger, Northview High School; “Great! Now My Food has Covid,” Winfred Odhiambo, The Oracle, North Springs High School; “She Wears Short Skirts, He Wears T-shirts- Men’s vs women’s sports uniforms” Krysta Schwab, The Sting, Roswell High School

Caption Writing

All-Georgia: Jenny Loveland and Elijah Pacis, The Chant, North Cobb High School

Superiors: Chloe Preston, The Verve, The King’s Academy; Erinn Gardner, The Chant, North Cobb High School

Editorial Cartoon

All-Georgia: “The Poland-Belarus Border Match,” Zoe Marsh, The BirdFeed, South Forsyth High School

Superiors: ““#trending,” Zoe Marsh, The BirdFeed, South Forsyth High School; “Only MHS students would understand” Kate Williamson, The Pitchfork, Marietta High School

Sports Photograph

All-Georgia: “Destiny has arrived,” Annika Pepper The Prowler, Starr’s Mill High School *Superiors:* “Off-Court Comrades,” Nakia Harmon, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School; “On the mat,” Megan Wise, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; “Holding On”, Lucas Donnelly, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

News Photograph

All-Georgia: “Getting Vaccinated,” Melanie Frick, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Feature/Entertainment Photograph

All-Georgia: “Black History,” Zaria Byers, The Pitchfork, Marietta High School *Superiors:* “At Home in the Theater,” Aza Khan, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; “Arana’s art club arrives, astounding attendees,” Jenny Loveland, The Chant, North Cobb High School; “Crossing Generations,” Rebekah Bushmire, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School

Photo Essay

All-Georgia: “Athens Day of Jubilee” Luna Reichert, Audrey Enghauser, Nico Willman and Jaydon Dennis, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School *Superiors:* “Tatted Up,” Ikeoluwa Ojo and Zaya Roberson, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Information Graphic

All-Georgia: “Return to Remote Learning,” Disha Kumar, The Messenger, Northview High School *Superiors:* “Balancing the Scales for Women in the Workforce,” Saanvi Tatipalli, The BirdFeed, South Forsyth High School; “Calling the Shots,” Melissa Liu, Rachel Everett, Cameron Chappell The Messenger, Northview High School; “Representing the Roots” Ren Lloyd, The Chant, North Cobb High School

Illustration

All-Georgia: “Red Dot,” Disha Kumar, The Messenger, Northview High School *Superiors:* “Fallen Arch,” Eva Lucero, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; “Christianity elevates women as priceless image-bearers of God,” Sarah Evans, The Verve, The King’s Academy

Photo Illustration

All-Georgia: “Cracking Under Cultural Expectations,” Melissa Liu and Jennifer Xia, The Messenger, Northview High School *Superiors:* “Peaks and Mounds: Georgia’s Top Hiking Spots,” Peyton Stack, The Chant, North Cobb High School

Double-Truck Layout/Design

All-Georgia: "Carrying the Community," Naomi Henderson, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: "Social Media," Lillian Salter, Pitchfork, Marietta High School;
"The Secret Life of Pets at Northview," Disha Kumar, The Messenger, Northview High School

Advertising Design

All-Georgia "Promotional Posters" Eva Orbock, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: "Maji," Melissa Liu, The Messenger, Northview High School

Social Media Storytelling

All-Georgia: "Madison Beavers Student Spotlight," Claire Shirley, The Verve, The King's Academy

Social Media Breaking News

All-Georgia: "COVID-19," Melissa Liu, The Messenger, Northview High School
Superiors: "Breaking News: Return to virtual learning," Audrey Enghauser,

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Sports Game Scores," Staff," The Messenger, Northview High School

Social Media Promotion

All-Georgia: "Black History Month Promotion," Zaria Byers, Pitchfork Marietta High School
Superiors: "The Oracle Wants You!," Ansley Bokath, Abby Simon, Phoenix Riviera, Mairan Brown, The Oracle, North Springs High School;
"Seniors Coverage," Melissa Liu, The Messenger, Northview High School

Emerging Media

All-Georgia: "Nik Bruckman: Future Gamer," Maddie Shaw, The Southerner, Midtown High School
Superiors: "Am I Indian enough? The toxicity of gatekeeping in the Indian community," Naisha Roy and Sahithya Gutta, The BirdFeed, South Forsyth High School; "City rejoices over historic Braves World Series Win", Ava Smith and Stella Mackler, The Southerner, Midtown High School.

Social Justice Reporting

All-Georgia: "Dress code movement pushes for reform," Caroline Hubbard, The Prowler, Starr's Mill High School
Superiors: "Georgia High School Students Suspended for Protesting Confederate Propaganda," Laurel Davis, The Sting, Roswell High School;
"Abolitionist teaching brings a new perspective to education" Lilly McGreevy, BluePrints; "Blinding America: Race and Gender Theory," Ren Lloyd, The Chant, North Cobb High School

COVID-19 Reporting

All-Georgia: "Distrust causes low vaccination rates," Lilly McGreevy, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School
Superiors: "Next Semester and COVID-19," Ella Grace Dunn, The Forum, The Paideia School; "Calling The Shots," Melissa Liu, Rachel Everett, Cameron Chappell, The Messenger, Northview High School; "Tracing Trials," Jackie Wright, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Spring 2022 General Excellence

BROADCAST

Superior: Vervecast!, The King's Academy; Live@1575, Greater Atlanta Christian; Eagle News Network, Riverside Military Academy**

NEWSPAPER

Achievement: The Forum, The Paideia School; The Warrior Wire, North Atlanta High School
Excellent: The Liberty Bell, Mount Pisgah Christian School
Superior, The Verve, The King's Academy*; Green and Gold, Wesleyan School; The Spotlight, Druid Hills High School; Midtown High School***, The Pitchfork*, Marietta High School

NEWSMAGAZINE

Superior: BluePrints Magazine, Cedar Shoals High School; ODYSSEY Media Group**, Clarke Central High School; The Speculator, Chattahoochee High School

NEWS WEBSITE

Achievement: The Verve News, The King's Academy; The Sting, Roswell High School; The Warrior Wire, North Atlanta High School
Excellent: The Oracle, North Springs High School; The Speculator: Vision, Chattahoochee High School; The BirdFeed, South Forsyth High School
Superior: BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; The Prowler, Starr's Mill High School; The Southerner, Midtown High School; McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School; The Messenger, Northview High School; ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School***; The Chant, North Cobb High School*

*General Excellence Recognition

** General Excellence & All-Georgia Recognition



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Adviser of the Year recognizes a journalism adviser who goes beyond the “call of duty” in supporting his or her staff.

Winner: Shanon Woolf, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School

The **Perseverance Award** recognizes a staff or member that has overcome significant adversity to put out a quality product or who has overcome many obstacles to report on an important issue.

Winner: Julia DePasquale, LGBTQ+ At Marietta, Pitchfork, Marietta High School

The **Enterprising Award** recognizes a student who achieves success in publishing significant, quality journalistic work outside of school in local, regional or national outlets.

Winner: Violet Calkin, BluePrints Magazine, Cedar Shoals High School

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Winner: Melissa Liu, The Messenger, Northview High School, co-editor-in-chief

Liu was also named one of four runners-up in the Journalism Education Association’s national Journalist of the Year contest. Liu received a plaque and a \$1,000 monetary award, supported by the Carolyn McKenzie and Don E. Carter Chair for Excellence in Journalism at the University of Georgia Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Runner-Up: Audrey Enghauser, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School



JUNIOR JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Winner: Melanie Frick, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Runner-Up: Kaija Gilbertson-Hall, iliad literary-art magazine, Clarke Central High School



FIRST AMENDMENT ESSAY CONTEST

Winner: Courtney Suber, Oracle, North Springs High School

Second Place: Sarah Meiselman, Oracle, North Springs High School

Third Place: Riley Ramsey, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

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