

Overall Newspaper (full size)

Superior EMPEHI News, Morgan Park High School

There is a lot – A LOT – to read in this newspaper. The staff has tackled an extremely difficult issue, the principal search at the school, with professionalism, thoroughness and accuracy: The result is an excellent page 1 article. In the same issue are a localization of a Tribune story about how Chicago Public Schools students fare in college; a news story – not the typical opinion piece – on tardy punishment at Morgan Park; another, more speculative article about the possibility of a uniform requirement at Morgan Park; and a nothing-held-back story focused on delays and skepticism in regard to renovation at the school. Excellent reporting and writing; good design, nice headline size and variety, generally good use of photos and artwork. To improve: Use some larger photos on inside pages (along the same lines as the main photo on page 1). Keep up the good work on content. Congratulations!



Superior The Warrior, Lane Tech

Good writing and reporting, good story ideas – particularly the page 1 story about the possibility of a teacher strike, a community-type story on the closing of a nearby police station, a feature on light skin/dark skin and a feature on Lane’s haunted basement. Good work on a difficult and sensitive story about the death of a recent alum, although outsiders might question the decision to make the story the lead article for the issue.



In general:

Any page should have a dominant photo to clearly establish its design focal point. Many pages have photos that need to be larger.

Vary headline sizes.

Body type is quite small. Consider a step up of a point or even a half-point.

Avoid cutout photos – such as the one used with the story on the overweight student or the one on caffeine addiction.

Overall Newspaper (full size)

Excellent
The Beacon, Whitney Young

The big plus in this newspaper is its comprehensive content: There’s the usual coverage of school life but also a hard-hitting story on the pros and cons of the proposed extended school day. I like the fact that there’s a politics page (rarely seen in school papers) as well as a “city page.”

To continue to improve, the next step will be to improve the paper’s overall look by:

- Varying headline size. Avoiding using headlines in color.
- Watch out for butting headlines (see page 3).
- Noticing things like this: On one page of the issue we reviewed, three of four leads were questions, and journalists will tell you that question leads should be used as sparingly as possible.



Judge’s comments on other entries in the category:
Inscape, Mother McAuley

This is a solid newspaper that will move to the next level with a little more attention to improving and beefing up its content. While the size of the paper (12 pages) is substantial, the focus is on features and opinion, with somewhat limited news of the school.

In addition:

- Don’t forget the local angle: The lack of one in the Honor Flight story was conspicuous.
- Generally, don’t cut out photos to use as illustrations.
- Consider using a smaller body type face.
- Generally, stick with one type face for the body type and one for head-

lines. At least three different type faces are used for headlines alone.

Keep up the good work!

The Sentinel, Marist High School

We're glad to see The Sentinel back in the McCormick Media Awards contest! The paper is attractive, with appropriate type faces used for heads and text, good photo sizes and a good start on comprehensive content. The staff tackled a difficult and sensitive story with its article on Barb Duffy and should be commended for that. Keep up good work like this.

To continue to improve, we would like to see the staff:

- Shoot for more articles that touch on issues at the school, in the community or to high school students generally. Most articles focus on events or clubs – speech team, NHS induction, French students visit, math team. Those are areas worth covering, but what are students *talking* about at Marist? We don't get a good idea.
- Vary headline sizes, depending on the importance of the story. On a two-page spread on pp. 4-5, for example, the heads are almost all the same size.
- Try for more action photos. We see many group shots and head shots, but a limited number where students are doing things.

Overall Newspaper (newsletter size)

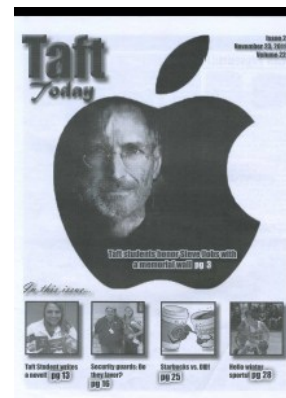
Excellent

Taft Today, William Howard Taft High School

The paper has a wide variety of content, generally fine reporting and attention to design and artwork.

To continue improving toward make this a “superior” publication:

- Avoid exclamation points in headlines. This is one form of punctuation rarely used anywhere in journalism, but especially in headlines.
- Cite sources journalistically, if you need to use published sources: “The mayor told the Chicago Tribune on June 5 ...” Do not use asterisks or footnotes in a journalistic publication.
- Rely generally on human sources or original documents – not published material.
- Consider a different type face for body copy. Sans serif is generally not used for large amount of text, as it's more difficult to read than serif type



**Overall
Layout
(full size)**

Excellent

Beacon, Whitney Young High School

A nice, clean read. Sans-serif body copy and point size are smart choices. Bylines ad folios are clearly marked. Impact font is a good choice for headlines. Good use of back page for entertainment section. Shaded boxes maintain proper margins and photo captions are readable. Issue contains a good mix of shaded text boxes and traditional stories.

Text is virtually free of widows (bad breaks at the end of a paragraph) but contains orphans (a line of text that jumps from the bottom of one column to the top of another) in several places (p.2, col.3, for example). Consider full-justified text for body copy and using more hairlines for a cleaner look. Consider more overlay headlines (p.17) and adding color tints in headlines for more contrast. Avoid “tombstone” headlines—ones that run next to each other (p.3) and remove outlines from headline text. A good headline font should stand on its own.

Excellent

EMPEHI News, Morgan Park High School

Simple, clean use of lines and text frames help give the paper a clean, streamlined, look. Margins and gutters leave plenty of room. Sans-serif font and point size are smart choices. Widows and orphans are few and far between, which is good. Attention generally paid to what’s above and below the fold. All text aligns across columns. Bylines and all jumps are clearly marked. Photos are sharp and clearly marked with captions. Photo graphics on pp. 3-4 are nice touches.

Consider varying the 5-column grid in places, and aim for full-justified body copy to give the text a cleaner look. Consider using callouts (also called pull quotes) with longer stories. The cover’s bottom rail of stories is good, but the text in the photos is virtually unreadable. Consider dummied stories with fewer jumps.

Excellent

The Sentinel, Marist High School

A roomy look and feel to this one, with plenty of white space. Nice mix of shaded text boxes, all with uniform margins. Widows (bad text breaks at the end of a paragraph) and orphans (bad text breaks or a line of text that runs from the



bottom of one column to the top of another) are virtually nonexistent, which is good. None of the stories jumps. The use of tints is also a smart idea.

Consider a sans-serif font for bold copy, eliminating italics and using hairlines to give text a more streamlined look. Unify the look and feel of all headlines, and strive for a bolder-looking byline. Consider using callouts (also called pull quotes) and drop caps for longer stories, and breaking up the 4-column grid in places for added variety.

Judge's comments on other entries in the category:

The Warrior, Lane Technical College Prep High School

Good use of rail above the flag for inside stories. Headlines and bylines are generally clear and easy to read. Good mixture of 3-, 4-, and 5-column grids. Layout on p.13 does a nice job.

Body copy point size is a wee bit small, the leading—spaces between letters and lines—isn't always uniform (pp. 10 and 11, for example). Shaded text boxes add to this problem, especially on pp. 18-19. A sans-serif font and slightly larger point size will help. Consider bolder-looking bylines, and using drop caps for longer stories. Artwork in places is pixelated (pp.45) or virtually unreadable (p.12). Consider reverse type for shaded text boxes. Choose a bolder font for teasers on the cover.

Inscape, Mother McAuley High School

Bylines are clear and easy to read. Plenty of white space for margins. The use of hairlines is a good idea. Consider a front-page "rail"—a column either left, top or bottom—that offers three or four same-sized picture boxes, each with a teaser about what's inside. Consider running the sports or arts/entertainment page on the back. Many people read newspapers from back to front.

Aim for a 4- or 5-column grid to allow more design flexibility. Choose a sans-serif font with a wee bit smaller point size for all body copy. Set paragraphs to "full justified" to give the text a cleaner, more readable look. Callouts are useful here but a bit too big.

Excellent

Taft Today, William Howard Taft High School

A nice, easy read. Stories are laid out on self-contained pages and rarely jump, which is good. Sans-serif font and point size for body copy are smart choices. Headlines and bylines are well marked. The use of a bottom rail on

**Overall
Layout
(full size)**

**Overall
Layout
(newsletter
size)**

the cover makes for a good table of contents. Student illustrations are a nice touch. Leading with a sports section on the back is an ideal choice for a tabloid-style newspaper like this.

Overall Layout (newsletter size)

Improve readability of body copy. Align text lines horizontally across gutters (the white space between columns) for all three columns. Correct all widows: a bad text break at the end of a paragraph (p.15, col. 1) or a text break between a photo (p.3, col.2). Correct all orphans: a bad break or line of text that jumps from the bottom of one column to the top of another (p.2, col.2). Eliminate shadow boxes and outlines for headline text. A bolder font choice will do the trick.

Consider breaking up 3-column grid and using drop caps on stories in the features section. Consider dummifying back-page sports section in the same vein as the cover, and use more sports illustration, the use of rounded frames with shadow boxes for all artwork proves problematic, especially when placed amid text. This may be a creative decision, but straight-edged borders will make text much easier to manage and give the copy a cleaner look.

New Publication

CONDOR VOICE
CURIE METRO HIGH SCHOOL

HOME ART & CULTURE CLUBS FEATURES NEWS OPINIONS SPORTS

About Us Editorial Policy Staff Contact Us Request for Coverage Form Stay Connected Search in site...

Prev 1 2 3 4 Next

Attention Seniors! »
By Rocio Ortega. On February 8, 2012 there will be a meeting held in the auditorium for all seniors. History teachers Amanda Ann Brode and Alexandra Rake will...

Lights, camera, action! »
By Rocio Ortega. The musical comedy, Bring It On, will be coming to a Chicago stage March 22, 2012....
Mar 6 2012 / No Comment / Read More »

The Laramie Project -Show »
By Crystal Sifuentes. Curie's very own drama III classes put on The Laramie Project on February 2,2012 at 6 pm....
Mar 2 2012 / No Comment / Read More »

Co-Co-Co-Compost! »
By Veronica Barbosa. It may be hard to believe that compost can be an exciting topic, less alone an...
Mar 1 2012 / No Comment / Read More »

MOST RECENT

POSTS OPINIONS

1. Lights, camera, action!
2. The Laramie Project -Show
3. Co-Co-Co-Compost!
4. Hunger Games coming to the Media Center
5. Hallmark holiday?
6. A place for the youth to bust out and groove
7. EXPLORE, PLAN, ACT – Oh my!
8. Is FAFSA stressing you out?
9. Night school: one day down, 21 more days to go
10. Free Prom Tickets

Superior

www.condorvoice.com, Curie Metropolitan High School

This is a visually appealing and highly informative web site that also establishes its editorial voice as an open forum -- not a common step for new publications in Chicago schools. In addition to the "open forum" status, the editorial policy that appears on the site refers to an editorial board, a great process for students to participate in; the site's rules for "what we print and

don't print"; the role of the adviser and the administration; and the publication's policy on sources. This is highly professional on the part of the staff.

In terms of content: The publication offers a wide variety of articles on the range of student experience -- from an editorial on school regulations, including the clear book bags so loved by administrators, to an article quoting students who are attending night school. The staff is providing reader with a clear, informative and apparently uncensored look at the school and its students. Congratulations on a job well done.

New Publication

The Howlin' Wolf

News, features and opinion from the students of Perspectives Math and Science Academy

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012

Do teachers care more about discipline than academics?

By Kennedy Myers

Here at Perspectives, education and discipline are our two main focuses. However, some teachers seem to care more about enforcing the rules than getting us to college. We call ourselves a "college-for-certain" school but how college for certain are we really?

On a college tour that took place last year, we (the juniors) were taken to visit the campus of Triton Community College. Community college? Way to aim high, Perspectives.



When it comes to discipline, teachers will stop an entire lesson just to go back and forth with a student. Then they'll

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Excellent

TheHowlinWolf.blogspot.com, Perspectives Math & Science

Normally we might question the entry of a blog into the "new publication" category, but TheHowlinWolf.blogspot.com has a range of content that clearly establishes it as an authoritative voice on the school.

Beyond the student profiles and the entertainment reviews and columns, The HowlinWolf.blogspot.com also included a well reported and clearly written article about the ACT practice tests being taken by students. This story by Kysha Thames, Robert Simpson, Joshua Joseph and Joyce Kelley, edited by Sunn= Chan, not only gathered student comments but also reported actual numbers on students' overall progress toward the school goal of a 20 average composite score. The fact that the publication was able to report that its students were not where they wanted to be -- not yet -- in certain areas is a tribute to the administration and the adviser of TheHowl-

inWolf.blogspot.com. Most administrators and many advisers would stop those kinds of facts from getting out to the school and to the public. And the students, blessed with this journalistic freedom, did a great job putting together a readable and important story.

Overall Web Site

Superior
<http://tafths.org/newspaper>

William Howard Taft High School

- Very engaging website. Different types of information (text, video, pictures, flash) is clearly organized, helping viewers to easily navigate and place the page they need.
- The site looks simple but contains lots of information. This certainly attracts users, helping their time on the site more exciting.



Superior
www.juarez.highschoolmedia.org
Benito Juarez Community Academy

- The interface: very user friendly and demonstrated good understanding of how people use the web.
- Clearly organized, helping viewers to easily navigate the site.
- The website overall had different types of information and they are well-organized. It was also obvious that this site is



viewed and used by different members of the school.

Excellent lanewarrior.com Lane Technical

- The quality of the print archive is really good.
- The website overall, especially articles, did not take into consideration how people use the internet and what they expect from it by putting too many words without integrating pictures to be part of an article. Pictures were isolated from words, making readers tired of reading too many words without any pause.



Overall Web Design

Superior tafths.org/newspaper/ , William Howard Taft High School

- The use of different design & size of the font, pictures, illustration, and tabs are effective, making the website punctual and catchy.
- Use of school mascot and picture made the site live.
- The way flash is used to switch articles on the front page allow users to scan more information quickly

Superior lanewarrior.com, Lane Tech

- The front page is catchy, with effective use of pictures and flash. The way flash is used to switch articles on the front page allow users to scan more information quickly.
- The logo & front page set the tone for the overall site.

Excellent www.juarez.highschoolmedia.org, Benito Juarez A

- The main page has videos only. While this can capture some viewers'

attention, combing news, announcements and video can make the site more exciting.

News Story

Superior Lauren Styx, The Sentinel Marist High School

"Administration mulls moving midterms": I was hooked from by the anecdotal lead on Lauren's story, which led the reader into a news story reflecting terrific reporting and clean, sophisticated writing. Lauren, you have a talent for creative news writing, tackling the nuts and bolts of the story, while maintaining a colorful narrative that is about students, not just administrators considering a policy change. Bravo!

Excellent Kelly Mrofcza, The Warrior, Lane Technical High School

"Spirit Week 2011": For starters, I appreciate Kelly taking a risk, and writing a clever poem to lead the reader into the news story about students' mixed reactions to this year's spirit week. While a poem would not work with a more serious topic, it was perfect for leading the reader into a news story featuring solid reporting and writing about how despite the best intentions, not all students are going to be thrilled about participating in a high school spirit week. My only major suggestion for improvement would be to move up the conflict - that not all students enjoyed spirit week - rather than having to waiting until the middle of the story to understand the activity has its critics. But overall, great work, Kelly!

Excellent Chris Williams and BreAnna Stewart, EMPEHI News, Morgan Park High School

"Office of Principal Preparation denies selection pool eligibility for both remaining candidates": For starters, I am very impressed by the depth of Chris and BreAnna's reporting on this news story, which exemplifies the type of journalism that reporters for Chicago's newspapers and broadcast stations should be striving for to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of the issues in this era of sound bites, blogs and Twitter feeds. Chris

Administration mulls moving midterms

Lauren Styx
Sentinel

Christmas Day: Wake up, open presents, go over psychology notes, finish algebra packet, go to Grandma's for dinner. This may be a slight exaggeration, but so goes the life of a Marist student. For over 14 years, Marist High School has held midterms exams after Christmas break. Every few years the administration meets to revisit the issue of when exams should be held.

Discussion time has come around once again, resulting in a heated debate among administrators, faculty, parents and students.

Holding exams when students and faculty return from break has obvious benefits.

"In past years, the thinking was that giving students time to study over break, teachers would see improvement in student achievement on the exams," said Mrs. Kelly Malachy, academic dean for upperclassmen.

However, what may look like an opportunity to study and prepare for midterms to some students may prove instead an overwhelming amount of

Holding exams after break allows for a balanced schedule, with two semesters of equal length. If exams are held before break, school may need to start a week earlier in August to maintain that balance.

Another consequence of having exams before Christmas might involve doing away with traditional post-Christmas programs.

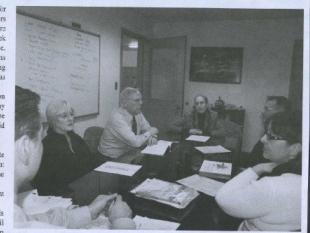
"[We] would be missing out on activities such as the Christmas play because there most likely wouldn't be time to fit that in during exam time," said senior Eileen Evey.

Tucker shares that concern. "We have always looked to celebrate Christmas as a Catholic school, and this has included our Christmas Mass," he said.

Many faculty members were reluctant to comment on the issue.

Counselor Mr. Patrick Ryan, who is working to gather faculty input via e-mail for administrative review, said, "I am remaining neutral so I can be impartial in providing the feedback from the faculty to the administration."

Veteran history teacher Mr. Randy Coe strongly supports keeping midterms after Christmas.



Will they or won't they? The administrative team, seeking input from the rest of the Marist community, will decide this spring whether or not to hold midterm exams before Christmas next year.

photo by Dana Bishop

and BreAnna clearly did their homework on this story, and overall, they presented the information in a clean and informative manner. My primary suggestion is the reporters need to learn to write in-depth stories in a more concise manner, as unfortunately, most readers will not have the patience to read the jump when it is this long. In the future, perhaps it would be best to run two shorter stories, instead of one very long piece.

**Judge's comments on other entries in this category:
Bridget Hynes, Inscape, Mother McAuley High School**

"The Suscipe Heard Around the World": Good job, Bridget, on sharing the story of the Sisters of Mercy and the order's annual conference. As this year's conference was at the high school, you should have had this news element in the lead, but that said, the feature-style lead you wrote was well done. Also, remember to refrain from writing conclusions at the end of a news story.

**Kysha Thames, Robert Simpson, Joshua Joseph, Joyce Kelley
The Howlin' Wolf, Perspectives Math & Science**

"Push is on for juniors as ACT looms": The reporters did a nice job detailing how students are preparing for the ACT exam, and despite having to incorporate an array of numbers, the story was interesting and easy to understand. In the future, if you are writing a story about students preparing for an exam, etc., it is always important to have a quote or two that "shows" why the students are so determined to get a high score, for example, they are trying to get into a prestigious college, and the ACT is key to getting accepted.

**Alexandra Wietecka
Taft Today, William Howard Taft High School,**

"Family makes a donation in memory of their son": Alexandra's lead tugged the reader into the story by the heartstrings and was followed by a narrative that resonated with voices sharing the sad story of the death of a teen, and what his young life was all about. That said, I would have liked to see a teacher or perhaps the school principal quoted in the story, as it was published in the high school newspaper, and their perspectives are important to

the story.

Marlene Lenthang Beacon, Whitney Young,

"Alum Appearing on cover of Seventeen magazine": Marlene did a nice job sharing the recent success story of a Whitney Young alum. It is clear the reporter did a solid job reporting out the story, and the sourcing is great. My suggestion for improvement would be to be sure to take time to copy edit future stories for typos and AP style errors.

Broadcast News Story

Excellent

Martin Carranza and Salvador Contreras Benito Juarez Community Academy

"Saving Lives" has excellent camera work, good mixture of interviewees; story is well-developed, beginning with timeliness of blood drive, showing volunteers, and ending with a very nice line about there's more to this than skipping a couple of classes. The announcer needs to be a little more natural – he sounds a little stilted, like he's reading instead of talking (note the naturalness of the student who talked about somebody else in the world who might need his type of blood) – also the audio level on the last student volunteer was well below that of the others.

Excellent

Camara Anderson, Erick Brito and Krunal Chokshi Lane Tech

"Lane Tech Quick Start" has a superior opening, showing empty halls and classrooms and then cutting to a shot of students sitting at the desks. The interviewer needs to get the microphone closer to the interviewees' mouths, especially when there's a lot of background noise. As in the above, the voices of the interviewees, in this case the parents, were at an extremely low level. Nice ending with the welcome message.

General Feature Story

Superior

Cherrell Anderson The Warrior, Lane Tech

"Tug of war between light skin, dark skin splits races apart" : Well written, well researched, great use of quotes and sources.

January 2012 Features Page 12

Tug of war between light skin, dark skin splits races apart

By Cherrell Anderson

It's hard to see the "tug of war" between light and dark skin in the "Tug of War" article. The article is well written and researched, but the title is a bit misleading. The article is about the struggle between light and dark skin in the beauty industry, and how it affects people of different ethnicities. The article is a good example of a well-written feature story.

"Years ago, if I could have [changed my skin tone] I would have been light skinned, but not anymore."



Beautiful black women / For the *Indie* better still... All Women's Right Month

The beauty industry's complexion obsession ignores the dominance of light-skinned, euro-centric and the lack of dark-skinned women in the industry.

Excellent:

Sara Angel

Beacon, Whitney Young

"Greenhouse gives back": Timely issue, solid writing, some AP style issues.

Judges' comments on other entries in this category

- Could be organized better.
- Quotes should be higher up and definition farther down.
- Try for more compelling leads.
- Learn proper attribution

**Broadcast
Feature
Story**
Superior

Aaron Kora-Navas, Jasmine Le, Christina Leung, Bill Phan,
Rich Rivera, Jessica Ziolkowski and Julian Tovar
Lane Tech

Well done! I like the opening graphic in "Louder than a Bomb," the cutting between the teacher and the poetry slammers, and the way the whole package was put together.

Excellent

Jessenia Martinez

Benito Juarez Community Academy

The subject matter of "You Media in ACTION" is certainly of interest and importance, but the piece seems to be a little disjointed. It begins by talking about English theater and then we see people in the Prometheus theater group. There needs to be connection made here that wasn't apparent from the script. Otherwise, well done!

Judge's general comments on this category

It's great to see high school students learning electronic media! All broadcast students should be counseled on speaking easily and naturally and losing any accent they may have. The standard speech for broadcast has always been Midwestern English.

Personality Profile

Superior Diana Barragan Lane Tech

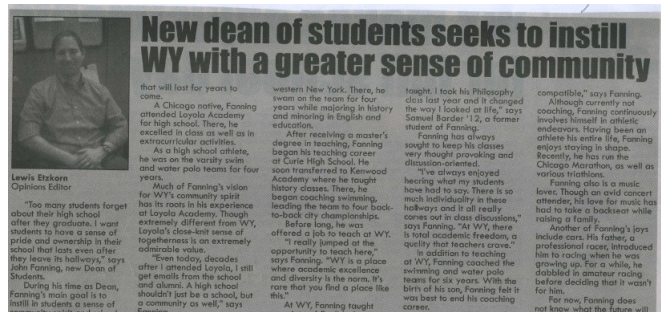
Teenage obesity is a tough subject for a school newspaper, yet you have managed to write this piece with a

sensitivity that gives your readers a balanced picture of Kirsten Jacobsen. As a good reporter, you have demonstrated objectivity in the questions you asked and given dignity to her struggle to maintain self-confidence in spite of obstacles. This is a well-balanced article with an intriguing introduction, adequate number of quotations and a strong conclusion. Keep up the good work!



Superior Lewis Etzkorn Whitney Young

Beginning your article with a strong quotation is a good technique that immediately draws the reader into the profile. You have also done a good job of selecting quotations that flesh out your subject and directly relate him to the broader school community. Your concluding paragraph neatly ties all of the "threads" of this profile together. Good job!



Excellent Nicole Mooney Taft High School

This is a well-rounded profile, with good use of quotations from both your subject and his teachers. You have done a good job of describing Lewandowski's background, his struggles to become a part of his new country and community and his aspirations for the future. Including an example of one of his illustrations, strengthens your position that he has a great talent. I hope you will continue to write.

Excellent Deandre Williams Perspectives Math and Science

It is not easy to write about three very different personalities in one short article, yet you have found a common thread among them that makes this

Personality Profile

article a very interesting read. Your introductory paragraph is well-written and prepares the reader for what is to follow. The technique of presenting each profile in the same way is a unifying factor that makes this piece memorable.

Good work.

Excellent

Rihana Risueno

Benito Juarez Community Academy

Your intriguing lead sentence and opening paragraph is what draws the reader into the story and makes this short profile a winner. You have proven that brevity in an article can be very effective when you choose your quotes and description wisely. Good work.

Judge's comments on other entries in this category

Meghan Webber,

Mother McAuley

One of the requirements of this category is that the writer demonstrates the profiled personality's "relationship to the school community," and I don't find that here. Also, adopting a more formal style of writing, and less conversational, would give this article a more professional tone. The strength of this piece comes from your ability to convey her energy and enthusiasm for what she does. Study hard and you will be a good writer.

Genae Smith

Morgan Park High School

You do a good job of explaining the relationship these two teachers and one counselor each have to their school community. However, this article lacks a cohesiveness and feels more like three separate profiles under one banner. Think about writing a stronger introductory paragraph that can draw the reader into the piece. You might also think about drawing your own conclusions about what impact these new faculty members may have on the school and share your ideas with your readers. Keep working at your craft and you will do well.

Kiersten Kendall

Marist High School

Your opening paragraph is imaginative, encouraging this reader to want to learn more about Brother Rich, but then you reverted to a boilerplate Q & A format with no concluding paragraph. I would have liked to see more of

your creative writing in bringing this personality to life. One suggestion: If you are going to use this format, think about adding a concluding paragraph that balances your introduction. Don't give up on your writing, you will get there!

**Editorial
Column
or Opinion**

Superior
Manar Ihmud
Taft High School

“What the flush is up with ... bathrooms?” Superb package about how the cost of cleaning up graffiti interferes with the school’s ability to keep the bathrooms decently clean and stocked with soap. It has a relevantly yukky photo, administration comment, and other students’ comments plus their practical suggestions. Well-crafted writing, too.

Excellent
Taylor Novak
Marist

“Invisible children ... visible impact”: Constructive piece about an optional assembly to learn about a group struggling against violent conscription of children in Uganda. It lays out the information in an orderly way, then comments that regardless of why students attended, it was good that the school made it possible for them to see a distant land’s crisis up-close. Well written and concise.

Excellent
Sophia Swenson
Lane Tech

“Ladies, embrace your geeky side”: Well-written, appropriately chatty-edgy piece about an upsurge of no-nonsense female comedians in film and TV rom-coms. The connection to the school comes in the last column with: “Before we get caught up in who stole whose boyfriend...” and ends strongly with “Girls, see that skinny kind in the corner reading? He’s going to invent the next Facebook. The hunk next to you... [loser, with no] steady job.”



Judge's comments on other entries in this category

Joshua Housing

Morgan Park

Editorial Column or Opinion

"Electronics policy... ": Correctly attacks CPS no-phones-at-all policy as too restrictive and nicely brings in some outside sourcing about creative and constructive use of smartphones in education. However, in the adult driver metaphor, it appallingly overlooks the proven risks of driving while texting or even talking, like driving while intoxicated and killing others.

Joanna Ziarko

Mother McAuley

"Spendin' more than vendin'": The vending machines seem to short-change students too often. Good point, well crafted writing. But where is the result of inquiry to the administration or vending company?

Diana Rosen

Whitney Young

"WY's regulars track...": Excellent point about how freshman decisions can affect life, and about how seemingly misleading info about honors or AP tracks leads to regrettable decisions. Solid point about how diversity seems to suffer from how two tracks diverge. Raises valid questions and leaves us hanging about possible answers.

Judging tips for all:

This year's entries were overall more consistently solid than in some recent years. The half who did not win still did well; the winners tended to stand out.

- Good opinion writing usually is based on good reporting. Ya gotta have solid facts, and even if they are somewhere else in the newspaper, the essentials need to be in your piece.
- Plural subjects require plural verbs: "... administration and staff who continues (sic) to apply ..." and this is doubly relevant in headlines.
- Every time you start to write "it's" or "its," STOP and think. Do you mean "it is" or the possessive pronoun? This is still one of the two most commonly misused word pairs in U.S. student writing. The other is "they" or "them" or "their" (all plural pronouns) when referring to a singular person or group. Both solecisms appeared plural times in these entries.

- An article in which the author refers to him- or herself with the shortest and most egocentric word in English, "I," really needs to bear the author's name, or at least initials.
- It is highly useful, though not always necessary, to let your personality shine through in a column. It is almost never useful to make the column about me-me-me.
- Our information- and disinformation-drenched society has lots of ways to learn about social trends, entertainment and so on. But your paper may be the only medium for student views about your school. Focus on that, and make it clear early in every article.

**Broadcast
Sports
Story**

Superior
Itzel Dimas and Carolina Larios
Benito Juarez

Great video package on the girls swim team and the lack of support the group receives. Good sound and editing.

Excellent
Aaron Kora-Novas, Ivonne Amaya, Jasmine Le, Jessica Ziolkowski

Lane Tech

Nice story previewing the wrestling team and nice mention that girls are on the squad as well. Really good voice over work.

**Sports
News
Story**

Superior
Dan Finger
Whitney Young

Good job of blending the excitement of playing in a professional venue with the actual game.

Excellent
Jasmine Andrews
Morgan Park

Nice coverage and perspective on the 0-2 start.



**Sports
Feature
Story**

**Superior
Edward Selep
Taft**

Really good featch on two top athletic and academic achievers.

**Excellent
Ryan McManus
Marist**

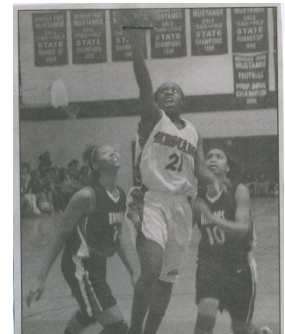
Nice story on the Lady Redhawks. The coach was very insightful. My only wish was that player quotes should have been included.



**Sports
Photo**

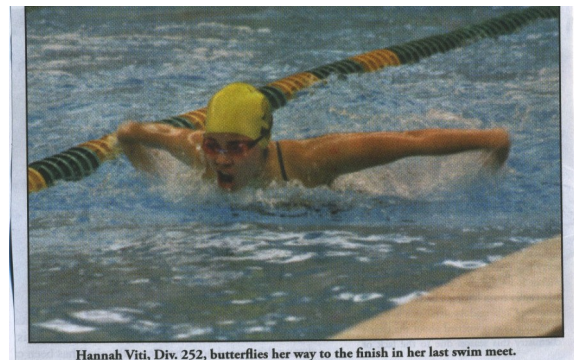
**Superior
Anthony Teruel
Morgan Park**

You stopped the motion well and captured some great facial expressions. This allows us to see what is on the mind of each athlete in the shot.



**Superior
Madeline Savoie
Lane Tech**

You captured a great moment during a sporting event that is not known to be photo-friendly. We see the exact moment the swimmer is grabbing her next breath and preparing for the next stroke.



Hannah Viti, Div. 252, butterflies her way to the finish in her last swim meet.

**Excellent
Felipe Zavala
Benito Juarez Community Academy**

Visually interesting composition and angle.

**Sports
Photo**

Judge's comments for other entries in this category

**Allie McRaith
Whitney Young**

Tennis is a tough sport to cover. Keep trying different angles (high and low) and rotating between vertical and horizontal shots. This shot may have been more successful as a horizontal.

**Melissa Belsis
Mother McAuley**

You do a great job of capturing their faces. Consider a crop that show more of the person addressing the group.

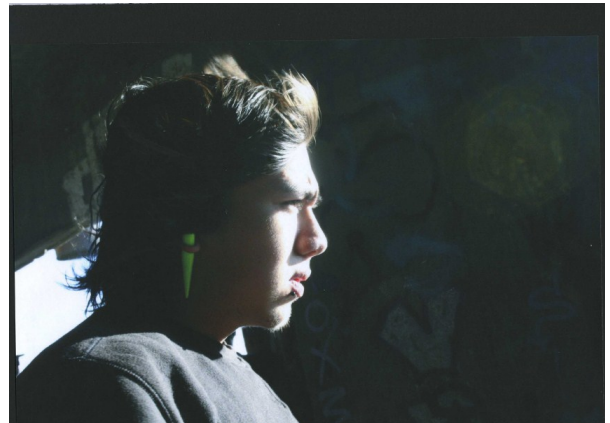
**Jessica Bahena
Taft High School**

Great job stopping the motion. It's unclear what's happening in the image. The shot a few shutter clicks away from this one may show more decisive action

**Non-Sports
Photo**

**Superior
Itzel Dimas
Benito Juarez**

Great job capturing the light and the motion of the hair blowing. The ear jewelry is an interesting focal point and the background is visually interesting without being overwhelming.



**Superior
Brian Chowaniec
Taft High School**

Great job getting into the action! The angle of the shot makes me feel like I'm there.



**Non-Sports
Photo**

Excellent

Roberts Nieves

Whitney Young

Good job composing the image. You captured the concentration on the subject's face while providing a good sense of the project she's working on.

Judge's comments for other entries in this category

Morgan Summers

Mother McAuley

You captured great expressions. In a situation like this, try and shoot from a non traditional angle to create a more visually interesting image.

Sophia Swenson

Lane Tech

Good job stopping motion. Consider cropping or composing an image like this with less head room. This will allow more room in the foreground which will highlight the subject.

Joshua Housing

Morgan Park

Good depth of field. Since the image is supposed to convey students and time, considering cropping the foreground. This will bring more attention to the clock at the top of the photo.

**Original
Editorial
Cartoon**

Superior

Eteria Drummer

Morgan Park

Delightful sketch of boy and girl in ill-fitting attire labeled "school rules" with a clear caption, "These don't really fit, do they?" The faces and postures have a nicely naughty look, almost like younger kids who are thinking, "You show me yours, and I'll show you mine."



Excellent**Will Ahrenholz****Whitney Young**

Pointed picture of forced answers a-b-c-d about “essential” standardized tests, when (e) “none of the above” is best. The drawing is nicely shaded; the box seems stretched or padded a bit, perhaps in editing.

Excellent**Bart Lewandowski****Taft**

Finely detailed drawing of students and teacher at work with a clock overlay, imagery highly relevant to the article it accompanies, “Okay to a longer day.” Good example of writer and artist collaborating. The drawing, however, is not really an editorial cartoon with humor or punch; it is a good illustration.

Excellent**Cyrus Hahn****Marist**

Chuckle-inducing nightmare story, of waking up with 4,000 pages of algebra exam to do. The story line, peaking with the third frame’s bug-eyed student in bed, makes up for the harsh draftsmanship.

**Computer
Graphics****Excellent****Agnieszka Chrzanowska****Lane Tech**

Some interesting ideas here: the “receipt” flowing out with the full cost for students of attending a public high school is a good one. The massive dollar bill (including the artist's name) is also a fine dominant element of art to the story and the page.

Excellent**Mela Mocybroda****William Howard Taft High School**

Interesting photo merging and manipulation to get an overall view of homecoming -- instead of the standard King/Queen or homecoming game shot. Ideally, the image should have been bigger, to avoid the crowding that we

see at the top right ... with the issue/volume, the band and a girl's head all converging together. Good color reproduction, good photos to work with.

Computer Graphics

Judge's comments for other entries in this category

Taylor Smith

Morgan Park High School

Decent visual presentation of the new teachers -- the sense that their pictures are "taped" to the board is a nice touch. Perhaps you could try to do something visually with the different areas they come from -- maybe having different branches of the display? There's a potential to make the display more striking,

Morgan Summers

Mother McAuley

I like the idea (although I don't understand "The McAuley Cookie" column - - must be an inside Inscape joke?). The problem is that the comments from each of the "respondents" are different lengths ... so if we read across from "My reaction to the Kim Kardashian divorce, the comment in the student column actually starts farther up. See what I mean? So what you need is a larger graphic that would allow each of the comments to clearly be distinguished from other comments. The drawings at top also need a little more work to get a professional feel to them.

Jen Keyes

Whitney Young

The graphic is fine -- there's a clear distinction between the various shadings, so we can actually see the difference, and the lines of the map are strong. The concept -- where away games are -- is just not one that lends itself to a graphic. There's a vast amount of white space where neither teams go. This might be better simply as text.

Humorous Article

Superior

Jessica Davis

Taft

Nice exercise in satire, turning the aggravations of high school life into assets to be cherished. Absurdity builds as essay progresses. Generally well-written. Effective photo-illustration.

EDITORIALS CONTINUED 23

My heart aches from all of these breaks

By Jessica Davis

Almost every student has heard from a parent/guardian, "Wow, you guys have so many days off of school, why don't you take off this much?" But really, who needs vacation days, even weeks, off of school?

I know I do not want to have longer weekends of sitting on my couch eating some popcorn and drinking over *Ryan Reynolds* while watching *The Proposal*. I mean, what is so fun about stuffing your face all day long, not having any school work to worry about, and having the freedom to wake up at three o'clock in the afternoon? Who would want to Facebook stalk the person they have a crush on, or delete the people they hate?

I would much rather go to school and learn about the laws of physics, how to find the object of a romance, and how to solve fun trigonometry like $\sin(4) = \cos(2)$. Why should we be able to fall asleep in my anatomy class, or be dozing off in class on my next hard test?

Not only are these "No School Staff Development Days" useless, but what is up with these breaks?

monkeys picking their butts in the spring? Listening to "It's Friday, Friday" get down on Friday, or repeat "in an hour just because you want to make fun of how badly it's sung? Maybe you could write a funny newspaper article for the school newspaper, study that research paper that is also tenacious or attempt to draw yourself for your final art project instead.

We should all forget about summer break too. Almost three whole months away.

Why should we go on vacation with our families, go down with our friends, and feel like we have no major responsibilities? This is the time when we, as teenagers, take advantage of all of our freedoms, the ultimate do not deserve this long of a break after the short and weary eight months of the school year.

I would rather do a twenty-page, single-spaced Times New Roman paper than miss a moment that could be behind you at the end of each day. It is hard not to tear up a little bit. Thinking about what you could be learning in that time counting down the days, hours, minutes, mere seconds and you could return to that blessed place. I mean, my fellow peers, it is difficult, but we could make a difference and fight for the school to require AP.

School is much too exciting to miss. All the drama you hear in the hallways, all of the "OMG, did you hear what just happened. Did you see that?" moments, the drama and controversy, making sure you are going to class on time, and using rights in the bathroom. Who says that Taft is not already its own reality show?

There is no need to stay home, we are on vacation year-round while at

Some students can't help but miss Taft when not at school; can you blame them though?



Humorous Article

Superior Ben Palmer Lane Tech

Amusing rumination on the trivial (ID badge color scheme) Clever references and word plays, including a nod to Macbeth. A bit too long for the topic and would have benefited by a rewrite to tighten it and omit a few of the weaker jokes.

Excellent Brenna Smith Mother McAuley

Good-natured reflection on holiday season. Opening paragraphs are the best. Column peppered with inside references fellow MM students would find funny.

Excellent Molly Bansley Marist

Good effort at finding humor in something as mundane as floor tiles.

Judge's general comments for this category

Two of the entries would be better described as light features, not attempts at humor per se. In each superior entry the premise seemed more clearly thought out and developed. Writing humor is difficult and takes time, and all entries would have benefited by more self-editing and rewriting.

Entertainment Review

Superior Daniel Finger Whitney Young High School

Yours is a well-organized and thoughtfully written review. You have demonstrated a broad knowledge of your subject with good comparisons to previous albums and to other artists of the genre. Your introductory paragraph immediately draws the reader into the piece. In addition, a good balance of quota-



Entertainment Review

tions and a strong concluding paragraph made this review an interesting read. Keep up the good work!

Excellent
Genghis Husameddin
Taft High School

Your review is well organized and gives a less knowledgeable reader an understanding of this type of video game and the criteria by which it can be judged. One suggestion is that you never assume that your reader is familiar with your subject. You might have included an explanation of the game's genre – action role-playing video game – to give your review more professional presentation. Good work!

Excellent
Graylin McKeithen
Morgan Park High School

Yours is a balanced review, with a good introduction and conclusion. You also give good, graphic descriptions and comparisons to support your thesis. However, too many personal anecdotes about the game keep it from succeeding as an impartial, more professional review. I hope you will continue to write. Good work!

Excellent
Benjamin Palmer
Lane Tech

Your article is well written and organized, and your choice of quotations provides a good picture of the world of an indie band. Your comparisons to songs from previous albums are what make this a strong review. When using quotations, remember to identify the speaker by profession or context. Keep up the good work.

Judge's comments for other entries in this category

Elle Harrigan
Mother McAuley

In reviewing a remake of a 30-year-old film, you included good comparisons to the original and its actors. And you made a good observation that the film mixes eras and stays true to neither the 20th or 21st century. However, you are a professional journalist – avoid colloquial or conversational

speech. And keep writing!

Carolina Larios
Benito Juarez Community Academy

This review could use more information about Adele, other than she is a great singer who sells a great number of albums. For example, comparisons between the two albums mentioned or to other singers would make this a credible review. Study hard and you will make a good journalist.

Brian Laughran
Marist High School

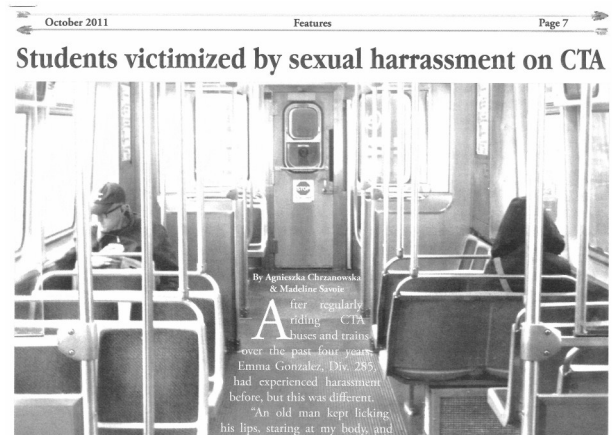
Yours is an interesting article, however, it does not meet the criteria of the contest. You could have taken any of your five paragraphs and expanded it into a bona fide review. You are a good writer; keep up the good work.

**Entertainment
 Review**

**Community
 Story**

Superior
Agnieszka Chrzanowska
and Madeline Savoie
Lane Tech

"Students victimized by sexual harassment on CTA": Well written, good detail, well researched. Excellent first-person accounts. Beware of editorializing in last paragraph.



Judge's comments for other entries in this category

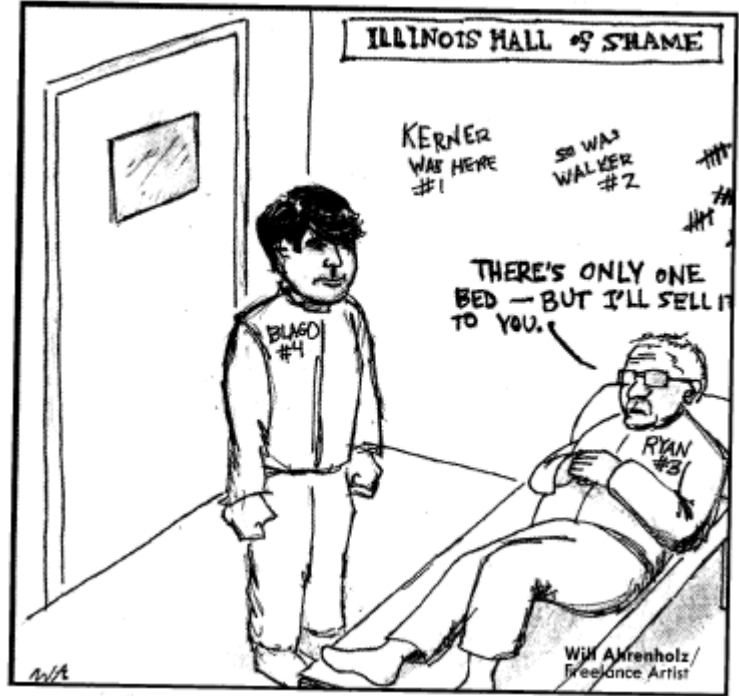
- Be sure to provide a compelling news peg.
- Watch out for conflicts of interest — such as reporters covering relatives.
- Provide attribution in early paragraphs; watch out for editorializing; follow AP style.

**Original
Drawing
or
Comic**

Superior

**Will Ahrenholz
Whitney Young**

"Illinois Hall of Shame" is good enough to be in a daily newspaper. It's a great concept -- the idea of Illinois' two most recently imprisoned governors bargaining over the bed (Ryan says to Blago, "There's only one bed -- but I'll sell it to you") with prison graffiti on the wall from the two former inmates, Kerner and Walker. Excellent idea, great drawing skills.



Excellent

**Marissa Clifford
Mother McAuley**

"The Solution to Italy's Money Problems" is a good idea that offers one suggestion, McDonald's, for Italy's financial situation. Merging the Coliseum, certainly an excellent visual symbol of Italy, with the golden arches peeking out of it. Nice work.

Excellent

**Cassandra Alvarado,
Taft High School**

This is a cute little female cupid, nice stylized bow and arrow, strong lines to the drawing and an appropriate illustration to a Valentine's Day story.

Judge's comments on other entries in this category

**Cyrus Hahn
Marist High School**

Good idea here -- the payoff panel, "Faith," is a nice bit of humor. The drawings need a bit more clarity (or maybe there's some insider humor going on here). The second panel, of teachers working 'round the clock -- is the teach-

er in a sleeping bag? I'm not certain. The next panel, a positive atmosphere, also leaves me questioning what was intended. Good drawing (the Britney Spears is particularly good).

**Original
Drawing
or
Comic**

Julian Grissett

Morgan Park High School

I like the stylized characters in this four-panel strip -- they're distinctive and minimalist but clearly show their "emotions." I would like to see a little more content, sort of a narrative, if you're devoting four panels to it. Perhaps show the "characters" doing summer-type things. Otherwise, the theme of the strip is essentially contained in two panels -- "school is starting" and "aren't you happy?"

**Broadcast
PSAs**

No awards were given in this category. The only entry was engaging, interesting and important to the community at large, but here is one small problem: a public service announcement by definition is supposed to be 30 to 60 seconds long.

Thanks to our judges

Jim Benes, WBBM Newsradio

Karen Cullotta, Department of Communication

Shonda Dudlicek, Department of Communication

Jim Dudlicek, Stagnito Media

Lee Earle, Department of Communication

Wayne Hearn, Rotary International Media Relations

Linda Jones, Department of Communication

John McClelland, Department of Communication

Billy Montgomery, Department of Communication

Locey Pfeifer, M.S. in Journalism, RU, 2008

Tyra Robertson, Department of Communication

David Weissman, Department of Communication

Jiwon Yoon, Department of Communication

Congratulations!

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