

PRESS RELEASE:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NKCSD JOURNALISM PROGRAMS RANK TOP IN STATE

Students from North Kansas City, Oak Park, Staley and Winnetonka high schools attended the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association's Journalism Day on March 29, 2017 at the MU School of Journalism in Columbia, Mo. They competed in the state contest and attended many educational sessions.

Awards for the publications and individuals were rated by the MIPA judges based on a scale where All-Missouri is awarded to only the top 10% of competitors, then Superior, Excellent or Honorable Mention awards.

Overall publications earned:

North Kansas City High School:

- Purgold 2016 yearbook, Excellent
- NTV News broadcast, Honorable Mention

Oak Park High School:

- Cambia 2016 yearbook, **All-Missouri**
- The Axe broadcast, Superior for Announcements Only Show
- The Northmen's Log newsmagazine, Excellent
- NorthmenNews online, Excellent
- The Axe broadcast, Honorable Mention for Announcements with Video Show

Staley High School:

- STTV broadcast, **All-Missouri** for Announcements with Video Show
- Talon newsmagazine, **All-Missouri**
- Legacy 2016 yearbook, Superior
- StaleyNews online, Superior
- Bird's Eye View broadcast, Excellent for Newsmagazine Show

Winnetonka High School:

- Odyssey 2016 yearbook, **All-Missouri**
- TonkaNews.com online, **All-Missouri**
- Tonka Talks, **All-Missouri** for Announcements with Video Show
- Griffin Rites newsmagazine, Excellent

Individual students earned:

North Kansas City High School:

North Kansas City High School The Hornet's Buzz newsmagazine:

- Junior Isaiah Valdivia and senior Justin Owens, **All-Missouri**, Newsmagazine Page Design, Pokemon Go
- Junior Isaiah Valdivia, Superior, Op-Ed, Respect needed for all refugees
- Juniors Emily Rooks and Kyla Carey, Honorable Mention, Feature Story, Winter Fashion
- Senior Gabby Campbell, Honorable Mention, Op-Ed, What is considered a sport?
- Junior Kobi Hamby, Honorable Mention, News Story, New policies implemented in study hall
- Senior Justin Owens, Honorable Mention, Sports Story, Athletes transition between seasons

North Kansas City High School The Purgold yearbook:

- Staff, **All-Missouri**, Yearbook Theme, "What's Happening?"
- Senior Amarah Tate, Superior, Photo Sports Action, "First Down Run"
- Senior Isabella Martinez, Excellent, Photo Sports Reaction, "Dancing at the Assembly"
- Senior Jessica Stout, Excellent, Diversity - Yearbook, "Bayly Personality Profile"
- Senior Isabella Martinez, junior Cynthia Macias, senior Parker Grohs, Honorable Mention, Yearbook Package, "Homecoming Week"
- Juniors Brittney Sweet, Abby Schmidlein, Alondra Hernandez, Honorable Mention, Yearbook Package, "Volleyball"
- Sophomores Ali Ammar, Michelle Rivera, Jaide Rose, Honorable Mention, Yearbook Package, "Softball"
- Sophomore Caitlin Smith, junior El'Don Alvarez, sophomore Eric King, Honorable Mention, Yearbook Package, "Catch Me If You Can"

North Kansas City High School NTV broadcast:

- Sophomores Bryce Johnsen and Emanuel Rodriguez, Excellent, Broadcast News Story, "Mental Health Awareness Week"
- Sophomores Nadia DeLeon & Emanuel Rodriguez, Honorable Mention, Human Interest Feature, "Anti-bullying Assembly"

Oak Park High School:

The AXE broadcast:

- Sophomore Skyler Benjamin and senior Brett Felten, **All-Missouri**, Broadcast News Feature, "Food Trucks"
- Seniors Allee Armitage and Max Gruschka, Excellent, Broadcast Sports Feature Story, "StOakTown heads to state as one team, not three"

- Seniors Allee Armitage and Max Gruschka, Honorable Mention, Broadcast News Story, “OP Unplugged”

The Northmen’s Log magazine:

- Senior Bailee Treat, **All-Missouri**, Newsmagazine Page Design, “Table of Contents”
- Senior Bailee Treat, Superior, Newsmagazine Page Design, “Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em”
- Sophomore Katherine Reyes, Superior, Sports Action Photo, “Basketball”
- Senior Sarah White, Superior, Photo of the Year, “October cover”
- Senior Sarah White, Honorable Mention, Newsmagazine Feature Story, “Capture the Moment”

Cambia yearbook:

- Junior Madlin Tutu, **All-Missouri**, Sports Action Photo, “Boys Soccer”
- Junior Sarah Horseman and senior Paige Borgeson, Superior, Yearbook Package, “Volleyball”
- Junior Xoe Zuber, Superior, Photo of the Year, “Football”
- Freshman Paige Scholdberg, Excellent, Sports Action Photo, “Wrestling”
- Junior Madlin Tutu, Excellent, Sports Reaction Photo, “Boys Soccer”
- Juniors Xoe Zuber and Sarah Horseman, sophomore Corrie Roberts and senior Paige Borgeson, Excellent, Yearbook Package, “Spirit”
- Freshman Parker Bensyl, sophomores Amira Nuur and Ashton Berry and junior Sarah Horseman, Honorable Mention, Yearbook Package, “Back to School”
- Junior Sarah Horseman, Honorable Mention, Student Life Photo, “Assembly Hype”
- Senior Nour Konda, Honorable Mention, Sports Action Photo, “Girls Basketball”
- Sophomores Amira Nuur and Ashton Berry, and senior Paige Borgeson, Honorable Mention, Yearbook Package, “Girls Tennis”
- Juniors Madlin Tutu and Xoe Zuber, Honorable Mention, Yearbook Package, “AFS”
- Junior Xoe Zuber, Honorable Mention, Sports Action Photo, “Boys Swim”

NorthmenNews online:

- Senior Sarah White, **All-Missouri**, Photo of the Year, “Portrait of a Sunflower”
- Junior Dakota Ake, Superior, Online Feature Package, “Uncovering a Hidden Disease”
- NorthmenNews staff, Superior, Social Media Reporting, @NorthmenNews Twitter
- Sophomore Miki Hall, Superior, Radio/Podcast News Feature, “StuCo”
- Freshman William Pellant, Superior, Radio/Podcast News Feature, “YouTube”
- Seniors Bailee Treat, Maddi Caton and Orlando Quintana, Excellent, Online Feature Package, “Hometown Student Big City Model”
- Junior Chris Winegarner and seniors Allee Armitage and Max Gruschka, Excellent, Online Op-Ed Package, “Will OP’s New Policy Really Get Kids “Unplugged”?”
- Sophomore Jessica Begley, Excellent, Radio/Podcast News Feature, “Color Guard”
- Sophomore Lejla Tenic, Excellent, Radio/Podcast News Feature, “Mermaid”
- Junior Aurora Riley, Honorable Mention, Diversity Online, “Spread the love”

- Freshmen Malea Biswell and Grace Burns, Honorable Mention, Diversity Online, “Bilingual students of OP”
- Sophomore Andrew Nichols, Honorable Mention, Radio/Podcast News Feature, “Suicide Squad”

Staley High School:

Staley High School Talon newsmagazine:

- Junior Emilie Kerr, Sophomore Haylee Roberts, **All-Missouri**, Diversity, “Bat’tling Obstacles”
- Junior Emilie Kerr, **All-Missouri**, Newsmagazine Page Design, “Election 2016”
- Junior Emilie Kerr, Superior, Feature Story, “Senior Awaits Bone Marrow Match”
- Junior Maddy Benda, Excellent, Newsmagazine Page Design, “Transition to Fall on a Budget”
- Junior Jessica Jordan, Superior, News Story, “#StrongerTogetherKC”
- Junior Emilie Kerr, Superior, Portrait Photography, “KC Portrait”
- Juniors Hannah Zank, Leidy Venegas, Excellent, Newsmagazine Page Design, “Restaurant Week”
- Junior Emilie Kerr, Honorable Mention, Sports Reaction Photo, “XC Blackout Run”
- Junior Emilie Kerr, Honorable Mention, Photo Illustration, “Glow Cover”

Staley High School Legacy yearbook:

- Sophomore Haley Anne Mahusay, **All-Missouri**, Academic Photo “Science Experiment”
- Juniors Madison Benda, Caleigh Hayes, Caroline Bonacorso, Sophomore Clare Cunningham, Freshman Allison Brinton, **All-Missouri**, Package, “Volleyball Spread”
- Senior Lindsey Norby, **All-Missouri**, Sports Action Photo, “Wrestling Photo”
- Senior Drew Simms, Juniors Trudy Swegle, Emilie Kerr, Superior, Package, “Election Spread”
- Junior Mya Alleman, Excellent, Mods, “What Does Your Number Mean to You?”
- Junior Mya Alleman, Excellent, Sports Action Photo, “Basketball Photo”
- Junior Laura Rosario, Honorable Mention, Sports Action, “Soccer Photo”
- Junior Caroline Bonacorso, Honorable Mention, Sports Action Photo, “Soccer Practice”
- Sophomores Maddie White, Haley Anne Mahusay, Honorable Mention, Package, “Homecoming Spread”
- Junior Megan Stribling, Honorable Mention, Sports Action Photo, “Basketball Photo”

Staley High School STTV broadcast:

- Seniors Craig Richard, Garrison Brown, **All-Missouri**, Sports Feature Story, “Baseball Player Defies Odds, Plays Through Pain”
- Seniors Drew Simms, Annika Ruskievicz, Adam Freese, Superior, Human Interest Feature, “Humans of Staley: Taylor Long”

- Sophomores Hannah Pham, Alyssa Bannister, Superior, Diversity, “ASL Club Brings New Language Opportunity”
- Seniors Drew Simms, Annika Ruskievicz, Adam Freese, Honorable Mention, Human Interest Feature, “Featured Falcon: Louis Searns’ Cello Aspirations”
- Seniors Cindy Ngo, Awin Karim, Superior, Human Interest Feature, “Mohammad Shah”
- Seniors Drew Simms, Annika Ruskievicz, Superior, News Feature, “Giant Story Book”
- Sophomores Hannah Pham, Alyssa Bannister, Superior, News Feature, “Bullying”
- Senior Cindy Ngo, Sophomore Chase Kirby, Superior, News Story, “Trans-Siberian Orchestra’s Mark Woods Performs With Students”
- Senior Cindy Ngo, Superior, PSA/Commercial, “March of Dimes Pancake Breakfast”
- Seniors Cindy Ngo, Awim Karim, Excellent, Diversity, “Lunar New Year”

Staley High School StaleyNews.com online:

- StaleyNews, **All-Missouri**, Social Media Reporting
- Junior Madison Benda, **1st Place**, On-Site Website Reporting
- Seniors Drew Simms, Adam Freese, Juniors, Christopher Spry, Kyla Gaines, Madison Benda, Emilie Kerr, Trudy Swegle, Superior, Feature Package, “Running Back Ross Earns Thomas A. Simone Award”
- Seniors Drew Simms, Adam Freese, Sophomore Haylee Roberts, Superior, Feature Package, “The Indy Experience”
- Freshman Dawson Parks, Excellent, Diversity, “The Unplugged Teen”
- Freshman Alexis Day, Excellent, Diversity, “Dealing with Disease”
- Junior Maddy Benda, Honorable Mention, Op-Ed Package, “The Case for Recess in High School”

Winnetonka High School:

Winnetonka High School Griffin Rites newspaper:

- Senior Alyssa Magrone, **All-Missouri**, Editorial Cartoon, “Electoral College corrupts democracy”
- Senior Alyssa Magrone, **All-Missouri**, Editorial Cartoon, “New law, same consequences”
- Senior Rachel Adamson, **All-Missouri**, Student Life/Organization Photo, The crowning moment
- Senior Rachel Adamson and Junior Hayden Weatherman, **All-Missouri**, Photo Illustration, “New America” November cover
- Sophomore Katie Bullock, **All-Missouri**, Sports Reaction Photo, “Swimming for a win”
- Sophomore Katie Bullock, Superior, News Story, “Saving Superman”
- Senior Rachel Adamson, Superior, Sports Reaction Photo, “Cheers from the sidelines”
- Sophomore Jessica Glaszczak, Excellent, Feature Story, “Going for the gold”
- Senior Rachel Adamson, Excellent, Infographic, “Getting the big picture”
- Senior Rachel Adamson, Excellent, Photo of the Year, “The roller coaster”

- Senior Rachel Adamson, Excellent, Student Life/Organization Photo, “Blood drive”
- Senior Rachel Adamson, Excellent, Sports Action, “Griffins take the win”
- Sophomore Katie Bullock, Excellent, Diversity, “Behind the brew”
- Sophomore Katie Bullock, Honorable Mention, Feature Story, “Going offline for peace of mind”
- Sophomore Katie Bullock, Honorable Mention, Newsmagazine Page Design, “Going offline for peace of mind”
- Sophomore Katie Bullock, Honorable Mention, Sports Action Photo, “Shoulders struggle to...”

Winnetonka High School Odyssey yearbook:

- Freshman Allison Schoonbeck, Superior, Sports Action Photo, Making the tackle
- Sophomore Makenzie Jackson, Excellent, Yearbook Package, “Fall spirit spread”
- Sophomore Anna Rockers, Honorable Mention, Yearbook Spread, “Cross country spread”
- Freshman Allison Schoonbeck, Honorable Mention, Yearbook Package, “Freshman football spread”
- Senior Mia Newsworthy, Honorable Mention, Sports Action Photo, “Pride at an all-time high”
- Sophomore Ashlyn Bunch, Excellent, Sports Action Photo, Swim to Fly

Winnetonka High School [Tonka Talks](#) broadcast:

- Senior Emma Evans, **All-Missouri**, Diversity, [“The impact of MLK on students”](#)
- Seniors Zoë Goss and Gracie Taylor, Superior, News Feature, [“Thirst for thirty project”](#)
- Senior Gracie Taylor, Excellent, Human Interest Feature, [“Take what you need”](#)
- Senior Gracie Taylor, Excellent, News Feature, [“Honoring Ventura”](#)
- Seniors Gracie Taylor and Lejla Skender, Excellent, Human Interest Feature, [“Featuring Gabby Mathews”](#)
- Senior Warren Lemuel and junior Justin Hanson, Excellent, News Feature, [“Attendance policy”](#)
- Senior Emma Evans, Honorable Mention, News Feature, [“New law in Missouri”](#)
- Senior Lejla Skender, Honorable Mention, Mini-documentary, [“Climate change”](#)
- Senior Emma Evans, Honorable Mention, Diversity, [“Muslim Student Association”](#)

Winnetonka High School www.TonkaNews.com website:

- Sophomore Katie Bullock, **All-Missouri**, Sports Package, [“Swimming for a win”](#)
- Staff - Rachel Adamson, Alyssa Magrone, Kaitlyn Minet, Katie Bullock, Claye Barkema, Jessica Glaszczak, Ana-Le Lund, Shelby Hilburn, Hayden Weatherman, Asmaret Fissehay, **All-Missouri**, Feature Package, [“The Growth of Griffin Grounds”](#)
- Senior Kaitlyn Minet, Superior, Online News Package, [“These boots were made for marching”](#)
- Senior Rachel Adamson and sophomore Katie Bullock, Superior, Social Media Reporting, [@Tonka_News](#)

- Senior Kaitlyn Minet, Superior, Academic Photo [“Wrong answer, right practice”](#)
- Senior Rachel Adamson, Excellent, News Photo, [“Most inspiring teacher”](#)
- Sophomore Clayre Barkema, Excellent, Blogging, [“Clayre’s Kansas City adventures”](#)
- Sophomore Katie Bullock, Excellent, Breaking News Package, [“Eric Johnson introduced as new head principal”](#)
- Senior Alyssa Magrone, Honorable Mention, Op-Ed Package, [“Spreading cheer only once a year”](#)
- Senior Rachel Adamson and sophomore Katie Bullock, Honorable Mention, Breaking News Package, [“Interim principal appointed after principal is arrested”](#)

N2Sports.tv:

- N2 staff:, OP seniors Brett Felten and Blake Jones, OP sophomore Austin Fiedler, Winnetonka seniors Westly Bertha and Glarsnel Estiven, and Winnetonka juniors Justin Hanson and Daniel Newbury, **All-Missouri**, Live Sports Broadcast, [NKC for the Win](#)
- N2 staff: OP seniors Brett Felten and Blake Jones, OP sophomore Austin Fiedler, Winnetonka seniors Westly Bertha and Glarsnel Estiven, and Winnetonka juniors Justin Hanson and Daniel Newbury, Excellent, Live Sports Broadcast, [OP at NKC Boys](#)
- N2 staff: Winnetonka junior Daniel Newbury, OP seniors Blake Jones, Marckson Francois and Tevon Taylor, Staley junior Dalton Cox, Staley senior Garrison Brown, OP junior Preston Kinsman, Honorable Mention, Live Sports Broadcast, [Last Second Victory](#)
- Staley senior Garrison Brown, Honorable Mention, Broadcast PSA/Commercial, [Staley Promo](#)

In addition to the competitions, students had their choice of more than 30 class sessions taught by award-winning journalists, MU journalism professors, advisers and others. A trade show included the True/False Film Fest and yearbook vendors. Students also heard about the importance of separating personal politics from their work as journalists from keynote speaker John Beaudoin of KC Communications & Media Matters.

At the afternoon awards ceremony, MIPA recognized OP journalism teacher and MIPA president Christina Geabhart as this year’s [Knight Award](#) recipient for service to scholastic journalism and First Amendment freedoms. She is the second NKCS D district teacher to earn this award, following the 1993 recipient Bill Hankins, retired OPHS journalism adviser.

In addition, Staley principal Clark Mershon made a moving speech as he accepted the MIPA [Administrator of the Year Award](#). His dedication to supporting journalism at the high school level was recognized by the state organization.

Plus, Winnetonka senior Rachel Adamson accepted the [Student Journalist of the Year Award](#) on stage and delivered a speech to 1,600 of her peers from across the state.

For more information, please contact the journalism advisers at the high schools.

- N2 Sports – Northland Network:
 - sports broadcast, Christina Geabhart, MJE, christina.geabhart@nkcschools.org
- North Kansas City:
 - yearbook, Mary Prichard, CJE, mary.prichard@nkcschools.org
 - newspaper, online, Paul Aubrey, paul.aubrey@nkcschools.org
 - broadcast, Amanda Dolinger, amanda.dolinger@nkcschools.org
- Oak Park:
 - newsmagazine, online and broadcast, 2003-2016 yearbook, Christina Geabhart, MJE, christina.geabhart@nkcschools.org
 - current yearbook, Frieda Green, frieda.green@nkcschools.org
- Staley:
 - magazine, yearbook, online, Cherie Burgett, CJE, cherie.burgett@nkcschools.org
 - broadcast, Jan Sobbe, janet.sobbe@nkcschools.org
- Winnetonka:
 - newspaper, yearbook, online, Laura Williams, CJE, laura.williams@nkcschools.org
 - broadcast, Erica Burton, erica.burton@nkcschools.org