Judge’s Comments

Charlotte Jones – 2023 CSMA Middle School Journalist of the Year

Charlotte's passion for journalism is evident in each aspect of her portfolio. Her willingness to push herself and take on new challenges is commendable, and it's clear she has developed meaningful connections with fellow staff members in addition to the peers she covers as a student journalist at Drake Middle School. The opening and closing yearbook spreads she designed are bold and eye-catching with contemporary verbal and visual theme layering. Her portfolio also showcases outstanding work with trendy approaches to coverage and solid interviewing skills. The math story shows her leadership taking on an important topic affecting her student body. While Charlotte's work as a reporter, designer and photographer is strong, what truly stands out is her energy and enthusiasm as a leader. In addition to her excellent work as editor-in-chief, she has maintained positive relationships with peers and consistently reached high academic standards with her 4.0 GPA. Charlotte's personal statement references seeking inspiration from role models in journalism but it's clear SHE is a role model journalist to her peers, and I hope she'll continue this important work in high school and beyond.