



Blumey Awards Student Reporter Program *for grades 9-12 students from Charlotte area high schools*

Program Highlights

- Students selected for the program will participate in a one-day workshop to learn the best practices for theater criticism while receiving training in the mediums of traditional print, social media, vlogging and on-camera reporting. Workshop panelists and instructors will include three local media professionals and/or journalists who will also serve as the adjudicators of the Blumey Award for Best Student Reporter.
- Students will attend and review three musical theater performances of three high schools participating in The Blumey Awards at their respective home venues.
- Each student will submit two traditional, written reviews and two submissions using elements of creative content production and/or new media (sizzle reel, vlog, podcast, TikTok series, etc...)
- Students will receive up to two tickets for each performance they review.
- New media submissions will need to be submitted first with an early April deadline, the two written submissions will need to be submitted in mid-April.
- All submitted reviews will be scored by four adjudicators who are all local media professionals and/or journalists. The student with the highest cumulative score for all four submissions will win the Blumey Award trophy for Best Student Reporter.

What does the Winner Receive?

- a student spotlight piece online or in a local publication and/or the possibility of a feature article highlighting the student's corresponding work.
- opportunity to join Blumenthal's media team to cover Blumey Awards tech rehearsals (May 10-16, 2026) and the Blumey Awards ceremony (May 17, 2026).
- the Student Reporter Award trophy, presented at the Blumey Awards ceremony.
- the possibility to compete for the Jimmy Awards Student Reporter Search (the National High School Musical Theater Awards program) and a chance to go to NYC (all expenses paid) for the Jimmy Awards ceremony in late June 2026.

Participation Requirements

Students accepted into the program MUST commit to the following:

- participation in the Student Reporter Workshop (briefly described above) on Sunday, January 25, 2026 - 1-4pm) at a Blumenthal Arts venue in Uptown Charlotte
- attendance at three assigned high school musical theater performances between February 5 - April 18, 2026.
- submission of a theatrical critique for the three corresponding shows above – two submissions following a traditional print media format and one utilizing new media
- submission of a one-min student reporter video pitch that will be adjudicated
- meeting the prescribed short deadlines for submission of adjudicated materials

Application Process

Students in grades 9-12 from Charlotte area high schools or home school groups interested in journalism, reporting, creative content, and social or digital media involving the performing arts are encouraged to apply for the Student Reporter program. ***Students cast in principle & supporting roles in their high school musical production are NOT eligible to apply.*** A maximum of 20 students total will be accepted into the program. To be considered for participation, students must submit the following items to Blumenthal's Education Dept. no later than **Monday, January 5, 2026 by 5pm.**

- a completed application form
- a two-page writing sample (may be an essay, report, article or critical review)
- a half-page summary of your interest in media studies, journalism, podcasting, creative content, and/or marketing
- a completed teacher recommendation form