

JOURNALISM

Ms. Fitzpatrick (Ms. Fitz)

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OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Students enrolled in Journalism write in a variety of forms for a variety of audiences and purposes. High school students enrolled in this course are expected to plan, draft, and complete written compositions on a regular basis, carefully examining their papers for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English. In Journalism, students are expected to write in a variety of forms and for a variety of audiences and purposes. Students will become analytical consumers of media and technology to enhance their communication skills. Students enrolled in Journalism will learn journalistic traditions, research self-selected topics, write journalistic texts, and learn the principles of publishing.

COURSE UNITS:

- 1 - Bringing Information to an Audience
- 2 - News Values and Story Ideas
- 3 - Media Law
- 4 - Media Ethics
- 5 - Writing Breaking News and Developing Stories
- 6 - Writing General News Stories
- 7 - Writing Headlines and Captions
- 8 - Researching and Evaluating Sources
- 9 - Interviews and Attributions
- 10 - Feature Stories
- 11 - Sports
- 12 - Editorials, Opinion Pieces, Columns, Blogs and Cartoons
- 13 - Reviews—of Everything
- 14 - Letters to the Editor, Online Responses and Community Forums
- 15 - Designing with Purpose
- 16 - Visual and Multimedia Storytelling
- 17 - Advertising

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

1. Bring your assigned, fully-charged laptop to class daily.
2. A composition notebook or spiral
3. Something to write with.

EXPECTATIONS

Late work will be accepted for minor and major grades, with points lost for each late day. Students with an excused absence have an additional day to turn in assignments. Students with a series of consecutive excused absences should see me to establish a reasonable timeline for missing work to be completed. Daily, in-class activities may not be made up if the student was present and chose not to complete the work.

Students placed in an alternative learning setting should expect to complete some assignments (ie: interviewing, photography, etc.) at home and written/analysis assignments at school due to rules in the alternative setting.

PRESS PASSES

Students may have access to press passes to use during class time. These passes will allow students to take photographs and conduct interviews around campus. Press passes must be used responsibly and according to classroom rules and procedures. Students caught violating press pass rules, sharing passes with other students, or acting inappropriately while out on a pass will have this privilege revoked and all assignments and due dates will remain applicable.

EQUIPMENT CONTRACT & SYLLABUS RECEIPT

- ★ I understand that journalism involves the use of technical equipment, including digital cameras and digital storage media, and that I may be allowed to check out such equipment for use outside the classroom, and that I will be held responsible for the equipment I check out.
- ★ Equipment will be checked out during class time only, unless arranged in advance with the teacher. Due to the multiple sections of the class and the necessity of having equipment available during class time, this permission will only be granted in certain circumstances.
- ★ I understand that I must check out each piece of equipment following classroom procedures, and that I must check it in when returned.
- ★ I understand that each camera set may include a camera bag, tripod, mics, mount, adapter, rechargeable batteries, and the camera itself, and that I will be responsible for returning all parts in good condition. It is my responsibility to make sure the set is intact when I check it out and when I return it.
- ★ I understand that rechargeable batteries are to be charged when the camera is returned to the classroom. I understand that I am not to allow anyone who is not in journalism/publications classes to handle equipment that is checked out to me. If I allow another student to handle the equipment while it is checked out to me, I am still responsible for it.
- ★ I understand that I am not to leave equipment unattended, or expose it to rain, liquids, food, dirt, or other potentially damaging substances. I understand that I am not to leave it at home or in my car or locker.
- ★ I understand I will be penalized if equipment is not returned in a timely manner.
- ★ I understand that I will be financially responsible for any loss or damage that occurs while the equipment is checked out to me. I understand that camera repairs typically cost \$300, the cameras themselves cost more than \$500 to replace, and lenses cost even more than that.
- ★ I understand that in order to use a school camera, I am required to provide my own SD card.
- ★ I understand that failure to follow the rules as outlined above could result in the following consequences:
 - Placement on the debt list
 - Suspension of checkout privileges.
 - Referral to assistant principal for disciplinary action for violation of classroom rules.
- ★ I understand that I may use my personal equipment to complete assignments, rather than using school equipment. I understand that the decision to use my own equipment will not affect my grade, provided project deadlines are met.

Student Signature _____

Student Name (Printed) _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Parent Name (Printed) _____ Date _____