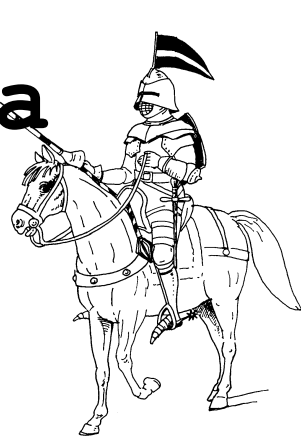


Writing for the Media

THE LANCE NEWSPAPER



Course Syllabus 2015-2016

Mrs. Kennedy
Room G11

SCOPE OF THE COURSE:

The goal of the course is to teach the following skills:

1. how to write well under pressure and meet deadlines
2. how to gather information independently and organize it effectively
3. how to use desktop publishing equipment and software
4. how to interview effectively
5. how to work well with peers
6. how to problem solve, respond to ethical issues and libel
6. how to write the following newspaper formats:
 - a. single feature news story
 - b. multiple feature news story
 - c. features: people, ideas, fads
 - d. reviews: restaurants, movies, concerts, books, shows
 - e. editorials and viewpoints
 - f. columns
 - g. survey stories
 - h. sports stories
7. You will learn the following design elements:
 - a. page layout
 - b. basic graphic design – newspaper layout/story flow-in

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Late assignments will be penalized unless there is an excused absence and work is turned in in a timely manner. However, articles for the paper must be turned in by or before deadline to be published, be sure to have a working email account. If you are absent, please give your assignment to a friend to bring to class or email to either an editor or the advisor. Being late in journalism usually means the story can't be published. The newspaper can't wait for one late story. All deadlines are "set in stone"! Deadlines cannot be changed due to a student's lack of preparation.

There will be homework every week; current events, grammar assignments, articles and other research/assignments should be done in a timely manner to keep pace with the course and meet required deadlines. All students will work in MS Word, Adobe InDesign and Photoshop to help either work on the actual paper or do required assignments. Advertising plays a large role in keeping the newspaper going. It is mandatory for all students to acquire advertising for the paper. The Lance is solely funded by advertising thus making it a required piece of the curriculum.

This course will help to develop/enhance the students' skills in writing, researching, problem solving, social etiquette, communication, appropriate social behavior, journalistic writing style, journalism theory, news research and writing, desktop publishing, printing principles, photography and end with a monthly newspaper for the entire school community. Each student is expected to be a part of several different editorial groups and must also complete classroom assignments that will help develop skills used to create the newspaper. All students will be expected to participate in acquiring materials for the completion of each newspaper; this includes but not limited to advertising sales, interviewing staff, students or a member of the community; taking pictures at school events such as pep rallies, dances, sports events, club meetings and competitions; attaining confidential information and request information from coaches and club advisors, staff members and students, etc. Each student is required to keep confidential information as such. No student shall give peer or staff information to anyone, which includes other students, parents, guardians, or any other person(s) within the community.

Behavioral expectations are extremely high in this class and each student is expected to observe and abide by the classroom, school and district policies noted in the handbooks that each student has received in homeroom or given by any other district employee. You are a part of a classroom that expects you to perform, behave and excel in the completion of a monthly publication. Deadlines **cannot** be changed and work must be done to complete the tasks required for each deadline. Any behavior that impedes the process will be dealt with swiftly. Computer usage will be monitored and logged; inappropriate use will be referred to the grade level principal with consequences. If the class earns a reward field trip at the end of the school year, only those students invited on the field trip will participate. Those students who do not return this syllabus signed and dated, have unexcused absences, a lower course grade (76% or lower), missing or late assignments, poor attitude or behavior will not be invited on the trip. Determination of invited students will be done by the advisor and editors near the end of the school year. If a student uses a school owned camera and damages the equipment, they are responsible for replacement of that item. If replacement does not occur, an obligation will be put on the student until taken care of.

By signing this syllabus, you, the student and parent/guardian of the student, agree to the above requirements both performance and behavior needed to complete this course. You also give permission for your student to leave school during school hours (only during this class period) to attain advertising for the newspaper. This will happen on a very minimal basis.

All signatures are required for first assignment points.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Parent Name: _____

Please make a copy and keep for your records.

