

MAKING WAVES AT DCS



Mill Creek Elective Highlight - Community Announcements

Students at Mill Creek are getting an introduction to the fast-paced world of journalism with the 7th and 8th grade elective *Community Announcements*. These students are responsible for creating a daily informational video shown in every classroom. They are continually planning ahead and working under deadlines to keep their school up-to-date and motivated.

A typical day at Mill Creek begins with a “Good Morning” message and the Pledge of Allegiance recited over the PA system, followed by the day’s Community Announcement video shown in each classroom. The day’s lunch menu and upcoming sporting events are announced, students are wished a happy birthday, and fun segments like shout-outs or student Q&A’s are sprinkled into each video.



Working about a week ahead of schedule, the class collaborates on what information is to be shared and when, and assigns the group responsible for each piece. They brainstorm possible segment ideas such as asking students if they are a U of M or MSU fan, which superpower students wish they had, or if they will be going to an upcoming event. The class often works with Mill Creek staff for topic suggestions as well, such as selling school t-shirts or information about the Recycling Crew

program.

At the beginning of the semester, students are grouped into small teams and assigned to task-oriented committees. Some are responsible for getting out into the hallways to interview their fellow students, while others edit the interview material into the final product. The editing process involves compiling all the videos together with fun transitions, graphics, sound effects, and music. It takes two or three days for the editing team to assemble the two- to three-minute video, so students are always working ahead of schedule in order to meet their deadlines. The whole process is student-led, with teacher Jason Elmy providing advice and constructive feedback.

This semester, the Community Announcements class has 19 students, and every student is vital to the success of the final product. Each video ends with the words, “Make it a great day, or not – the choice is yours,” and these students certainly help Mill Creek make the positive choice. Thanks to the hard work of these creative students, the daily Community Announcement videos are an entertaining and informative start to each school day.

Here’s a sample: [Community Announcements](#)

