

7th Grade Journalism

Course: 7th Grade Journalism

This course is only offered at Nipher Middle School

Course Description: In this semester-long course, students build on their introductory knowledge of the world of journalism. Students will both learn and create in this class. Topics include journalism ethics, interviewing, photography, graphic design, and the basics of print and broadcast journalism. By the end of this class, students will have the necessary skills to jump right into the 8th grade Knightly News and yearbook courses.

Grade Level: 7th Grade

Curriculum Work So Far:

1. Examined more than 100 survey responses from current students.
2. Drafted a curricular scope & sequence of six units for the course.
 - Unit 1:** Journalism Ethics and History
 - Unit 2:** Interviewing
 - Unit 3:** Photojournalism
 - Unit 4:** Lede Writing
 - Unit 5:** Print Journalism
 - Unit 6:** Broadcast Journalism
3. Developed unit essential questions, enduring understandings, and student learning goals in alignment with state standards. Examples include, but are not limited to:

Essential Questions:

- What does it mean to be an ethical journalist?
- How do ethics come into play when interviewing?
- How has the introduction of technology changed the way we produce and receive news?
- How can journalists tell stories through their photography?

Enduring Understandings:

- Following journalism ethics is essential to producing quality and trustworthy content.
- Using ethics when interviewing ensures protection for sources and truthful reporting.
- Considering the sensitivity of a story is important when choosing an appropriate lede.
- Page design is important when considering the readability and visual appeal of your work.

Student Learning Goals:

- Analyze an ethical dilemma in order to decipher ethical code violations as well as possible solutions or ethical pathways.
 - Follow the basic caption-writing format.
 - Write journalistic ledes.
 - Utilize basics of AP Style (capitalization, punctuation, grammar).
4. Aligned the 7th Grade English Language Arts Priority Missouri Learning Standards to the Units.