

Middle School Yearbook

Course: Middle School Yearbook

Course Description: Yearbook is a journalism class where the students are responsible for creating their middle school yearbook. This consists of creating a theme and designing a cover, covering school events (both inside and outside of the school day), designing layouts and spreads, interviewing sources, writing copy and captions, and publishing a fully edited book. This class will also include the basics of yearbook marketing, advertising, and sales.

Grade Level: 8th 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:** What is Journalism?
 - Unit 2:** Journalism/Yearbook Lingo
 - Unit 3:** Photography Basics
 - Unit 4:** Interviewing and Notetaking
 - Unit 5:** Caption and Story Writing
 - Unit 6:** Theme Development
 - Unit 7:** Ladder Development
 - Unit 8:** Layout and Design
 - Unit 9:** Spread Development
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:

- Why is it important to learn and follow the code of ethics for journalism?
- What is the vocabulary associated with yearbook and journalism?
- How can a photograph tell a story and express emotion?
- What are some steps we can take to ensure every source maintains their personal dignity?

Enduring Understandings:

- Following a code of ethics helps to uphold and maintain the dignity of journalists, publications, and the public they serve.
- Student journalists use the language of publication to communicate quickly and specifically about the work they do.
- Photojournalists use the technical tools of photography to capture moments that communicate information, tell a story, and connect with people's emotions.
- A yearbook theme is the visual and verbal focus of the book. A strong theme unifies and elevates the quality of the book.

Student Learning Goals:

- Incorporate the theme in a variety of ways to engage the reader and to provide continuity throughout the yearbook.
- Brainstorm, plan, and propose potential spreads and features for this year's theme and book.
- Use the design software to create design features and layouts for spreads.
- Engage in effective peer reviewing by giving and receiving feedback from fellow staff members.

4. Aligned the 6-8 English Language Arts Priority Missouri Learning Standards.