

Calallen ISD
2025-2026
Syllabus

Campus: Calallen High School/Calallen High School

Course and/or Grade Level: Journalism, Grades 8-12

Course Description: This is a beginning course, which includes conducting interviews, gathering news, writing news and feature using stories, journalistic styles, writing headlines and captions, taking basic photographs, and using professional desktop publishing programs. This is a year-long course. Adding this course at mid-year is not recommended.

Semester 1: August 13 - December 19, 2025

1st Quarter Topics	2nd Quarter Topics
Students begin with a history of journalism including reports on a journalist through various mediums of their choice. During the first quarter, interviewing is covered and practiced. Once students learn how to interview, they learn the overview of a journalistic article (lede, nut graf, quote transition quote formula, extra information). Students also learn the inverted pyramid during this quarter. Various forms of journalistic writing are covered including features, news and editorial.	During the second quarter, students learn about finding reliable sources and about journalism ethics. They learn about what constitutes the ‘freedom of the press’ and how to pick out ‘fake news’ through various methods like research, name recognition, who benefits from the news, etc. Students are also introduced to the concept of a pitch meeting and will begin to pitch their article ideas each week toward the end of the quarter.

Semester 2: January 5 - May 29, 2026

3rd Quarter Topics	4th Quarter Topics
During the third quarter, students learn the importance of copy editing by learning the copy-editing marks and peer reviewing each other's articles. Pitch meetings are held every week and toward the end of the quarter, students are able to choose which kind of article they are wanting to write that week. Students are also able to work on their skills through UIL Journalism which fires up during this quarter.	The 4th quarter is where students get to learn to accompany their articles with photos. Students learn the basics of photojournalism through a brief history and a report on a famous photojournalist. Students discuss ethics related to photojournalism and learn to write captions to accompany their photos. Students then put together a portfolio of their work throughout the year.

**Minor adjustment to the schedule may be made based on campus schedules and student needs.*