

Course Title:	Journalism and Literature
Grade(s):	12

Course Description
In this semester-long elective, students will gain essential background knowledge regarding American journalism to familiarize themselves with the role of news media in a democratic society. This course explores journalism across various forms of literacy, including narrative-driven writing such as novels and biographies, as well as social media and current events. Through analysis and discussion, students will assume roles as readers, journalists, critics, and marketers, exploring the evolving field of journalism. Assignments will extend beyond the classroom, encouraging students to conduct interviews, research local events, and report on issues relevant to their community. The course emphasizes creative and critical thinking, providing tools for interpreting the world through the lens of journalism and media. Senior English electives have the option to contract for Honors level. Contract Leveling allows students the opportunity to earn honors credit. Honors students will be required to explore a sustained independent project in addition to the work expectations of the class. More details will be presented at the beginning of each semester.
Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)
Various contemporary articles demonstrating different rhetorical purposes

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 1: The Foundations of Journalism	In this unit, students are introduced to the fundamentals of journalism, including key terms, conventions, and the role of journalists in gathering and communicating information. A central focus of the unit is the interview. Students learn how to develop effective interview questions and craft engaging leads, while practicing the skills journalists use to collect and present information accurately and responsibly.	4 weeks (September) (January-February)*
Unit 2: Covering News	In this unit, students apply their interviewing skills to share stories about the world around them. This unit primarily focuses on two journalistic forms— the news	6 weeks (October-November)

	report and the op-ed—to understand and analyze how writers present information. Students then create their own impactful pieces of writing by following the conventions of these genres.	(March-April)*
Unit 3: Evolution of Media	In this unit, students will continue to explore how journalists cover the news in the 21st century through contemporary media formats. Students will analyze podcasts and watch short broadcast segments, “2-minute packages,” to identify the elements that make these strong tools for journalists. Students then apply these insights to create their own media pieces, utilizing the research and preparation it takes to conduct these types of audio or video journalism.	3 weeks (November-December) (April-May)*
Unit 4: From Lead to Print	In this unit, students expand their roles from reporters to editors and designers as they collaborate to produce a printed edition of SHS’s digital newspaper, <i>The Paw Print</i> . Students write their own stories, curate pieces for publication, edit them to be publish-worthy, and design layouts of their page for the printed newspaper. Students consider their audience and purpose when writing and designing their newspaper.	3 weeks (December) (May)*
Unit 5: The Feature	In this unit, students will write a human-interest piece, or a feature that focuses on a person who has accomplished something meaningful—big or small. Students should incorporate all the skills practiced previously to capture the individual’s experiences and significance, connecting readers with the people and stories within our community.	2 weeks (January) (June)*

* Second Semester