

Secondary Course Syllabus

Building: Eastmont High School

Course Title: Journalism

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Course Description:

Journalism is an elective course for students who show skill in writing, design and/or photography. This program of study includes understanding basic journalistic writing, editing, media literacy, and the publication process.

Students will be introduced to news, feature, sports, and opinion writing skills, as well as news gathering techniques needed to write effective newspaper articles. Ultimately, students will learn to work as a part of a staff/team to produce material for the on-line school newspaper, "The Scratching Post."

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To write effectively for a variety of audiences, purposes and occasions.

To develop skills needed for visual communication.

To develop and utilize time management skills for meeting deadlines.

To develop speaking, listening, viewing and critical thinking skills.

To demonstrate competency in interviewing a source.

To demonstrate competency in fact-checking and attribution to a story.

To use current technology to enhance learning.

To produce quality material for the school newspaper.

To understand ethical journalism.

Understand, appreciate and develop skills in photojournalism.

Pre-Requisites:

Students must be at least a sophomore at Eastmont High School and have passed English 9.

Textbooks and Instructional Materials:

There are a variety of instructional materials that support learning in this course. The primary text material is from news publications and www.jea.org. Students will be working with Adobe InDesign, Microsoft Word, Adobe Photoshop, and other component computer programs for the production of the *Scratching Post*.

Grading:

Students achieve their grade in a points based grading system. Grades are maintained within the Eastmont School District Student Information System. The secure student information system including the gradebook for this course, are accessible to students and parents 24/7/365 through the student and parent portal via our website at www.eastmont206.org.

Grades are based on the following percentages and points for GPA calculations:

4.0 = 93-100 A	3.3 = 87-89 B+	2.3 = 77-79 C+	1.3 = 67-69 D+
3.7 = 90-92 A-	3.0 = 83-86 B	2.0 = 73-76 C	1.0= 60-66 D
	2.7 = 80-82 B-	1.7 = 70-72 C-	0 = 0-59 F

Accommodations and/or modifications:

Appropriate accommodations and/or modifications will be provided for students with documented disabilities. Accommodations and modifications are types of adaptations that are made to the environment, curriculum, instruction, or assessment practices in order for students with disabilities to be successful learners and actively participate with other students in the general education classroom or in school-wide activities. Specific accommodations and modifications are determined by the student's Section 504 team or Individual Education Program team. If a student with a documented disability is eligible to receive accommodations and/or modifications their special education case manager will contact me within the first two weeks of class and provide me with explicit directions and/or resources to implementing the accommodations and/or modifications that are included on the student's Section 504 plan or Individual Education Program. Communication with me is essential to the successful completion of course expectations and the implementation of accommodations and/or modifications.

Attendance, Behavior, and Performance Expectations:

Students in this class will be assigned material that will require them to Student success is dependent upon respecting and following the rules of conduct outlined in Board Policy #3241 and described in the student handbook. Both are available on the website at www.eastmont206.org.

Make-up Work:

Eastmont School District Policy and Procedures #3122 for excused absences and make-up work apply to this course. Specifically, "If an absence is excused, the student will be permitted to make up all missed assignments outside of class under reasonable conditions and time limits..." All the activities and learning opportunities for this course are expected to be completed. Absences, whether excused or unexcused, cause gaps in learning.

Clubs, Activities, and Leadership opportunities:

All students in the class can become members of the Scratching Post club. Some article assignments may entail attendance at events outside the school day. Management decisions about copy, style, design, deadlines, and fund raising are led by the editorial staff. Managing editors and section editors, and are in charge of final design and organization decisions. These students assume additional responsibilities during key times of the newspaper production, such as planning and layout.

Printed Documents:

Print or translated copies of digital documents are available. Please contact the main office for additional information.

Miscellaneous:

Members of the press need to remember to conduct themselves appropriately and be respectful of those in our environment. Our opinions and editorials require factual information upon which we write and publish such opinions and editorials. Freedom of the press does not mean a right to write whatever we want; we must always find a balance as to the newsworthiness of material and as to how people on both sides of an issue may feel.