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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Introduction to Journalism and Newspaper! We have a unique opportunity to be a part of school history as we embark on another full year of *The Precedent*, PHS' student newspaper. Being able to teach this class is an honor: I went to school hoping to have this very opportunity. I have held jobs in print and broadcast journalism, although the majority of my career was spent working in the newspaper industry.

This course will focus mainly on print media but will also touch on some skills necessary for broadcast. This class will function as a business; it will be professional and our employees (students) will work together with the common goal of publishing a high quality product. This is unlike any other class you will ever take at PHS – it is a job. Money and advertising are involved. People will apply for positions, they will be interviewed, hired and will be held to a high expectation level. The following syllabus will inform students and parents of the necessary supplies and expectations of this course. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Since this class is *deadline-driven*, it is imperative that students are highly organized. In addition, this is more than a class; it's a family! If one part fails to complete their task, we all fail; therefore we must work together in a constructive and positive manner to achieve success. Talking negatively about another classmate will not be tolerated. If a problem arises, come to the adviser so that we can solve it *together*.

TIME COMMITMENT

Since we meet multiple times each week, students must use class time wisely. Conducting interviews might be difficult during class time, which means that interviews may have to be completed ON THE STUDENT'S OWN TIME – before school, during lunch, or after school. In addition, students will have to cover school events that begins as late as 7 p.m. This is simply part of the demand of this business.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

Please come to class prepared with:

- Reporter's note pad
- Pens and pencils
- Loose-leaf paper & binder
- Recorder*

TEXTBOOK & EQUIPMENT

We are very lucky to have a school that provides us with a textbook to assist our class. Most schools do not have a book they use in their journalism class. We have a class set of *Inside Reporting*, as well as *The Newspaper Designer's Handbook*. We also have our own laptops, printers, scanners, cameras and other essential pieces of equipment that students will be responsible for. A student-parent contract will be coming home with the students in the coming weeks.

TECHNOLOGY & SOCIAL MEDIA

It is imperative that students complete their online student handbook work that the school has provided. Also, access to a home computer is very important to this class because we collaborate as a group using Google Drive. It is essential that this course teach young people how to use social media appropriately, in a professional manner with Twitter, as well as Snap Chat and Facebook. Students will learn how to use social media for journalism as well as how to use it as a professional outside of media.

HONOR SOCIETY AND OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

As a member of *The Precedent*, students will have an opportunity to become members of Quill & Scroll National Honor. The newspaper is also part of the Arizona Interscholastic Press Association, the National Scholastic Press Association, and the Journalism Education Association, which sponsor conventions, outreach sessions, state and national awards, and scholarship opportunities.

The following is an outline of the topics we will be covering in *Intro to Journalism and Newspaper* this fall semester (for more detailed info, go to the class web site at www.cusd80.com/phs):

- History of the press
 - Law & ethics
 - Advertising basics
 - News writing basics
 - Elements of an article Vs. essay writing
 - Fact Vs. Opinion
 - Inverted pyramid
 - Hourglass
 - Interviewing
 - Editing
 - Headlines writing
 - Caption writing
 - Feature writing
 - Sports reporting
 - Intro & Advanced InDesign
 - Intro & Advanced PhotoShop
 - Apply for editorship
 - Assign “beats”
 - Collaboration with other media classes
 - Double trucks
 - On-page art design
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Students will be graded on the following:

- Writing quality
 - A combination of journalism demands and 6-traits of writing.
 - Students will be heavily scored on **Conventions & Sentence Fluency**
- **DEADLINES** – late work causes problems for everyone. For every day an assignment/article is late 10% will be deducted from the grade. Bonus points are available for early work submissions.
- In-class assignments
- Quizzes
- Participation
- Final exam / portfolio presentation

“*The biggest advantage of being a journalist is being a witness to history.*”

-Katherine Adams, WDIV-TV
