

Introduction to Journalism is an elective survey course designed to introduce students to communicating in a variety of styles, formats and media. In addition students will learn about the ethical and legal guidelines of journalism, including those that directly affect student journalism.

As students learn, they will be writing and creating authentic products for an audience. Following clear expectations and guidelines, the subjects they write about will largely be up to them.

Units of Study

- Defining journalism and its changing purposes
- Laws and ethics
- Current Events (quiz every Friday)
- Media literacy
- Survey of journalistic writing:
 - News
 - Feature
 - Opinion
 - Editorial
 - Column
 - Review
 - Sports
- Photojournalism
- Graphic journalism
- Design
- Podcasting

Content & Controversial Topics

Because of the nature of this course, controversial topics at times are unavoidable. As they arise in current events or student writing, they will be treated according to the district publication policy.

Supplies

Students will need the following to stay organized and be successful in this course:

- Folder or notebook
- Paper and writing implement
- Chromebook (and charger)

Attendance & Participation

As with all courses, attendance is of the utmost importance not only to receive instruction but to benefit from interaction with classmates. Participation each day is essential. This course will be reliant on a progression of skills. In addition, students will continue to work with material and assignments repeatedly over the course of the class, so completing each step and assignment is important.

When absences are necessary, students need to check resources on Classroom and get caught up in a timely manner. Remember, Office Hours are available on Thursdays if teacher assistance or classroom materials are needed.

Classroom Expectations

Be respectful at all times – of yourself, of your classmates, of me, of our time, space and materials, of our purpose and of your potential. Follow all journalistic guidelines.

Cell Phones & Devices

There may be times when you will use your devices, particularly for recording. These times will be directed. Phones are to be turned off and stowed during instruction. They should not be visible or audible. This includes audio accessories.

Cheating & Plagiarism

Especially as this is a course teaching about laws and ethics in a professional field, no cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. If this occurs, the student will receive a zero for the assignment with no make-up opportunity in addition to possible disciplinary action and consequences.

These infractions usually occur when students feel ill-prepared and panic. Please talk to me instead.

Contact Information

Email: jderryberry@mcpsmt.org

Phone: (406) 728-2400 ext. 6521 (during school hours)

Google Classroom (will forward to email)