

COURSE TITLE: NEWSPAPER (2010-2011)

Ms. Fairhead

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students learn how to interview, write news and feature stories, edit and lay out a magazine style newspaper. Using Microsoft Publisher students produce the *Spartan Spotlight*, the school newspaper published up to six times a year, and the *Spartan Weekly*. Students need to be interested in writing and willing to learn desktop publishing techniques. The class meets two times a week during Zero Hour.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Credit: 0.5 unit (non-GPA)

Eligible Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: Consent of the Newspaper Advisor

COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT OUTCOMES:

Students should be able to:

1. Understand and use proper newspaper vocabulary
2. Understand and differentiate between the various forms of news writing
3. Learn proper interviewing and researching techniques as they relate to news writing
4. Conceive story ideas
5. Write effective stories in the appropriate newspaper format
6. Write for a particular audience
7. Meet deadlines
8. Develop editing skills
9. Lay out stories on Microsoft Publisher

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Introduction to newspaper vocabulary (notes and quizzes)
2. Introduction to news writing skills (notes, practices, quizzes)
3. Introduction to various forms of news writing (notes, practice, quizzes)
4. Working with editing and layout skills
5. Production of *The Spartan Weekly*(as close to weekly as possible) and *The Spartan Spotlight* (quarterly)

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

1. Required Materials
 - A. Access to a computer
 - B. Notebook, pen, pencil, folder
 - C. Signed newspaper contract
2. Classroom Policy & Procedures
 - A. Class begins with prayer.
 - B. Students must arrive by 7:00 am and stay until class is dismissed.
 - D. Student Handbook policy for tardiness will be enforced.
 - E. The Academic Honesty and Integrity policy will be adhered to. Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook for clarification of violations and consequences.
 - F. Plagiarism of any kind is not acceptable.
 - G. No food, drinks or gum are allowed in the classroom without prior consent of the teacher.
 - H. Student Handbook policies and procedures will be followed in the classroom.
3. Homework Policy
 - A. Students MUST meet assigned deadlines.
 - B. If a student is having a problem with a story, he/she MUST contact the editor(s) or Ms. Fairhead at least three days before the deadline.
 - C. Students will receive a grading penalty for late work that has not been excused.

D. Students must turn articles/homework in early if they know they will be absent.

4. Evaluation/grades

A. Students receive a grade for attendance.

B. Students receive a grade for any additional quizzes, tests, or homework given in addition to writing articles.

C. Students will receive opportunities to earn extra credit.

D. Students receive a grade for published articles.

i. Students must submit the equivalent of one article per issue when writing for the *Spartan Weekly*

ii. Students must complete the number of articles assigned by the editor for the *Spartan Spotlight*.

E. For each article written, it will be graded according to the following criteria:

i. Article Ideas/Contributing to developing scoops

ii. Timeliness of articles

iii. Quality (content, thoroughness, grammar, style) of articles

iv. Editing skills

v. Formatting

vi. Double checking the proofreading

5. Attendance/absence

A. Students who exceed their absence limit as defined in the Student Handbook will receive academic penalty.

B. Attendance is crucial for a complete understanding of the course material.

C. It is the student's responsibility to find out about and complete any missed work due to absence. Please see the editor you work under and/or Ms. Fairhead for missed information.

6. Teacher Availability

A. I am available before or after school by appointment. Students should see me to set up a meeting if they need assistance with class work.

B. My voicemail is listed on the school website, but I prefer email at sfairhead@sfhsnet.org.

C. Please allow 24 hours for returned phone calls and emails during the school week.