

## ***Journalism/Broadcast Journalism***



**Mr. Cottom**

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Welcome to the new year! You are lucky enough to produce and publish “all the news that’s fit to print” for the student body, faculty, staff and South Gate community.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVE**

#### **Journalism Students will:**

- Learn and understand solid journalistic writing techniques and styles to report news accurately, objectively and in depth.
  - Analyze current literature and the published writing styles of professional publications to have an enduring understanding of all aspects of news writing.
  - Become better writers and critical thinkers through extensive research and authentic interviews.
  - Be informed and contributing citizens by staying current with world, national and local events.
  - Receive UC “g” elective credit (college prep class)
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- Learn the techniques and discrimination necessary for the production side of publishing a newspaper to a public audience.
  - Learn and refine the various functions of responsibility for newspaper production.
  - Become more knowledgeable in at least one of the following specialties depending on your skill area: newspaper style, advertising, photography, interviewing techniques, desktop publishing and Web design, and business skills and practices.

### **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

1. Do great work. Be happy.
2. Attend all classes unless prevented by illness or emergency; you must contact the editor when absent. Do not leave the staff room without permission from the editor and a pass.
3. Be on time.
4. Keep all journalism materials in your cubby and electronic files on GoogleDocs (you will be briefed on folder organization later).
5. Be a good role model while out on assignment. Use media equipment responsibly.
6. Meet all deadlines.
7. Ask questions; share ideas; be creative; have fun!

### **GOALS FOR THE YEAR [**

#### **Staff Goals**

- Work efficiently.
- Meet all deadlines.

#### **Publication Goals**

- Create and Expand the Website, keep it up to date and use creativity.
- Improve the quality of our reporting and widen the variety of stories.
- Create and develop broadcast capability and incorporate video and podcasts in the website.

**-OVER-**

## SEMESTER GRADES

Your grade will be weighted based on the following categories and corresponding percentages:

### **Assignments – 50%**

Copy (stories), photography including captions, layouts and design, section editor or Web or Broadcast responsibilities.

### **Deadlines – 20%**

The most crucial part of newspaper production! You will receive 100% for making deadlines or a zero for any late assignment.

### **Contribution – 10%**

Completion of miscellaneous tasks as extra credit as well as assigned work; Going “above and beyond.” This grade will be given at the end of the semester.

### **Homework- 20%**

All students: training activities and misc. homework throughout the year.

UC: Current events quizzes every Wednesday, a structure analysis and “Radical Write” Reader Response every production cycle.

Grading Scale: A: 90-100%, B: 89-80%, C: 79-70%, D: 69-60%, F: 59%-below

**Note:** Any plagiarism and/or false information (made-up quotes) will result in a zero, a “U” in Citizenship, an Ethics Violation and a possible transfer (W/F) from the class.

## CONTRACT

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to the grading policies of the staff. I also commit to doing my best work and to fully participate as a member of the newspaper team.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to the grading policies of the staff. I also understand that for my son/daughter to do his/her best work and to fully participate as a member of the newspaper team, spending time outside of class and participating in fundraising activities will sometimes be required/expected.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NEWSPAPER STAFFER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

I am looking forward to this year and getting to know each of you!  
~Mr. Cottom